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THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
AND THE
CONSTITUTIONS AND CHARTERS
OF THE
SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS
AUTHORIZED BY THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE
TO WHICH IS ADDED
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

CINCINNATI: JENNINGS AND PYE
NEW YORK: EATON AND MAINS

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This collection of the Constitutions and Charters of the Methodist Episcopal Church is published by order of the General Book Committee. Originally intended as a book of reference for this Committee, it has grown in the hands of its Editors so as to become, in the judgment of the publishers, a work of very great value to all who are interested in the several departments of our Church work. It is worthy a place in the study of every pastor and officer of the Church and on the table of every progressive layman. We commend it as a hand-book which will aid in answering many questions hitherto difficult of solution.

THE PUBLISHERS.

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EDITORIAL NOTE.

At the last session of the Book Committee it was ordered that "the Publishing Agents be requested to publish, in suitable form, a book containing the Constitutions and Charters of the organizations authorized by the General Conference."

It was also ordered that R. T. Miller and W. F. Whitlock, D. D., "be appointed to edit this book."

We understand it to have been intended only that we should collect and arrange these instruments, with related historic matter, in an orderly manner for publication, having due reference to accuracy. To secure this, we have obtained from the secretary or other responsible officer of these several organizations the instruments referred to. No other "edit" is attempted. By "Constitution," reference is had to the authority given by the General Conference to the organizations herein named; and by "Charter," the authority granted in the Act of Incorporation by any State under whose laws the business of any of the organizations may be conducted. The one may therefore be called the *ecclesiastical*, and the other the *civil*, authority, by which their powers are defined, their rights established, and their responsibilities declared.

It is hoped this compilation will prove to be useful and convenient to the administrative officers of the Church, and perhaps lead to a more complete codification of both the organic and statutory laws of the Church, than which need there is perhaps no greater in any department of Church work.

We wish to acknowledge the valuable services of Bishop Walden, to whom we are indebted for the historic and documentary matter relating to the Charters and Constitutions of the Missionary Society. The courtesy and helpful assistance of Professor Williams, the Publishing Agents, and the managers of the printing department at Cincinnati are also gratefully acknowledged.

It has been suggested that we give a brief statement of the circumstances leading up to the organization of the Church whose Constitution is herein contained, and of the action taken in connection with that event, and that also relating to the various forms of the department work of the Church. No more faithful account of the first can be offered than that given by Jesse Lee, William Watters, Freeborn Garrettson, and Adam Fonerden; and, of the second, none more reliable than is found in the original documents. From these sources, therefore, so far as is possible, we have taken what hereinafter relates to these subjects.

THE EDITORS.

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION.

(From Lee's History.)

From the first General Conference in 1784, to the end of the year 1786.

The Methodists had until this time one form both of worship and Discipline in every part of the world; but the independence of these United States of *America*, confirmed by the peace of 1783, occasioned an extraordinary change in this respect. During the war our societies were deprived of the ordinances of *baptism and the Lord's Supper*; for the ministers of the Church of England had mostly left their parishes: some of them were silenced; others left off preaching, because they could not procure a maintenance by it; and many more went into the British dominions. From the time of the peace no ecclesiastical authority of any kind was either exercised or claimed by any person or persons whatsoever. In this situation, we desired Mr. Wesley's advice and assistance; and as he observes, "His scruples being at an end, he conceived himself

at perfect liberty to exercise that right which he doubted not God had given him.”

At the British Conference held at Leeds, in July, 1784, Mr. Wesley declared his intention of sending Dr. *Coke* and some other preachers to *America*. Mr. *Richard Whatcoat* and Mr. *Thomas Vasey* offered themselves as missionaries for that purpose, and were accepted. But before they sailed, Mr. *Wesley* wrote to Dr. *Coke*, then in *London*, desiring him to meet him in *Bristol*, to receive fuller powers; and to bring the Rev. Mr. *Creighton* with him. The doctor and Mr. *Creighton* accordingly met him in *Bristol*, where Mr. *Wesley*, with the assistance of Dr. *Coke* and Mr. *Creighton*, ordained *Richard Whatcoat* and Mr. *Thomas Vasey* presbyters for *America*; and did afterwards ordain Dr. *Coke* a superintendent, giving him letters of ordination under his hand and seal. Previous to this, Dr. *Coke* had been ordained a presbyter by a bishop of the Church of England.

Dr. *Coke*, with Messrs. *Whatcoat* and *Vasey*, sailed for *America* in the month of September, and landed at *New York* on the third day of November.

By these preachers, Mr. *Wesley* wrote a letter to us in *America*, to be printed and circulated among us. The following is the letter:

“BRISTOL, September 10, 1784.

“To Dr. Coke, Mr. Asbury, and our Brethren in North America:”

“1. By a very uncommon train of providences, many of the provinces of North America are totally disjoined from the British Empire, and erected into independent States. The English Government has no authority over them, either civil or ecclesiastical, any more than over the States of *Holland*. A civil authority is exercised over them, partly by the Congress, partly by the State Assemblies. But no one either exercises or claims any ecclesiastical authority at all. In this peculiar situation, some thousands of the inhabitants of these States desire my advice, and, in compliance with their desire, I have drawn up a little sketch.

“2. Lord King’s account of the primitive Church convinced me, many years ago, that bishops and presbyters are the same order, and, consequently, have the same right to ordain. For many years I have been importuned, from time to time, to exercise this right by ordaining part of our traveling preachers; but I have still refused, not only for peace’s sake, but because I was determined as little as possible to violate the established order of the national Church to which I belonged.

“3. But the case is widely different between England and North America. Here there are bishops who have a legal jurisdiction; in America there are none, and but few parish ministers, so that for some hundred miles together there are none either to baptize or administer the Lord’s Supper. Here, therefore, my scruples are at an end, and I conceive myself at full liberty, as I violate no order, and invade no man’s right, by appointing and sending laborers into the harvest.

“4. I have accordingly appointed Dr. *Coke* and Mr. *Francis Asbury* to be joint *superintendents* over our brethren in North America; as also *Richard Whatcoat* and *Thomas Vasey*, to act as *elders* among them, by baptizing and administering the Lord’s Supper.

“5. If any one will point out a more rational and Scriptural way of feeding and guiding those poor sheep in the wilderness, I will gladly embrace it. At present I can not see any better method than that I have taken.

“6. It has indeed been proposed to desire the *English* bishops to ordain part of our preachers for *America*; but to this I object: 1. I desired the Bishop of *London* to ordain one only; but could not prevail. 2. If they consented, we know the slowness of their proceeding; but the matter

admits of no delay. 3. If they would ordain them *now*, they would likewise expect to govern them; and how grievously would this entangle us! 4. As our *American* brethren are now totally disentangled, both from the State and from the *English* hierarchy, we dare not entangle them again, either with the one or the other. They are now at full liberty simply to follow the Scriptures and the primitive Church; and we judge it best that they should stand fast in that liberty wherewith God has so strangely made them free.

“JOHN WESLEY.”

At the same time, Mr. Wesley prepared a Liturgy little differing from that of the Church of England, or, rather, revised the Common Prayer-book, leaving out certain parts, and altering some of the ceremonies and some of the psalms, and making the morning and evening service much shorter than it was before. He advised all the traveling preachers to use it on the Lord's-day in all the congregations, reading the Litany only on Wednesdays and Fridays, and to pray extempore on all other days. He also advised the *elders* to administer the Supper of the Lord on every Lord's-day.

As soon as Dr. *Coke* landed in America, he laid his plan to meet Mr. *Asbury* as soon as pos-

sible, and traveling from *New York* to *Philadelphia*, and then down into the *Delaware* State, he met with Mr. *Asbury*, at *Barratt's* Chapel, on the 14th day of the same month. They then consulted together about the plan which Mr. *Wesley* had adopted and recommended to us. After the business was maturely weighed, and sufficient time was taken to consult some more of the preachers who were present on that day, it was judged advisable to call together all the traveling preachers in a General Conference to be held in *Baltimore* at Christmas.

Mr. Freeborn Garrettson undertook to travel to the South in order to give notice to all the traveling preachers of this intended meeting; but being fond of preaching by the way, and thinking he could do the business by writing, he did not give timely notice to the preachers who were in the extremities of the work; and, of course, several of them were not at that Conference.

In the "Travels and Experiences of Freeborn Garrettson" he gives the following account of this journey and the Conference of 1784:

I went as far as *Dover*, and intended to stay at R. B.'s, Esq., a few days. The evening following a friend came to my room and informed me that Doctor *Coke* had arrived, and was below.

I went down and received him and Brother W. as welcome messengers, and accompanied them, the next day, to a quarterly-meeting held at Barratt's Chapel. Dear Mr. Wesley had gratified the desires of thousands of his friends in America in sending a power of ordination and giving his consent to our becoming a separate Church. About fifteen preachers were present, and it was concluded that I should go through the Continent, and call a Conference at Baltimore immediately. Within six weeks, after traveling upwards of twelve hundred miles, I settled the business, besides preaching almost every day once, and sometimes twice, and made my return. The preachers being gathered, our Conference began on Christmas-day, and we acceded to the method proposed by Mr. Wesley, and men were set apart and consecrated for the different orders of the Church.

Mr. Lee continues his account, as follows:

December 27, 1784.—The Thirteenth Conference began in Baltimore, which was considered to be a General Conference, in which *Thomas Coke* and *Francis Asbury* presided.

At this Conference we formed ourselves into a regular Church, by the name of *The Methodist Episcopal Church*, making, at the same time, the

episcopal office elective, and the elected superintendent amenable to the body of ministers and preachers.

Mr. *Asbury* was appointed a *superintendent* by Mr. *Wesley*, yet he would not submit to be ordained unless he could be voted in by the Conference. When it was put to vote, he was unanimously chosen. He was then ordained *deacon*, then *elder*, and afterwards *superintendent*, before the end of the Conference. At the request of Mr. *Asbury*, when he was about to be ordained a superintendent, Mr. *Otterbein*, a German minister, who was a pious man, assisted in his ordination by the laying on of his hands with the other ministers.

At this Conference there were thirteen preachers elected to the elder's office, and most of them were ordained. Their names were: Freeborn *Garrettson*,* *William Gill*, *LeRoy Cole*, *John Hagerty*, *Reuben Ellis*, *James O'Kelly*, *Richard Ivey*, *James O. Cromwell*,* *John Tunnel*, *Nelson Reed*, *Jeremiah Lambert*,† *Beverly Allen*,‡ *Henry Willis*.||

* Mr. *Garrettson* and Mr. *Cromwell* were ordained for Nova Scotia, and were sent there immediately afterwards.

† Mr. *Lambert* was ordained for Antigua, in the West Indies.

‡ Mr. *Allen* was not ordained until the Conference held at Green Hills, in North Carolina, in the latter part of April, 1785.

|| Mr. *Willis* was not at the Conference, but was ordained a few weeks afterwards by the Bishop and one Elder only.

They also elected three deacons: John Dickins, Caleb Boyer, and Ignatius Pigman. Mr. Boyer was not present.

Being now formed into a Church, a regular plan of proceeding was laid and a form of Discipline drawn up. In the Minutes of this Conference there were eighty-one questions, with answers, a few of which I shall take notice of. If any one wishes to see the whole, he may read the Minutes of that General Conference.

This being the beginning of the Methodist Episcopal Church, it will be necessary to take particular notice of those regulations, or rules, which were formed at that time, especially such as had not been previously practiced by us.

Q. 2.* “What can be done in order to the future union of the Methodists?”

A. “During the life of the Reverend Mr. Wesley we acknowledge ourselves his sons in the gospel, ready, in matters belonging to Church government, to obey his commands. And we do engage, after his death, to do everything that we judge consistent with the cause of religion in *America* and the political interest of these States, to preserve and promote our union with the Methodists in *Europe*.”

* In the early period of the Church the business of the Conferences was done by questions and answers, and, therefore, appears so in this compilation.

Q. 3. "As the ecclesiastical as well as civil affairs of these United States have passed through a very considerable change by the Revolution, what plan of Church government shall we hereafter pursue?"

A. "We will form ourselves into an Episcopal Church, under the direction of superintendents, elders, deacons, and helpers, according to the forms of ordination annexed to our Liturgy and the form of Discipline set forth in these Minutes."

Q. 4. "What may we reasonably believe to be God's design in raising up the preachers called *Methodists*?"

A. "To reform the continent and to spread Scriptural holiness over these lands."

This simple formulation, though destitute of ponderous "Whereas," "Therefore," and "Resolved," may be set down as the first Constitution of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is characterized by that dignity which always attends simplicity and completeness in statement.

They formed "*a Church*;" it was "*an Episcopal Church*;" it was put "*under the direction of*" ORDAINED men; the forms of ordination were annexed to a Liturgy; it was "*our Liturgy*," and the Discipline was that "*set forth in these Minutes*."

Mr. Lee's account of this action and of the formulation of this first organic act of the Church, when compared with the printed Minutes of 1785—an original copy of which we have—is fully verified.

The following is taken from "A Short Account of the Christian Experience and Ministerial Labour of William Watters—Drawn up by Himself:"

In the autumn following, Doctor Coke came over with two other preachers, and with Mr. Wesley's advice respecting the administering the ordinances, which we had laid before him, and on which he had delayed giving us his opinion until now. He had viewed the subject as a very weighty one, and was unwilling to say anything one way or the other till he had deliberately and fully made up his mind.

On the twenty-fifth of December, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, our Conference met in Baltimore to consider the plan of Church government which the doctor brought over recommended by Mr. Wesley. It was adopted^d and unanimously agreed to with great satisfaction, and we became, instead of a religious Society, a separate Church, under the name of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

This change gave great satisfaction through all our Societies in America, and the more so, as it met with the approbation of our European brethren, and particularly those who had some time past thought it their duty to administer the ordinances, but had desisted therefrom rather than rend the flock of Christ; as also to those

who had long felt scruples of conscience in receiving them from men that they could not believe were sent by the Lord Jesus to minister in holy things, many of whose lives were immoral.

The following, taken from the same source, will prove of further interest as setting forth the views of a colaborer of Williams, Strawbridge, King, and Owen on the events and discussions of that day. *It is not generally known that the preachers had "elected" Mr. Asbury to succeed Mr. Rankin as General Assistant prior to having "elected" him as General Superintendent.* But here is Mr. Watters' story:

"I will here take the liberty of giving an extract of a letter, a copy of which I have by me:

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—That there should be those who, through prejudice, think the Methodists since they have had bishops amongst them are quite a different people, is not strange. But is it not strange that any who have known them from the beginning should admit such a thought till they have investigated the matter thoroughly? All must know that names do not alter the nature of things. We have from the beginning had one amongst us who has superintended the whole work. At first this person was solely appointed by Mr. Wesley, and called the general assistant, at a time when there was none but European preachers on the continent. But why

was the name of general assistant ever changed? All that will open their eyes may know why. The Methodists in England and in America formerly did not call themselves a particular Church, but a religious Society in connection with different Churches, but mostly with the Episcopal Church. After the Revolutionary War the Episcopal clergy became very scarce, and in fact the greatest number of our Societies we had no way of receiving the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. It was this that led many of our preachers, as you well know, to take upon them the administration of the ordinances. Mr. Rankin, who was our first general assistant, after staying the time in this country he came for, returned home. This was at a time when we had no intercourse with England, and Mr. Asbury, the only old preacher that determined (in those perilous times) to give up his parents, country, and all his natural connections, was finally and unanimously chosen by the preachers (assembled in Conference) our general assistant. He continued such until the year 1784, when the doctor came over, and not only the name of general assistant was changed to that of superintendent, but we formed ourselves into a separate Church. This change was proposed to us by Mr. Wesley after we had craved his advice on the subject,

but could not take effect till adopted by us, which was done in a deliberate, formal manner at a Conference called for that purpose, in which there was not one dissenting voice. Every one of any discernment must see, from Mr. Wesley's circular letter on this occasion, as well as from every part of our mode of Church government, that we openly and avowedly declared ourselves Episcopalians, though the Doctor and Mr. Asbury were called superintendents. After a few years the name of superintendent was changed to bishop; but from first to last the business of general assistant, superintendent, or bishop has been the same. Only since we have become a distinct Church he has, with the assistance of two or three elders, ordained our ministers, whose business is to preside in our Conferences, and, in case of an equal division on a question, he has the casting vote; but in no instance whatever has he a negative, as you are told. He has also the stationing of all the traveling preachers, under certain limitations; which power is given him by the General Conference, so it can be lessened or taken from him at any time Conference sees fit. But while he superintends the whole work, he can not interfere with the particular charge of any of the preachers in their stations. To see that preachers fill their places

with propriety, and to understand the state of every station or circuit, that he may the better make the appointments of the preachers, is, no doubt, no small part of his duty; but he has nothing to do with receiving, censuring, or excluding members; this belongs wholly to the stationed preacher and members. His power, I confess, is great; but let it be well observed that it entirely respects the traveling preachers, and none else. It never can, from the nature of things, be put into the hands of any man but one in whom the whole have the highest confidence, and that no longer than he faithfully executes his trust. I know of no way the preachers can be as well stationed as by one that goes through the whole work, and is without his local prejudices in favor of or against any place, as he seldom stays longer in one place than another. The whole body of preachers in Conference can not station themselves, I am well assured; and a committee chosen by them for that purpose would find many insurmountable difficulties, as they could have but a very superficial knowledge of the particular gifts of many of the preachers or state of many of the circuits. The sacrifice that a preacher makes in giving up his choice, and going wherever he is appointed, is not small; but no one is worthy

of the name of a traveling preacher that does not cheerfully go anywhere he can, for the general good. If he is so circumstanced that he can not go anywhere and everywhere that is thought best, he should say so when he first offers himself to Conference. If it so happens after he has been traveling, he ought to let it be known as soon as possible, and whenever he can not be accommodated with a circuit that he can fill, he ought to be contented to stop till he can. You will say, This is the hardship I complain of. Every station in life has its difficulties. But this can not be remedied in the present state of things. It is then our duty to do the best we can under unavoidable difficulties. Better many individuals suffer than the work at large should. I would rather be in the more general work; yet, if circumstances prevent, let me be content to act in some humble way. As for my own part, I am so fearful of seeing the traveling connection clogged with the local preachers, that I never wish a seat in Conference, as a member, unless I can fill some proper station. They can do well enough without my weak counsel, while I withhold my labors, whether I do it willingly or through necessity.

“But a greater charge than the love of power

has been brought against Mr. Asbury (though I believe only by a few), even that of the love of money. I think a devil ought to blush (if it were possible) at such a charge. Where is all that he has been heaping up for near these forty years? I confess, if this was his object, he has stood so high in the estimation of many that he might have accumulated considerably by this time. But is it so? Where is it? I have been as long and as intimately acquainted with him as most men in America, and I must give this testimony: Of all men that I have known he is, in my estimation, the clearest of the love of money, and the most free to give away his all, in every sense of the word. I ask Mr. Asbury's pardon for taking this liberty in defending a character that speaks louder for itself than many such witnesses can for it; but the time and place I live in shall be my apology for so doing.

“I am as ever yours, etc.,

“WILLIAM WATTERS.”

“To Mr. B., March, 1806.”

By the courtesy of Rev. J. F. Goucher we are enabled to present the Fonerden letters, which were addressed to Mr. Stephen Donaldson, Leesburg, Va., and never before fully printed. These, we think, will

prove of further interest, as showing the understanding of the contemporaries of those who organized the Church, and in connection with the letter of Mr. Watters are of special historical importance, being free from the interpretations subsequently put upon the transactions of the early period to which they refer. Here is Dr. Goucher's letter of information:

BALTIMORE, April 21, 1902.

MY DEAR MR. MILLER,—Your favor was received some time since, and I have had copies of the Fonerden letters made, which I inclose. This should have been attended to sooner; but necessary absence from my office of late has interfered with my correspondence and my work in general.

Adam Fonerden, who wrote the letters, is spoken of by J. Lednum in his "Rise of Methodism in America," page 171, as follows:

"1776—FREDERICK CIRCUIT, VIRGINIA.

"Messrs. McClure and Fonerden were stationed with Mr. Watters. Adam Fonerden appears to have been a local preacher from Baltimore or Frederick County, taken up as a temporary supply,—after this we do not meet with his name."

In addition to the above, it appears from the record of the Exeter Street Church, which was the third Methodist church built in Baltimore, that the ground on which that church stands was deeded by Samuel Swan on February 28, 1795, to nine persons, of whom Adam Fonerden was one. He was a class-

leader and local preacher in Baltimore. But here are his letters:

Baltimore Nov^r: 28th 1784.

much Esteemed friend

I receiv^d your favour, & according to your request went to purchase the Crucibles—in my way I call'd upon James, Expecting he could inform me where they might be had. He immediately resolv'd to go with M^r: Murrey to Leesburg to make up matters with you, & said I need give myself no further trouble after the Crucibles that He would carry them himself—while I am writing this Mr. Murrey is waiting for him to set off—& He has just now sent word he will be up directly—I hope he won't deceive, otherwise shall be exceeding sorry of y^r: not getting them. We have three English preachers arriv^d their names—D^r: Coke, M^r: Whatcoat, & M^r: Vasey. These three are ordain'd a presbytry by M^r: Wesley & his Clergy, who together with a new form of Church Goverment, Suggested by M^r: Wesley, are to Organize us as a Church, to have a Liturgy & administration of ordinances. But as this is not to be forced upon us, but left to our Choice—if we approve of it, they Stay and exercise their new functions—otherwise matters are left as they are at present, & after a little

Stay they depart again for England. M^r Asbury & D^r Coke are Constituted Joint Superintendants, & as M^r Asbury would not in a matter of such Importance, do anything by himself. He has Call'd a Conference to deliberate thereon, which is to meet here on Christmas day. I hope if you can make it convenient you will be here at that time. mean while I hope you Still believe me to be, with my kind love to your Spouse

y^r Sincere & affectionate friend & B^r

Ad^m Fonerden.

Baltimore Decem^r 30th 1784.

much Esteemed friend

I receiv^d your favour by B^r Murrey, & in answer to your request Shall inform you as follows. We have at this Conference agreeable to M^r Wesley's advice and direction, handed to us by that Worthy Man D^r Coke form'd ourselves unanimously into an Independent Church under the Title of the *Methodist Episcopal Church*. To be govern'd by Superintendent, Elders & Deacons, with a Liturgy Little differing from the Church of England. The Itinerant plan still to be continued, & by the Church Government Adopted, somewhat Strengthened. Which will be printed Shortly. M^r Asbury was ordained Superinten-

dant Last Sunday by the Dr. & the two Elders who came over with Him, which power of ordination being convey'd to them by three presbyters of the Church of England, Mr. Wesley being one, we think as Valid as any ordination whatever. It being now well known that in primitive times the Office of presbyter or Elder which are Synonymous Terms, & Byshop were one and the Same, with only this Small difference that the Chief or prime presbyter was sometimes called a Byshop. With us, The Superindant answers to Byshop, who is to have the Oversight of all & we think it a better name, because *modern* Byshops by being Lords are generally devourers of the flock, & a Curse to the people. & the Very Name conveys a disagreeable Savour. Our Elders answer to presbyter which are the same in office. And Deacons are to assist the Elders in admin^g the Lords Supper & may baptise in the Elders Absence. About 15 Elders will be Ordain'd before Conference breaks up, & Several Deacons, The greatest Caution will be used in future in admitting of preachers into Connection, & any Elder who loquates himself, is no Longer to Exercise the peculiar functions of his Office, without Consent of Conference, under the penalty of Expulsion.

Something is now before Confer^e respecting Slavery. This Extraordinary Man Dr. Coke, Has

Set his heart much upon Extirpating it from among us, All the Lenity will be exercised as far as may be consistend with Virginia you are to have two years to agree to the plan proposed for freeing them, & in that time you must record their Manumission, which is to take place at certain periods according to their age which is made as easy for the holder as possible. Inclosed I have sent you M^r Wesley's Circular Letter and for want of time must subscribe myself y^r

Sincere & Affect^e
friend & B^r

Ad^m Fonerden.

The direction of the affairs of the Church thus constituted was exercised by the preachers in the several Conferences until 1792, when, according to Jesse Lee, "the first regular General Conference" occurred, and was composed of all the traveling preachers. In 1812, the first *Delegated* General Conference occurred, which, as was provided, in 1808, "shall have full power to make rules and regulations for our Church, under the following limitations and restrictions,"—reciting the "Six Restrictive Rules." This Constitution, with such changes as were made in conformity with the clause providing for changes, together with all others, is given in the following pages preceding the Constitution of 1900.

The General Conference of 1900 recommended for adoption as the Constitution of the Methodist Episcopal Church that herein printed. The bishops hav-

ing examined the vote of the Annual Conferences, and finding that three-fourths of all the members present and voting had cast their votes in favor thereof, have proclaimed it to be "now the fundamental law of the Church."

Thus has been settled, until further changes are constitutionally made, what is and what is not Constitution;—to which, "let all the people say 'Amen!'"

THE EDITORS.

Cincinnati, Ohio, November, 1902.

THE CONSTITUTIONS OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

THE CONSTITUTION OF 1784.

(From Minutes of 1785.)

Future union of
Methodists.

“Q. 2. What can be done in order to the future union of the Methodists?”

“A. During the life of the Reverend Mr. Wesley we acknowledge ourselves his sons in the gospel, ready, in matters belonging to Church government, to obey his commands. And we do engage, after his death, to do everything that we judge consistent with the cause of religion in *America* and the political interest of these States, to preserve and promote our union with the Methodists in *Europe*.”

“Q. 3. As the ecclesiastical as well as civil affairs of these United States have passed through a very considerable change by the Revolution, what plan of Church government shall we hereafter pursue?”

Church Episcopal
in form.

“A. We will form ourselves into an Episcopal Church, under the direction of superintendents, elders, deacons, and helpers, according to the forms of ordination annexed to our Liturgy and the form of Discipline set forth in these Minutes.”

Design of the
ministry.

“Q. 4. What may we reasonably believe to be God’s design in raising up the preachers called *Methodists*?”

“A. To reform the Continent and to spread Scriptural holiness over these lands.”

THE CONSTITUTION OF 1787.

(From Minutes of 1787.)

This simple formulation, taken from the Minutes of the Organizing Conference of 1784, thought destitute of ponderous "Whereas," "Therefore," and "Resolved," may be set down as the first Constitution of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is characterized by that dignity which always attends simplicity and completeness in statement.

In the first Discipline printed (1787), this action is reaffirmed in a little more elaborate manner, declaring that the ecclesiastical relations of the newly-organized Church to Europe were the same as the civil relations of the United States—"Independent." It is as follows:

"SECTION III.

(Action of 1787.)

"On the Nature and Constitution of our Church.

"We are thoroughly convinced that the Church of England, to which we have been united, is deficient in several of the most important Parts of Christian Discipline; and that (a few Ministers and Members excepted) it has lost the Life and Power of Religion. We are not ignorant of the Spirit and Designs it has ever discovered in Europe, of rising to Pre-eminence and worldly Dignities by Virtue of a national Establishment, and by the most servile Devotion to the Will of temporal Governors; and we fear the same Spirit will lead the same Church in these United States (though altered in its Name) to similar Designs and Attempts, if the Number and Strength of its Members will ever afford a Probability of Success; and particularly, to obtain a national Establishment,

which we cordially abhor as the great Bane of Truth and Holiness, the greatest Impediment in the World to the Progress of vital Christianity.

“For these Reasons, we have thought it our Duty to form ourselves into an Independent Church. And as the most excellent Mode of Church Government, according to our Maturest Judgment, is that of a *Moderate Episcopacy*; and as we are persuaded that the *uninterrupted Succession of Bishops from the Apostles* can be proved neither from Scripture nor Antiquity, we therefore have constituted ourselves into an *Episcopal Church*, under the Direction of *Bishops, Elders, Deacons, and Preachers*, according to the Forms of Ordination annexed to our Prayer Book, and the Regulations laid down in this Form of Discipline.

THE CONSTITUTION OF 1808.

(See Discipline of 1808.)

“OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The General Conference.

“Ques. 2. Who shall compose the General Conference, and what are the regulations and powers belonging to it?

“Ans. 1. The General Conference shall be composed of one member for every five members of each Annual Conference, to be appointed either by seniority or choice, at the discretion of such Annual Conference: yet so that such representatives shall have traveled at least four full calendar years from the time that they were received on trial by an Annual Conference, and are in full connection at the time of holding the Conference.

“2. The General Conference shall meet on the first day of May, in the year of our Lord 1812, in the city of New York, and thenceforward on the first day of May once in four years perpetually, in such place or places as shall be fixed on by the General Conference from time to time: but the General Superintendents, with or by the advice of all the Annual Conferences, or if there be no General Superintendent, all the Annual Conferences respectively shall have power to call a General Conference, if they judge it necessary, at any time.

When to elect.

Where.

Called.

“3. At all times when the General Conference is met, it shall take two-thirds of the representatives of all the Annual Conferences to make a quorum for transacting business.

Quorum.

“4. One of the General Superintendents shall preside in the General Conference; but in case no General Superintendent be present, the General Conference shall choose a president *pro tempore*.

President.

“5. The General Conference shall have full powers to make rules and regulations for our Church, under the following limitations and restrictions, viz.:

Powers of General Conference.

“1. The General Conference shall not revoke, alter, or change our Articles of Religion, nor establish any new standards or rules of doctrine contrary to our present existing and established standards of doctrine.

Restrictions.

“2. They shall not allow of more than one representative for every five members of the Annual Conference, nor allow of a less number than one for every seven.

“3. They shall not change or alter any part or rule of our government, so as to do away Episcopacy or destroy the plan of our itinerant General Superintendency.

"4. They shall not revoke or change the general rules of the United Societies.

"5. They shall not do away the privileges of our ministers or preachers of trial by a committee, and of an appeal: neither shall they do away the privileges of our members of trial before the society or by a committee, and of an appeal.

"6. They shall not appropriate the produce of the Book Concern, or of the Charter Fund, to any purpose other than for the benefit of the traveling, supernumerary, superannuated, and wornout preachers, their wives, widows, and children; provided, nevertheless, that upon the joint recommendation of all the Annual Conferences, then a majority of two-thirds of the General Conference succeeding shall suffice to alter any of the above restrictions."

ACTION OF GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1868.

(See Journal, page 275.)

"The report of the Committee on Lay Representation, as amended and adopted, was as follows:

"WHEREAS, The General Conference of 1860 expressed its willingness to admit lay delegates to the General Conference whenever the people should desire it; and

"WHEREAS, The General Conference of 1864 concurred in that action; therefore,

Plan. "Resolved, 1. That we also concur in the same, and recommend the following plan to the godly consideration of our ministers and people:

"Change the Discipline, page 45, Part II, chap. i, sec. 1. so that it shall read as follows:

Question. 'Who shall compose the General Conference, and what are the regulations and powers belonging to it?'

Answer 1. The General Conference shall be composed of ministerial and lay delegates. The ministerial delegates shall consist of one member for every thirty (30) members of each Annual Conference, to be appointed either by seniority or choice, at the discretion of such Annual Conference, yet so that such representatives shall have traveled at least four full calendar years from the time that they were received on trial by an Annual Conference, and are in full connection at the time of holding the Conference.'

'The lay delegates shall consist of two laymen for each Annual Conference, except such Conferences as have but one ministerial delegate, which Conferences shall be entitled to one lay delegate each.'

'The lay delegates shall be chosen by an Electoral Conference of laymen, which shall assemble for the purpose on the third day of the session of the Annual Conference, at the place of its meeting, at its session immediately preceding the General Conference.'

'The Electoral Conference shall be composed of one layman from each circuit or station within the bounds of the Annual Conference, and on assembling the Electoral Conference shall organize by electing a Chairman and Secretary of their own number; such layman to be chosen by the last Quarterly Conference preceding the time of its assembling; provided that no layman shall be chosen a delegate either to the Electoral Conference or to the General Conference who shall be under twenty-five years of age, or who shall not have been a member of the Church in full connection for the five consecutive years preceding the elections.'

“Alter Answer 3 as follows, page 46:

Quorum. “*Answer 3.* At all times when the General Conference is met it shall take two-thirds of the whole number of ministerial and lay delegates to form a quorum for transacting business.

One body. “The ministerial and lay delegates shall sit and deliberate together as one body, but they shall vote separately whenever such separate vote shall be demanded by one-third of either order, and in such cases the concurrent vote of both orders shall be necessary to complete an action.

Vote of the membership. “*Resolved 2.* That during the month of June, 1869, on any day except the Sabbath, the time to be determined by the pastor and the two laymen appointed by the Quarterly Conference, as hereinafter provided, there shall be held a general election in the several places of worship of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at which all members in full connection, and not less than twenty-one years of age, shall be invited to vote by ballot: ‘For Lay Delegation,’ or ‘Against Lay Delegation.’ This election shall be held under the direction of the preacher in charge and two laymen appointed for the purpose by the Quarterly Conference, who shall see that due notice is given thereof for at least twenty days before the election, and who shall superintend all the details of the election. They shall report the result within ten days after the election to the presiding elder of the district, who shall report the same to the bishop presiding at the ensuing Annual Conference, to be entered upon the Conference Journal.

Amendments submitted. “It shall be the duty of the bishops presiding at the several Annual Conferences, at their first sessions after the above elections, to lay before those bodies the following proposed amendments to the second Re-

strictive Rule, namely: At the end of line three, after the word 'one,' insert the word 'ministerial' (page 47 of the Discipline); and after the word 'forty-five,' line seven, same page, add the words, 'nor more than two lay delegates for any Annual Conference:' and to report the result to the next General Conference, so that, as amended, it shall read: 'They shall not allow of more than one ministerial representative for every fourteen (14) members of the Annual Conference, nor allow of a less number than one for every forty-five (45), nor more than two lay delegates for any Annual Conference.'

"*Resolved*, 3. That should a majority of votes cast by the people be in favor of lay delegation, and should three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of all the members of the Annual Conferences present and voting thereon vote in favor of the above proposed change in the Constitution of the Church, then the General Conference meeting in 1872, by the requisite two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote can complete the change, and lay delegates previously elected may then be admitted." Vote required.

ACTION OF GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1872.

"The first item of the resolution was therefore adopted by a vote of 252 to 36, in words following, viz.:

"*Resolved*, That said Plan is hereby ratified and adopted." Plan adopted.

"By this action, answer 1 to the question, 'Who shall compose the General Conference, and what are the regulations and powers belonging to it?' in Part

II, chap. i, sec. 1, of the Discipline, was so changed as to read:

- Composite body.** “ *Answer* 1. The General Conference shall be composed of ministerial and lay delegates. The ministerial delegates shall consist of one member for every thirty members of each Annual Conference, to be appointed by seniority or choice, at the discretion of such Annual Conference, yet so that such representatives shall have traveled at least four full calendar years from the time that they were received on trial by an Annual Conference, and are in full connection at the time of holding the Conference.
- Lay delegates.** “ The lay delegates shall consist of two laymen
How many. for each Annual Conference, except such Conferences as have but one ministerial delegate, which Conferences shall be entitled to one lay delegate each.
- How elected.** “ The lay delegates shall be chosen by an Electoral Conference of laymen, which shall assemble for the purpose on the third day of the session of the Annual Conference, at the place of its meeting, at its session immediately preceding the General Conference.
- Electoral Conference.** “ The Electoral Conference shall be composed of one layman from each circuit or station within the bounds of the Annual Conference, and, on assembling, the Electoral Conference shall organize by electing a chairman and secretary of their own number: such layman to be chosen by the last Quarterly Conference preceding the time of its assembling: *Provided*, that no layman shall be chosen a delegate either to the Electoral Conference or to the General Conference who
Eligibility. shall be under twenty-five years of age, or who shall not have been a member of the Church in full connection for the five consecutive years preceding the elections.’

“Also answer 3 to the same question was altered by this action so as to read:

“*Answer 3.* At all times when the General Conference is met it shall take two-thirds of the whole number of ministerial and lay delegates to form a quorum for the transaction of business. Quorum.

“The ministerial and lay delegates shall sit and deliberate together as one body, but they shall vote separately whenever such separate vote shall be demanded by one-third of either order, and in such cases the concurrent vote of both orders shall be necessary to complete an action.’ One body.

“Samuel A. W. Jewett submitted, as a substitute for the remaining portion of the resolution, a motion that the roll of laymen whose certificates of election are in the hands of the Secretary be now called, and that those persons who may be duly accredited be admitted to seats in this General Conference.” Lay delegates admitted.

This motion prevailed, by a vote of 288 for to 1 against. The WHEREAS of the paper offered by Jesse T. Peck was laid on the table, after which the certificates of the lay delegates were presented, and the delegates elect were admitted to the Conference.

THE CONSTITUTION OF 1872 AS ADOPTED.

“I. The General Conference shall be composed of ministerial and lay delegates. The ministerial delegates shall consist of one member for every forty-five members of each Annual Conference, to be appointed either by seniority or choice at the discretion of such Annual Conference, yet so that such repre- Composition and basis of representation.

sentatives shall have traveled at least four full calendar years from the time that they were received on trial by an Annual Conference, and are in full connection at the time of holding the Conference.*

"The lay delegates shall consist of two laymen for each Annual Conference, except such Conferences as have but one ministerial delegate, which Conferences shall be entitled to one lay delegate each.

Lay delegates.
How chosen.

"The lay delegates shall be chosen by an Electoral Conference of laymen, which shall assemble for the purpose on the third day of the session of the Annual Conference, at the place of its meeting, at its session immediately preceding the General Conference.

Composition of
Electoral Conference.

"The Electoral Conference shall be composed of one layman from each circuit or station within the bounds of the Annual Conference; and, on assembling, the Electoral Conference shall organize by electing a chairman and secretary of their own number, such layman to be chosen by the last Quarterly Conference preceding the time of the assembling of such Electoral Conference; *provided*, that no layman shall be chosen a delegate either to the Electoral Conference or to the General Conference who shall be under twenty-five years of age, or who shall not have been a member of the Church in full connection for the five consecutive years preceding the elections.†

Eligibility.

* A transferred preacher shall not be counted twice in the same year as the basis of the election of Delegates to the General Conference, nor vote for Delegates to the General Conference in any Annual Conference where he is not counted as a part of the basis of representation, nor vote twice the same year on any constitutional question.

† The Secretaries of the several Annual and Electoral Conferences shall send to the Secretary of the last General Conference a certified copy of the election of Delegates and Reserves to the next General Conference, in the order of their

"II. The General Conference shall meet on the first day of May, in the year of our Lord 1812, in the city of New York, and thenceforward on the first day of May once in four years perpetually, in such place or places as shall be fixed on by the General Conference from time to time; but the General Superintendents, or a majority of them, by or with the advice of two-thirds of all the Annual Conferences, or, if there be no General Superintendent, two-thirds of all the Annual Conferences shall have power to call an extra session of the General Conference at any time, to be constituted in the usual way.

General Conference sessions.

Extra sessions.

"III. At all times when the General Conference is met it shall take two-thirds of the whole number of ministerial and lay delegates to form a quorum for transacting business.

Quorum.

"IV. The ministerial and lay delegates shall sit and deliberate together as one body, but they shall vote separately whenever such separate vote shall be demanded by one-third of either order; and in such cases the concurrent vote of both orders shall be necessary to complete an action.

How vote.

"V. One of the General Superintendents shall preside in the General Conference; but in case no General Superintendent be present, the General Conference shall choose a president *pro tem*.

President.

"The General Conference shall have full powers to make rules and regulations for our Church, under the following limitations and restrictions, namely:

Powers limited.

"I. The General Conference shall not revoke, alter, or change our Articles of Religion, nor establish any

election, as soon after the election as practicable, so that a roll of Members and Reserves may be prepared for the opening of the next General Conference.

new standards or rules of doctrine contrary to our present existing and established standards of doctrine.

"II. They shall not allow of more than one ministerial representative for every fourteen members of the Annual Conference, nor allow of a less number than one for every forty-five, nor more than two lay delegates for any Annual Conference; *provided*, nevertheless, that when there shall be in any Annual Conference a fraction of two-thirds the number which shall be fixed for the ratio of representation, such Annual Conference shall be entitled to an additional delegate for such fraction; and *provided*, also, that no Conference shall be denied the privilege of one delegate.

"III. They shall not change or alter any part or rule of our government, so as to do away Episcopacy, or destroy the plan of our itinerant General Superintendency; but may appoint a Missionary Bishop or Superintendent for any of our foreign missions, limiting his jurisdiction to the same respectively.

"IV. They shall not revoke or change the General Rules of the United Societies.

"V. They shall not do away the privileges of our ministers or preachers, of trial by a Committee, and of an appeal; neither shall they do away the privileges of our members, of trial before the Society, or by a Committee, and of an appeal.

"VI. They shall not appropriate the produce of the Book Concern, nor of the Charter Fund, to any purpose other than for the benefit of the traveling, supernumerary, superannuated, and wornout preachers, their wives, widows, and children.

Provided, nevertheless, that upon the concurrent recommendation of three-fourths of all the members of the several Annual Conferences who shall be pres-

ent and vote on such recommendation, then a majority of two-thirds of the General Conference succeeding shall suffice to alter any of the above restrictions, Alterations. excepting the first article; and also, whenever such alteration or alterations shall have been first recommended by two-thirds of the General Conference, so soon as three-fourths of the members of all the Annual Conferences shall have concurred as aforesaid, such alteration or alterations shall take effect."

PROPOSED REVISION OF ORGANIC LAW
OF 1872.

(See Bishops' Address of 1900.)

Revision of Or-
ganic Law of 1872
recommended in
1900.

“In this connection the bishops commend to the favorable attention of the General Conference the report of the Commission on the Organic Law of the Church. It is not probable that any member of this body or any one of the bishops will hold that every provision of the new Constitution is the best practicable. Your wisdom may possibly amend the report in this or that particular. But we are united in the opinion that it is a lucid arrangement of our fundamental law; that it makes explicit statement of items of that law heretofore somewhat inferential and, therefore, of somewhat doubtful interpretation; that it makes due provision for new conditions of Church life which have already arrived; and that, while it admits greater ease of constitutional change than has heretofore existed, it makes plain for ourselves and our successors the distinction which must be recognized in all well-ordered organizations between organic law and statutory enactments. Meantime we suggest the expediency of adopting, as a Rule of Order for this session, one of its provisions, namely, that changes in the Discipline be made only by the concurrent vote of a majority of both orders.”

THE CONSTITUTION OF 1900.*

ORGANIC LAW AS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE.

PREAMBLE.

In order the better to preserve our historic Preamble.
heritage, and the more effectually to co-operate
with other branches of the one Church of Jesus
Christ in advancing the kingdom of God among
men, we, the ministers and laymen of the Meth-
odist Episcopal Church, in accordance with the
methods of Constitutional legislation in force
among us, hereby ordain, establish, and set forth,
as the fundamental law or Constitution of the
Methodist Episcopal Church, the Articles of Re-
ligion, the General Rules, and the Articles of

* In the Constitution as printed in the Discipline only the titles, "The Articles of Religion," and "The General Rules," are given as divisions I and II.

We have inserted the Articles and General Rules in full, as they appear in the Discipline of 1900. THE EDITORS.

Organization and Government, here following, to wit:

DIVISION I.

ARTICLES OF RELIGION.

I. Of Faith in the Holy Trinity.

There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the Maker and Preserver of all things, both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there are three Persons of one substance, power, and eternity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

II. Of the Word, or Son of God, who was made very man.

The Son, who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin; so that two whole and perfect natures—that is to say, the Godhead and manhood—were joined together in one Person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God and very man, who truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for actual sins of men.

III. Of the Resurrection of Christ.

Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day.

IV. Of the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty, and glory, with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God.

V. Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation.

The Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the Holy Scriptures, we do understand those canonical books of the Old and New Testaments, of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church.

The Names of the Canonical Books.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, the First Book of

Samuel, the Second Book of Samuel, the First Book of Kings, the Second Book of Kings, the First Book of Chronicles, the Second Book of Chronicles, the Book of Ezra, the Book of Nehemiah, the Book of Esther, the Book of Job, the Psalms, the Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, or the Preacher, Cantica, or Songs of Solomon, Four Prophets the greater, Twelve Prophets the less. All the books of the New Testament, as they are commonly received, we do receive and account canonical.

VI. Of the Old Testament.

The Old Testament is not contrary to the New; for both in the Old and New Testaments everlasting life is offered to mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and man, being God and man. Wherefore they are not to be heard who feign that the old fathers did look only for transitory promises. Although the law given from God by Moses, as touching ceremonies and rites, doth not bind Christians, nor ought the civil precepts thereof of necessity to be received in any commonwealth; yet, notwithstanding, no Christian whatsoever is free from the obedience of the commandments which are called moral.

VII. Of Original or Birth Sin.

Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam (as the Pelagians do vainly talk), but it is the corruption of the nature of every man, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and of his own nature inclined to evil, and that continually.

VIII. Of Free Will.

The condition of man after the fall of Adam is such that he can not turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and works, to faith, and calling upon God; wherefore we have no power to do good works, pleasant and acceptable to God, without the grace of God by Christ preventing us, that we may have a good will, and working with us, when we have that good will.

IX. Of the Justification of Man.

We are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by faith, and not for our own works or deservings; wherefore, that we are justified by faith only, is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.

X. Of Good Works.

Although good works, which are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, can not put away our sins, and endure the severity of God's judgment; yet are they pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and spring out of a true and lively faith, insomuch that by them a lively faith may be as evidently known as a tree is discerned by its fruit.

XI. Of Works of Supererogation.

Voluntary works, besides over and above God's commandments, which are called works of supererogation, can not be taught without arrogancy and impiety. For by them men do declare that they do not only render unto God as much as they are bound to do, but that they do more for his sake than of bounden duty is required; whereas Christ saith plainly, When ye have done all that is commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants.

XII. Of Sin after Justification.

Not every sin willingly committed after justification is the sin against the Holy Ghost and unpardonable. Wherefore, the grant of repentance is not to be denied to such as fall into sin

after justification: after we have received the Holy Ghost, we may depart from grace given, and fall into sin, and, by the grace of God, rise again and amend our lives. And, therefore, they are to be condemned who say they can no more sin as long as they live here, or deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent.

XIII. Of the Church.

The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men, in which the pure Word of God is preached, and the sacraments duly administered according to Christ's ordinance, in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same.

XIV. Of Purgatory.

The Romish doctrine concerning purgatory, pardons, worshiping, and adoration, as well of images as of relics, and also invocation of saints, is a fond thing, vainly invented, and grounded upon no warrant of Scripture, but repugnant to the Word of God.

XV. Of Speaking in the Congregation in such a Tongue as the People understand.

It is a thing plainly repugnant to the Word of God, and the custom of the primitive Church,

to have public prayer in the Church, or to administer the Sacraments, in a tongue not understood by the people.

XVI. *Of the Sacraments.*

Sacraments ordained of Christ are not only badges or tokens of Christian men's profession, but rather they are certain signs of grace, and God's good will toward us, by the which he doth work invisibly in us, and doth not only quicken, but also strengthen and confirm, our faith in him.

There are two Sacraments ordained of Christ our Lord in the Gospel; that is to say, Baptism and the Supper of the Lord.

Those five commonly called Sacraments—that is to say, confirmation, penance, orders, matrimony, and extreme unction—are not to be counted for Sacraments of the Gospel; being such as have partly grown out of the *corrupt* following of the Apostles, and partly are states of life allowed in the Scriptures, but yet have not the like nature of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, because they have not any visible sign or ceremony ordained of God.

The Sacraments were not ordained of Christ to be gazed upon, or to be carried about; but that

we should duly use them. And in such only as worthily receive the same they have a wholesome effect or operation: but they that receive them unworthily, purchase to themselves condemnation, as St. Paul saith, 1 Cor. xi, 29.

XVII. Of Baptism.

Baptism is not only a sign of profession and mark of difference whereby Christians are distinguished from others that are not baptized; but it is also a sign of regeneration or the new birth. The baptism of young children is to be retained in the Church.

XVIII. Of the Lord's Supper.

The Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another, but rather is a Sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death; inso-much that, to such as rightly, worthily, and with faith receive the same, the bread which we break is a partaking of the body of Christ; and likewise the cup of blessing is a partaking of the blood of Christ.

Transubstantiation, or the change of the substance of bread and wine in the Supper of our Lord, can not be proved by Holy Writ, but is

repugnant to the plain words of Scripture, overthroweth the nature of a Sacrament, and hath given occasion to many superstitions.

The body of Christ is given, taken, and eaten in the Supper, only after a heavenly and spiritual manner. And the means whereby the body of Christ is received and eaten in the Supper is faith.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not by Christ's ordinance reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshiped.

XIX. Of Both Kinds.

The Cup of the Lord is not to be denied to the Lay People; for both the parts of the Lord's Supper, by Christ's ordinance and commandment, ought to be administered to all Christians alike.

XX. Of the one Oblation of Christ, finished upon the Cross.

The offering of Christ, once made, is that perfect redemption, propitiation, and satisfaction for all the sins of the whole world, both original and actual; and there is none other satisfaction for sin but that alone. Wherefore the sacrifice of masses, in the which it is commonly said that the priest doth offer Christ for the quick and the dead, to have remission of pain or guilt, is a blasphemous fable and dangerous deceit.

XXI. Of the Marriage of Ministers.

The Ministers of Christ are not commanded by God's law either to vow the estate of single life, or to abstain from marriage: therefore it is lawful for them, as for all other Christians, to marry at their own discretion, as they shall judge the same to serve best to godliness.

XXII. Of the Rites and Ceremonies of Churches.

It is not necessary that rites and ceremonies should in all places be the same, or exactly alike; for they have been always different, and may be changed according to the diversity of countries, times, and men's manners, so that nothing be ordained against God's Word. Whosoever, through his private judgment, willingly and purposely doth openly break the rites and ceremonies of the Church to which he belongs, which are not repugnant to the Word of God, and are ordained and approved by common authority, ought to be rebuked openly (that others may fear to do the like), as one that offendeth against the common order of the Church, and woundeth the consciences of weak brethren.

Every particular Church may ordain, change, or abolish rites and ceremonies, so that all things may be done to edification.

XXIII. Of the Rulers of the United States of America.

The President, the Congress, the General Assemblies, the Governors, and the Councils of State, *as the Delegates of the People*, are the Rulers of the United States of America, according to the division of power made to them by the Constitution of the United States, and by the Constitutions of their respective States. And the said States are a sovereign and independent Nation, and ought not to be subject to any foreign jurisdiction.*

XXIV. Of Christian Men's Goods.

The riches and goods of Christians are not common, as touching the right, title, and possession of the same, as some do falsely boast. Notwithstanding, every man ought, of such things as he possesseth, liberally to give alms to the poor, according to his ability.

* As far as it respects civil affairs, we believe it the duty of Christians, and especially of all Christian Ministers, to be subject to the supreme authority of the country where they may reside, and to use all laudable means to enjoin obedience to the powers that be; and therefore it is expected that all our Preachers and People, who may be under the British or any other Government, will behave themselves as peaceable and orderly subjects.

XXV. Of a Christian Man's Oath.

As we confess that vain and rash swearing is forbidden Christian men by our Lord Jesus Christ and James his Apostle; so we judge that the Christian religion doth not prohibit, but that a man may swear when the magistrate requireth, in a cause of faith and charity, so it be done according to the Prophet's teaching, in justice, judgment, and truth.

DIVISION II.

THE GENERAL RULES.

The Nature, Design, and General Rules of our United Societies.*

In the latter end of the year 1739 eight or ten persons who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin, and earnestly groaning for redemption, came to Mr. Wesley in London. They desired, as did two or three more the next day, that he

Origin of the
United Societies.

* The United Societies founded in this country by the apostolic Asbury and his colaborers were, in 1784, organized into the Methodist Episcopal Church. But in this chapter, and occasionally elsewhere in the Discipline, the words *Society* and *Societies* are retained as the equivalent of the words *Church* and *Churches*, both as a convenience, and as a memorial of our early ecclesiastical life.—Com. of Revision, 1892.

would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come, which they saw continually hanging over their heads. That he might have more time for this great work, he appointed a day when they might all come together; which from thenceforward they did every week, namely, on *Thursday*, in the evening. To these, and as many more as desired to join with them (for their number increased daily), he gave those advices from time to time which he judged most needful for them; and they always concluded their meeting with prayer suited to their several necessities.

Origin of
Methodism.

This was the rise of the UNITED SOCIETY, first in Europe, and then in America. Such a society is no other than *“a company of men having the form and seeking the power of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation.”*

The class, and
the leader.

That it may the more easily be discerned whether they are indeed working out their own salvation, each Society is divided into smaller companies, called Classes, according to their respective places of abode. There are about twelve persons in a Class, one of whom is styled THE LEADER. It is his duty,

§ 1. To see each person in his Class once a week at least; in order, (1.) To inquire how his soul prospers. (2.) To advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require. (3.) To receive what he is willing to give toward the relief of the Preachers, Church, and poor.* Duties of leaders.

§ 2. To meet the Ministers and the Stewards of the Society once a week; in order, (1.) To inform the Minister of any that are sick, or of any that walk disorderly and will not be reproved. (2.) To pay the Stewards what he has received of his Class in the week preceding. Leaders' meeting.

There is only one condition previously required of those who desire admission into these Societies—"a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from their sins." But wherever this is really fixed in the soul it will be shown by its fruits. Condition of membership.

It is therefore expected of all who continue therein that they shall continue to evidence their desire of salvation, Proofs.

First: By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced; such as, Reforming.

The taking of the name of God in vain.

The profaning the day of the Lord, either

* This part refers to towns and cities, where the poor are generally numerous and Church expenses considerable.

by doing ordinary work therein or by buying or selling.

Drunkenness, buying or selling spirituous liquors, or drinking them, unless in cases of extreme necessity.

Slaveholding; buying or selling slaves.

Fighting, quarreling, brawling, brother going to law with brother; returning evil for evil, or railing for railing; the using many words in buying or selling.

The buying or selling goods that have not paid the duty.

The giving or taking things on usury—that is, unlawful interest.

Uncharitable or unprofitable conversation; particularly speaking evil of Magistrates or of Ministers.

Doing to others as we would not they should do unto us.

Doing what we know is not for the glory of God, as:

The putting on of gold and costly apparel.

The taking such diversions as can not be used in the name of the Lord Jesus.

The singing those songs, or reading those books, which do not tend to the knowledge or love of God.

Softness and needless self-indulgence.

Laying up treasure upon earth.

Borrowing without a probability of paying; or taking up goods without a probability of paying for them.

It is expected of all who continue in these Societies that they shall continue to evidence their desire of salvation, Further proofs.

Second: By doing good; by being in every kind merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all men: Performing.

To their bodies, of the ability which God giveth, by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by visiting or helping them that are sick or in prison:

To their souls, by instructing, reproofing, or exhorting all we have any intercourse with; trampling under foot that enthusiastic doctrine, that "we are not to do good unless *our hearts be free to it.*"

By doing good, especially to them that are of the household of faith or groaning so to be; employing them preferably to others; buying one of another; helping each other in business; and so much the more because the world will love its own and them *only*.

By all possible diligence and frugality, that the Gospel be not blamed.

By running with patience the race which is set before them, denying themselves, and taking up their cross daily; submitting to bear the reproach of Christ, to be as the filth and offscouring of the world; and looking that men should say all manner of evil of them *falsely*, for the Lord's sake.

Continued proofs. It is expected of all who desire to continue in these Societies that they shall continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

Conforming. Third: By attending upon all the ordinances of God; such are,

The Public Worship of God;

The Ministry of the Word, either read or expounded;

The Supper of the Lord;

Family and private Prayer;

Searching the Scriptures;

Fasting or Abstinence.

Origin of the General Rules. These are the General Rules of our Societies; all which we are taught of God to observe, even in his written Word, which is the only rule, and the sufficient rule, both of our faith and practice. And all these we know his Spirit writes on truly awakened hearts. If there be any among us who observes them not, who habitually breaks any of them, let it be known unto them who watch

over that soul as they who must give an account. We will admonish him of the error of his ways. We will bear with him for a season. But if then Self excluded. he repent not, he hath no more place among us. We have delivered our own souls.

DIVISION III.

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT.

PART I.

Pastoral Charges, Quarterly and Annual Conferences.

ARTICLE I. Pastoral Charges.—Members of the Church shall be divided into local Societies, one or more of which shall constitute a Pastoral Charge.

ARTICLE II. Quarterly Conferences. — A Quarterly Conference shall be organized in each Pastoral Charge, and be composed of such persons and have such powers as the General Conference may direct.

ARTICLE III. Annual Conferences. — The Traveling Preachers shall be organized by the General Conference into Annual Conferences, the sessions of which they are required to attend.

PART II.

The General Conference.

Composition. ARTICLE I. How Composed.—The General Conference shall be composed of Ministerial and Lay Delegates, to be chosen as hereinafter provided.

Ministerial Delegates. ARTICLE II. Ministerial Delegates.—§ 1. Each Annual Conference shall be entitled to at least one Ministerial Delegate. The General Conference shall not allow more than one Ministerial Delegate for every fourteen members of an Annual Conference, nor less than one for every forty-five; but for a fraction of two-thirds or more of the number fixed by the General Conference as the ratio of representation an Annual Conference shall be entitled to an additional Delegate.

How chosen. § 2. The Ministerial Delegates shall be elected by ballot by the members of the Annual Conference at its session immediately preceding the General Conference. Such Delegates shall be Elders, at least twenty-five years of age, and shall have been members of an Annual Conference

Eligibility. four successive years, and at the time of their election and at the time of the session of the General Conference shall be members of the Annual Conference which elected them. An Annual

Conference may elect Reserve Delegates, not exceeding three in number, and not exceeding the number of its Delegates.

§ 3. No minister shall be counted twice in the same year in the basis for the election of Delegates to the General Conference, nor vote in such election where he is not counted, nor vote in two Conferences in the same year on a Constitutional question.

ARTICLE III. Lay Delegates.—§ 1. A Lay Electoral Conference shall be constituted quadrennially, or whenever duly called by the General Conference, within the bounds of each Annual Conference, for the purpose of electing Lay Delegates to the General Conference, and for the purpose of voting on constitutional changes. It shall be composed of lay members, one from each Pastoral Charge within its bounds, chosen by the lay members of the Charge over twenty-one years of age, in such manner as the General Conference may determine. Each Pastoral Charge shall also elect in the same manner one Reserve Delegate. Members not less than twenty-one years of age, and holding membership in the Pastoral Charges electing them, are eligible to membership in the Lay Electoral Conference.

How constituted.

Composition.

§ 2. The Lay Electoral Conference shall assemble at the seat of the Annual Conference on

Time and place of meeting.

the first Friday of the session immediately preceding the General Conference, unless the General Conference shall provide otherwise.

Organization. § 3. The Lay Electoral Conference shall organize by electing a President and Secretary, shall adopt its own Rules of Order, and shall be the judge of the election, returns, and qualifications of its own members.

Equal representation. § 4. Each Lay Electoral Conference shall be entitled to elect as many Delegates to the General Conference as there are Ministerial Delegates from the Annual Conference. A Lay Electoral Conference may elect Reserve Delegates, not exceeding three in number, and not exceeding the number of its Delegates. These elections shall be by ballot.

Eligibility. § 5. Lay members twenty-five years of age, or over, holding membership in Pastoral Charges within the bounds of the Lay Electoral Conference, and having been lay members of the Church five years next preceding, shall be eligible to election to the General Conference. Delegates-elect who cease to be members of the Church within the bounds of the Lay Electoral Conference by which they were elected shall not be entitled to seats in the General Conference.

ARTICLE IV. Credentials.—The Secretaries

of the several Annual and Lay Electoral Conferences shall furnish certificates of election to the Delegates severally, and send a certificate of such election to the Secretary of the preceding General Conference immediately after the adjournment of said Annual or Lay Electoral Conference.

ARTICLE V. Sessions. — § 1. The General Conference shall meet at ten o'clock on the morning of the first Wednesday in the month of May, in every fourth year from the date of the first Delegated General Conference—namely, the year of our Lord 1812—and at such place in the United States of America as shall have been determined by the preceding General Conference, or by a Commission to be appointed quadrennially by the General Conference, and acting under its authority; which Commission shall have power also in case of emergency to change the place for the meeting of the General Conference, a majority of the General Superintendents concurring in such change.

General Conference session.

§ 2. The General Superintendents, or a majority of them, by and with the advice of two-thirds of all the Annual Conferences, shall have the power to call an extra session of the General Conference at any time, constituted in the usual way; such session to be held at such time and place

Extra session of same.

as a majority of the General Superintendents, and also of the above Commission, shall designate.

Extra session
of Annual
Conference.

§ 3. In case of a great emergency two-thirds of the General Superintendents may call special sessions of the Annual Conferences, at such time and place as they may think wise, to determine the question of an extra session of the General Conference, or to elect Delegates thereto. They may also, in such cases, call extra sessions of the Lay Electoral Conferences for the purpose of electing Lay Delegates to the General Conference.

Presiding officers.

ARTICLE VI. Presiding Officers. — § 1. The General Conference shall elect by ballot from among the Traveling Elders as many General Superintendents as it may deem necessary.

President pro
tempore.

§ 2. The General Superintendents shall preside in the General Conference in such order as they may determine; but if no General Superintendent be present, the General Conference shall elect one of its members to preside *pro tempore*.

§ 3. The presiding officer of the General Conference shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the General Conference; but questions of law shall be decided by the General Conference.

How organized.

ARTICLE VII. Organization. — When the time for opening the General Conference arrives

the presiding officer shall take the chair, and direct the Secretary of the preceding General Conference, or in his absence one of his assistants, to call the roll of the Delegates-elect. Those who have been duly returned shall be recognized as members, their certificates of election being *prima facie* evidence of their right to membership; *provided*, however, that in case of a challenge of any person thus enrolled, such challenge being signed by at least six Delegates from the territory of as many different Annual Conferences, three such Delegates being ministers, and three laymen, the person so challenged shall not participate in the proceedings of the General Conference, except to speak on his own case, until the question of his right shall have been decided. The General Conference shall be the judge of the election, returns, and qualifications of its own members. Credentials.

ARTICLE VIII. Quorum.—When the General Conference is in session it shall require the presence of two-thirds of the whole number of Delegates to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; but a less number may take a recess or adjourn from day to day in order to secure a quorum, and at the final session may approve the Journal, order the record of the roll-call, and adjourn *sine die*. Quorum.

Voting. ARTICLE IX. Voting.—The Ministerial and Lay Delegates shall deliberate together as one body. They shall also vote together as one body with the following exception: A separate vote shall be taken on any question when requested by one-third of either order of Delegates present and voting. In all cases of separate voting it shall require the concurrence of the two orders to adopt the proposed measure; except that for changes of the Constitution a vote of two-thirds of the General Conference shall be sufficient, as provided in Article XI.

Powers. ARTICLE X. Powers and Restrictions.—The General Conference shall have full power to make rules and regulations for the Church under the following limitations and restrictions, namely:

Limitations. § 1. The General Conference shall not revoke, alter, nor change our Articles of Religion, nor establish any new standards or rules of doctrine contrary to our present existing and established standards of doctrine.

§ 2. The General Conference shall not organize nor authorize the organization of an Annual Conference with less than twenty-five members.

§ 3. The General Conference shall not change nor alter any part or rule of our government so as to do away Episcopacy, nor destroy the

plan of our itinerant General Superintendency; but may elect a Missionary Bishop or Superintendent for any of our foreign missions, limiting his Episcopal jurisdiction to the same, respectively.

§ 4. The General Conference shall not revoke nor change the General Rules of our Church.

§ 5. The General Conference shall not deprive our ministers of the right of trial by the Annual Conference, or by a select number thereof, nor of an appeal; nor shall it deprive our members of the right of trial by a committee of members of our Church, nor of an appeal. Right to trial.

§ 6. The General Conference shall not appropriate the produce of the Book Concern, nor of the Chartered Fund, to any purpose other than for the benefit of the Traveling, Supernumerary, and Superannuated Preachers, their wives, widows, and children. Proceeds of Book Concern.

ARTICLE XI. Amendments.—The concurrent recommendation of two-thirds of all the members of the several Annual Conferences present and voting, and of two-thirds of all the members of the Lay Electoral Conferences present and voting, shall suffice to authorize the next ensuing General Conference by a two-thirds vote to alter or amend any of the provisions of this Constitution excepting § 1, Article X; and also, when- Amendments.

ever such alteration or amendment shall have been first recommended by the General Conference by a two-thirds vote, then so soon as two-thirds of all the members of the several Annual Conferences present and voting, and two-thirds of all the members of the Lay Electoral Conferences present and voting, shall have concurred therein, such alteration or amendment shall take effect; and the result of the vote shall be announced by the General Superintendents.

PROCLAMATION OF THE ADOPTION OF THE
NEW CONSTITUTION.

New Constitution
proclaimed.

“WHEREAS, The General Conference of the year of our Lord 1888 inaugurated a movement for a more accurate statement of the organic law of the Church, and provided for a Commission to prepare paragraphs to take the place of the paragraphs constituting the chapter on the General Conference in the Discipline of 1884, which revised paragraphs should determine and define the Constitution of the General Conference, its composition, organization, powers, and the method of amending said Constitution; and

“WHEREAS, The General Conferences, respectively, of 1892 and 1893 provided for like Commissions for the same general purpose; and

“WHEREAS, The twenty-eighth General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, on the 22d day of May, A. D. 1900, having considered and amended the report of the last appointed Commission, did (by a vote of 542 for to 94 against) on its part

adopt and recommend to the Annual Conferences a revised fundamental law or Constitution for said Church, which new Constitution is duly set forth on pages 416 to 421 of the Journal of said General Conference, and also on pages 356 to 362 of the Discipline of said Church of the edition of the year 1900; and

“WHEREAS, The said General Conference directed that the said new Constitution be submitted in the year 1901 to the several Annual Conferences for their action thereon, and further directed that in case three-fourths of all the members of said Annual Conferences present and voting should concur with the action of the General Conference above recited, the bishops should thereupon declare the new Constitution adopted; and

“WHEREAS, It has been duly certified to the bishops by the secretary of the General Conference of 1900 and by the secretary of the Board of Bishops that in the Annual Conferences held in the said year 1901, 10,766 members thereof were present and voted on the question of concurrence or nonconcurrence with the action of the General Conference of 1900 as above recited, and that of this total number of voters, 8,241, being more than three-fourths of all, voted to concur with such action;

“Now, therefore, the Bishops of the Church, being assembled in semi-annual session in the city of Chattanooga, Tenn., do, in pursuance of the above authorization, on this the 6th day of May, A. D. 1902, declare that the said Constitution has been duly adopted, and is now the fundamental law of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

“By order and in behalf of the Board of Bishops,

“JAMES N. FITZGERALD, Secretary.

“Chattanooga, Tenn., May 6, 1902.”

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

[It is believed the following Act was never before printed. It is inserted only for its historic interest. For the existing Charter, see page 72.]

ACT OF INCORPORATION (1864)

Of "The Board of Trustees of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States." Revised in 1868.

"I, William L. Harris, Secretary of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States of America, duly constituted, which held its sessions in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, beginning on the 2d day of May, 1864, and continuing from day to day thereafter, until the 27th day of May, 1864, do hereby certify:

"That at the said sessions, the said General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to wit, on the 4th day of May, 1864, the following proceedings were had: '*Resolved*, That a Committee of seven be appointed to report a plan of trusteeship in behalf of the General Conference to represent the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and by virtue of their corporate powers secure and hold all bequests made to the Church for benevolent purposes.'

“On the 7th day of May, 1864, the following Committee to report a Plan of Trusteeship for the General Conference was appointed, to wit: William Young, Elijah H. Pilcher, Albert Church, Williamson Terrill, James Lawson, John Miley, Kasimir P. Jervis.

“On the 16th day of May, 1864, the following proceedings were had: William Young, Chairman of the Special Committee on a Plan of Trusteeship for the General Conference, submitted a report on that subject, and it lies on the table under the rule.

“On the 23d day of May, 1864, the following proceedings were had: On motion of William Young, the order of business was suspended to take up the report of the Committee on a Plan for Trusteeship for the General Conference, presented and laid on the table May 16th; and it was taken up and the following changes of Discipline proposed in the report were adopted; namely, to insert in the chapter on Temporal Economy the following question and answers:

“*Question 1.* What shall be done for the better security of donations, bequests, grants, etc., made for benevolent purposes to the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America?

“*Answer 1.* The General Conference shall appoint and perpetuate a Board of Trustees, composed of ministers and laymen, consisting of not less than five nor more than nine, who shall be invested with corporate powers, and shall be authorized to receive and hold in trust for the benefit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, under the direction of the General Conference, any and all donations, bequests, grants, etc., made to the Methodist Episcopal Church not specially designated or directed, but simply made to the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

"2. When any such donation, bequest, grant, etc., is made to the Church, it shall be the duty of the preacher in the bounds of whose charge it occurs, to give an early notice thereof to the Board, who shall proceed without delay to take possession of the same according to the provisions of their charter.

"3. The Board shall make a faithful report of their doings and of the funds or property on hand at each quadrennial session of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and all donations thus reported and received shall be disposed of by order of the General Conference for the benefit of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

"The following resolutions contained in the report were also adopted:

"*Resolved*, That the foregoing Board shall be located at Cincinnati, in the State of Ohio.

"*Resolved*, That the following be, and they are hereby appointed to fill the said Board, to wit: Rev. Davis W. Clark, Rev. Joseph M. Trimble, Rev. William Nast, Rev. Adam Poe, Rev. William Young, A. N. Riddle, Esq., M. B. Hagans, Esq., Thomas H. Whetstone, Esq., John Fudge, Esq.

"*Resolved*, That the Board so appointed are hereby instructed early to take steps to secure corporate powers under the laws of the State of Ohio, under the name and style of the "Board of Trustees of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States," to enable them legally to execute the prescribed trusts.'

"The report of the Committee was then adopted as a whole, as follows:

"The Committee on the Plan of Trusteeship for the General Conference would present the following:

“In the judgment of your Committee there is a pressing necessity that some measure of this kind should be inaugurated in the Church. The plan we propose, we think, will meet this necessity. It can, at least, do no harm, and may result in much practical good; it may save to the Church donations, bequests, etc., which otherwise would be lost to it. We therefore recommend that the following question and answer be inserted in the Discipline in the chapter on Temporal Economy:

“*Question 1.* What shall be done for the better security of donations, bequests, grants, etc., made for benevolent purposes to the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America?

“*Answer 1.* The General Conference shall appoint and perpetuate a Board of Trustees, composed of ministers and laymen, consisting of not less than five nor more than nine, who shall be invested with corporate powers, and shall be authorized to receive and hold in trust for the benefit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, under the direction of the General Conference, any and all donations, bequests, grants, etc., made to the Methodist Episcopal Church, not specially designated or directed, but simply made to the “Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America.”

“1. When any such donation, bequest, grant, etc., is made to the Church, it shall be the duty of the preacher in the bounds of whose charge it occurs to give an early notice thereof to the Board, who shall proceed without delay to take possession of the same according to the provisions of their charter.

“The Board shall make a faithful report of their doings, and of funds or property on hand, at each quadrennial session of the General Conference of the

Methodist Episcopal Church, and all donations thus reported and received shall be disposed of by order of the General Conference for the benefit of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States.

“The Committee would further recommend to the General Conference the passage of the following resolutions:

“1. *Resolved*, That the foregoing Board shall be located at Cincinnati, in the State of Ohio.

“2. *Resolved*, That the following persons be, and are, hereby appointed to fill the said Board, to wit: Rev. D. W. Clark, Rev. J. M. Trimble, Rev. W. Nast, Rev. A. Poe, Rev. W. Young, A. N. Riddle, Esq., M. B. Hagans, Esq., T. H. Whetstone, Esq., and John Fudge, Esq.

“3. *Resolved*, That the Board so appointed are hereby instructed early to take steps to secure corporate powers under the laws of the State of Ohio, under the name and style of “The Board of Trustees of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States,” to enable them legally to execute the prescribed trusts.

“Respectfully submitted.

“WILLIAM YOUNG,

“E. H. PILCHER,

“A. CHURCH,

“W. TERRELL,

“JAMES LAWSON,

“K. P. JERVIS,

“JNO. MILEY.’

“And I do further certify that thereupon Davis W. Clark, Joseph M. Trimble, William Nast, Adam Poe, William Young, Adam N. Riddle, Marcellus B. Hagans, Thomas H. Whetstone, and John Fudge were duly elected the Board of Trustees of the General

Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, to hold their offices during the pleasure of the said General Conference; and that the corporate name given to the said Trustees by the said General Conference is, 'The Board of Trustees of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States.'

"And I do finally certify that the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States of America has a principal place of business within the State of Ohio, to wit, in the city of Cincinnati, in the County of Hamilton; that I was the Secretary of the General Conference above mentioned, and that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings thereof in this behalf.

"Thus done and certified this seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord, 1865.

"WILLIAM L. HARRIS,
"Secretary of the General Conference."

"CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE.

"The undersigned, being a majority of the Board of Trustees of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, and having been elected as such as appears by the certificate of William L. Harris, Secretary of the General Conference, above, and being desirous of availing ourselves of the provisions of an Act of the Legislature of Ohio, entitled 'An Act to provide for the creation and regulation of Incorporated Companies in the State of Ohio,' passed May 1, 1852, and the acts supplementary and amendatory thereto, do hereby certify that we do accept the provisions of the said Act, and the supplements and amendments thereto, and we do accept and undertake the trusts imposed by the reso-

lutions and proceedings of the said The General Conference as set forth above.

“Thus done and certified at Cincinnati, Ohio, this twenty-eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five.

“D. W. CLARK,

“JOSEPH M. TRIMBLE,

“ADAM POE,

“WILLIAM NAST,

“A. N. RIDDLE,

“MARCELLUS B. HAGANS,

“WILLIAM YOUNG.”

We think this document was never before printed.
It is given only for its historic value.

ACT OF INCORPORATION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

(Copy of Original Document.)

Be it remembered, That the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States of America, by the General Conference, an organized body, representing the said The Methodist Episcopal Church, at a session of the majority of the members of said Conference, held in the city of Chicago, in the State of Illinois, commencing on the first day of May, 1868, had the following proceedings, with a view of obtaining an Act of Incorporation, to be known under the form and style of "Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church"—having a central or principal place of business in the city of Cincinnati, in the State of Ohio—said Act of Incorporation to be under and by virtue of "An Act to provide for the creation and regulation of Incorporated Companies in the State of Ohio," passed May

Action of General Conference to incorporate the Church.

1, 1852, and the acts amendatory thereof, and supplementary thereto, namely:—

On the fourth day of May, 1868, F. C. Holliday moved the appointment of a committee of seven persons "On the Trusteeship of the Methodist Episcopal Church," and the said committee was thereupon appointed, to wit: Daniel P. Kidder, William L. Harris, Cyrus Brooks, John L. Smith, Francis A. Blades, Charles A. Holmes, and John W. Locke.

Committee.

And on the first day of June the said committee made the following report, which was adopted by the General Conference, namely:

Report. WHEREAS, The General Conference in 1864 provided for the incorporation of a board of trustees, under and by authority of the laws of the State of Ohio, to be known under the form and style of "The Board of Trustees of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States;" and,

Charter of 1864.

Amendment desired.

WHEREAS, It is desirable to obtain a new and amended charter under the general law of the State of Ohio, entitled "An Act to provide for the creation and regulation of incorporated companies in the State of Ohio," passed May 1st, 1852, and the acts amendatory and supplementary thereto; therefore,

Resolved, That the General Conference of the

Methodist Episcopal Church, now assembled in Chicago, Ill., hereby apply for such charter, wherein the organization of the Board shall be more clearly defined, and its objects and scope enlarged. And the General Conference having elected D. W. Clark, F. C. Holliday, Joseph M. Trimble, John Cochnower, Edward Sargent, Amos Shinkle, Luke Hitchcock, W. H. Goode, William Young, Harvey DeCamp, M. B. Hagans, and A. N. Riddle, the first Board of Trustees, hereby adopt the following

Applied for.

Board of Trustees elected.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.

FIRST. The Board of Trustees hereby created shall consist of six ministers and six laymen in good and regular standing in the Methodist Episcopal Church, six of whom shall be appointed by the General Conference at each quadrennial session, and to hold office till their successors have been regularly and duly appointed; said corporation to be known under the form and style of "*Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*" And Davis W. Clark, F. C. Holliday, Joseph M. Trimble, Luke Hitchcock, William H. Goode, William Young, ministers, and Harvey DeCamp, M. B. Hagans, A. N. Riddle, John Cochnower, Edward Sargent, Amos Shinkle, laymen,—are hereby elected and

Articles adopted.
Composition.

How and for how long appointed.

Corporate name proposed.

Perpetual succession. appointed trustees to constitute the board before named, which board shall have perpetual succession,

Powers. SECOND. The said board of trustees, under their corporate name, shall have power to take and hold by donation, gift, grant, devise, or otherwise, any property, real, personal, or mixed in any State in the United States, in behoof of and for the benefit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the same to manage, grant, convey, lease, or otherwise dispose of, and to execute such trust or trusts as may be confided to said corporation—the whole to be under the supervision of, and amenable to, the General Conference,

Special trusts. THIRD. The said board shall also be deemed competent to receive and administer any special benevolent trust in behalf of the church, not otherwise provided for in the benevolent societies now existing under the authority or by the sanction of the General Conference.

Successors. FOURTH. The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States shall elect or appoint successors of the said trustees hereinbefore named, at the quadrennial meetings of said Conference, provided,

Vacancies. however, that all vacancies occurring more than six months before the session of the General

Conference shall be filled by the bishops, the persons so appointed to hold office only up to the time of the General Conference, when their places shall be held as vacant, and shall be filled as aforesaid.

FIFTH. The Board shall have authority to enact By-laws, not inconsistent with the design and provisions of this charter, for the transaction and regulation of its business, and shall have authority to appoint the necessary officers for the transaction of all business that pertains to it or that may come before it.

Make By-laws and
appoint officers.

SIXTH. The Board of Trustees herein provided for shall be amenable to the General Conference for the management of the trust reposed in them, and they shall make quadrennial reports to that body.

Amenability.

SEVENTH. A failure to elect a Trustee or Trustees, at any time, shall not work a dissolution of this corporation.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. P. KIDDER, CYRUS BROOKS,

W. L. HARRIS, C. A. HOLMES,

JNO. W. LOCKE, F. A. BLADES,

JOHN L. SMITH, *Committee.*

And the said report was adopted by the following vote, viz.:—*one hundred and eighty-one for, and none against.*

General Confer-
ence adopts
report.

And this was all the action of the said The General Conference in this behalf.

Now, therefore, I, William L. Harris, Secretary of the said The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, duly elected and acting as such at the session aforesaid, *do hereby* certify that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings of the said The General Conference in this behalf.

Proceedings
certified.

Certificate of
election.

And I do further certify, That Davis W. Clark, F. C. Holliday, Joseph M. Trimble, Luke Hitchcock, William H. Goode, William Young, ministers, and Harvey DeCamp, M. B. Hagans, A. N. Riddle, John Cochnower, Edward Sargent, Amos Shinkle, laymen were duly elected Trustees as aforesaid, and that the name of the corporation adopted by the said The General Conference is, *The Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, and that its principal enterprise or business is carried on in the County of Hamilton, in the State of Ohio, and this Certificate is made for the purpose of becoming incorporated as aforesaid.

Corporate name
certified.

WILLIAM L. HARRIS, *Secretary.*

CHICAGO, ILL., June 1st, 1868.

CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE.

The undersigned, having been elected Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as appears by the foregoing certificate of William L. Harris, Secretary of the General Conference, above named, and being desirous of availing ourselves of the provisions of an Act of the Legislature of the State of Ohio, entitled, "An Act to provide for the Creation and Regulation of Incorporated Companies in the State of Ohio," passed May 1, 1852, and the Acts supplementary and amendatory thereto, do hereby *certify* that we do accept the provisions of the said Act, and the supplements and amendments thereto, and we *do accept and undertake the Trusts* imposed by the resolutions and proceedings of the said The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States of America, as set forth above.

Trust accepted.

This done and certified at Cincinnati, Ohio, this Twenty-Second day of July, in the Year of our Lord, one Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Eight.

DAVIS W. CLARK,	WILLIAM YOUNG,
F. C. HOLLIDAY,	HARVEY DECAMP,
JOSEPH M. TRIMBLE,	M. B. HAGANS,
WILLIAM H. GOODE,	EDWARD SARGENT,
ADAM N. RIDDLE,	JOHN COCHNOWER,
LUKE HITCHCOCK,	A. SHINKLE.

RECEIVED Nov 12, 1868. Recorded in Book of Church Records No. 2 page 296, Hamilton Co., Ohio, Records.

(Signed) THOS. L. YOUNG,
Recorder.

THE PERMANENT FUND.

Permanent Fund. There shall be a Fund known as "The Permanent Fund," to be held by the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the principal of which shall be intact forever, and which shall be invested by said Trustees in first-class securities, and at as favorable rates as can be legally secured.

THE BOOK CONCERN.

[Under this name are included the publishing interests of the Church, which are quite as old as the Church itself. It was first used in this sense in the year 1800, as will appear from the following historical facts taken from the early Disciplines. Special reference is made to pages 90, 92, 93, 94, where we have "book concerns," "the concerns of the books," "our Book Concerns," "the concern," "the book concern," and finally "the Book concern" used as the name of "the business." We may justly claim the name therefore as being an American institution originated by our fathers and as belonging exclusively to us.]

(Discipline of 1787.)

SECTION XXXI.

On the Printing of Books, and the Application of the Profits arising therefrom.

The printing of books in this country.

"As it has been frequently recommended by the Preachers and People that such Books as are wanted be printed in this Country, we therefore propose—

"1. That the Advice of the Conference shall be desired concerning any valuable Impression, and their Consent be obtained before any Steps be taken for the Printing thereof.

Conference control.

"2. That the Profits of the Books, after all the necessary Expenses are defrayed, shall be applied, according to the Discretion of the Conference, towards the College, the Preachers' Fund, the De-

Profits applied.

iciencies of Preachers' Salaries, the distant Missions, or the Debts on our Churches."

In Discipline of 1790, the above paragraph (2) was changed so as to read:

Profits in 1790.

"2. That the profits of the Books, after all necessary expenses are defrayed, shall be applied as the Bishop and Council shall direct."

In 1792 a very much elaborated statement was made, as follows:

"SECTION II.

"Of the Printing of Books, and the Application of the Profits arising therefrom.

First Manager.

"*Quest.* 1. Who is employed to manage the Printing-business?

"*Answ.* John Dickins.

"*Quest.* 2. What allowances shall be paid him annually for his services?

"*Answ.* 1. 200 Dollars, for a dwelling-house and for a book-room.

"2. 80 Dollars for a boy.

"3. 53 Dollars 1-3, for fire wood: and,

"4. 333 Dollars, to clothe and feed himself, his wife, and his children. In all, 666 dollars 1-3.

His powers.

"*Quest.* 3. What powers shall be granted him?

"*Answ.* 1. To regulate the publications according to the state of the finances.

Called
"Book Fund."

"2. To determine, with the approbation of the Book-Committee, on the amount of the draughts which may be drawn from time to time on the book-fund.

"3. To complain to the District Conferences, if any Preachers shall neglect to make due payment for books.

"4. To publish from time to time such books or treatises, as he and the other members of the Book-Committee shall unanimously judge proper.

"*Quest.* 4. Who shall form the Book-Committee? **First Book Committee.**

"*Answ.* John Dickins, Henry Willis, Thomas Has-kins, and the Preacher who is stationed in Philadel-phia from time to time.

"*Quest.* 5. How much shall be annually allowed out of the book-fund for Cokesbury College, till the next General Conference? **Book Fund applied to Cokesbury College.**

"*Answ.* Eight hundred dollars, for the ensuing year: and one thousand fifty-six dollars and two-thirds, for each of the remaining three years.

"*Quest.* 6. What directions shall be given, concern-**ing the application of the money allowed as above for Cokesbury College?** **How used.**

"*Answ.* The money shall be applied as follows:

"1. For the education and board of the boys that are now on the charitable part of the foundation. But no boy shall be again placed on the charity till the next General Conference.

"2. The surplus of the money, after the charity is **supplied, shall be from time to time appropriated to the payment of the debt of the College, and to the finishing of the building, under the direction of the Bishop and the Committee of safety.** **Charity first.**

Bishop directs book fund.

N. B. The present debt of the College is about eleven hundred dollars. The present expence of the charity is about nine hundred and sixty-three dollars annually; but this will probably sink into less than one half before the next General Conference.

"*Quest.* 7. What sum of money shall be allowed **distressed Preachers out of the book-fund, till the next General Conference?** **Book Fund applied to help distressed preachers.**

"*Answ.* 266 dollars and 1-3 per annum.

“*Quest.* 8. How is the money mentioned above, for the benefit of distressed Preachers, to be drawn out of the book-fund?

How drawn. “*Answ.* By the Bishop, according to the united judgment of himself and the District Conferences.

District schools helped. “*Quest.* 9. What shall be allowed the Bishop out of the book-fund, for the benefit of district-schools, till the next General Conference?

“*Answ.* 64 dollars per annum.

Surplus appropriated to carry on the “concerns of the books.” “*Quest.* 10. How shall the surplus of the book-fund be applied till the next General Conference, after the provisions above mentioned are made?

“*Answ.* To the forming of a capital stock for the carrying on of the concerns of the books.”

In 1796 this was changed so as to read from Q. 3:

“*Quest.* 3. What powers shall be granted him?

Powers of Manager. “*Answ.* 1. To regulate the publications according to the state of the finances.

“2. To complain to the district conferences, if any preachers shall neglect to make due payment for books.

“3. To reprint, from time to time, such books or treatises, as he and the other members of the book-committee shall unanimously judge proper.

“*Quest.* 4. Who shall form the book-committee?

Second Book Committee. “*Answ.* John Dickins, Thomas Haskins, and the preachers who are stationed in Philadelphia, from time to time.

“*Quest.* 5. What sum of money shall be allowed distressed preachers out of the book-fund, till the next general conference?

“*Answ.* 266 $\frac{1}{3}$ dollars per annum.

“*Quest.* 6. How is the money mentioned above, for the benefit of distressed preachers, to be drawn out of the book-fund?

“*Answ.* By the bishop, according to the united judgment of himself and the district conferences.

In 1798 it was again changed so as to read from Q. 3.:

“*Quest.* 3. What powers shall be granted him?

“*Answ.* 1. To regulate the publications according to the state of the finances.

“2. To complain to the yearly conference, if any preachers shall neglect to make due payment for books.

“*Quest.* 4. What sum of money shall be allowed distressed preachers out of the book-fund, till the next general conference?

“*Answ.* 266 dollars and $\frac{1}{3}$ per annum.

“*Quest.* 5. How is the money mentioned above, for the benefit of distressed preachers, to be drawn out of the book-fund?

“*Answ.* By the bishop, according to the united judgment of himself and the yearly conferences.

“*Quest.* 6. In what manner shall the accounts of Accounts audited.
the general book-steward be examined?

“*Answ.* The Philadelphia conference shall from year to year appoint a committee, who shall examine quarterly his receipts and disbursements and other accounts.

“*Quest.* 7. What mode shall be struck out for the Bad debts.
recovery of bad or suspected book-debts?

“*Answ.* 1. Let every yearly conference appoint a committee or committees for the examination of the accounts of the travelling book-stewards in their respective districts.

“2. Let every presiding elder, and every preacher Collecting the
who has the oversight of a circuit, do every thing in debts due.
their power to recover all the debts in their circuit or district, and also all books which may remain in the

hands of persons who shall have resigned, or been withdrawn from the office of a travelling book-steward.

Traveling Book Stewards. "Quest. 8. Shall any drafts be made on the book-fund before all its debts are discharged?

Pay debts first. "Answ. There shall be none, till the debts are discharged, except in the case of distressed travelling preachers.

"Quest. 9. What directions shall be given concerning the regulation of our press?

General Book Steward, the Bishops, and the Philadelphia Conference. "Answ. The general book-steward shall print no books or tracts of any kind, without the consent of a bishop and two-thirds of the Philadelphia conference.

The Methodist Magazine. "Quest. 10. Will the conference recommend, and engage to promote the publication of a Magazine, intitled *The Methodist Magazine*, which shall consist of compilations from the British magazines, and of original accounts of the experiences of pious persons, and shall be published in monthly numbers?

"Answ. The conference will recommend such a magazine, and desire that it may be printed."

In 1800 it was changed as follows:

First mention of "book concerns." "Q. 16. What directions are to be given respecting our book concerns?

"A. The second section of the third chapter in the Form of Discipline on this subject, shall be left out, and the following be substituted in its place, viz.

"SECTION II.

"Of the printing and circulating of Books, and of the Profits arising therefrom.

Superintendent of Printing and Book business. "1. Ezekiel Cooper is appointed the superintendent of the printing and book business, who shall have authority to regulate the publications and all other

concerns of the business, according to the state of the finances from time to time. It shall be his duty to inform the annual conferences, if any of the preachers or private members of the society neglect to make due payment. He may publish any books or tracts which, at any time, may be approved of or recommended by the majority of an annual conference, provided such books or tracts be also approved of by the book-committee, which shall be appointed by the Philadelphia annual conference. He may reprint any book or tract, which has once been approved and published by us, when in his judgment the same ought to be reprinted.

Annual Conference
and Book Com-
mittee to order
books printed.

"2. It shall be the duty of every presiding elder, where no book-steward is appointed, to see that his district be fully supplied with books. He is to request the superintendent to send such books as are wanted, and to give direction to whose care the same are to be sent; and he is to take the oversight of all the books sent into his district, and to account with the superintendent for the same. He is to have the books distributed among the several circuits in his district, in such quantities and in such manner as he may judge proper. He is to keep an account with every preacher who receives or sells the books; and is to receive the money, and to forward it to the superintendent. When a presiding elder is removed, he is to make a full settlement with the superintendent for all the books sold or remaining in his district; and is also to make a transfer to his successor of all the books and accounts left with the preachers in the district, the amount of which shall go to his credit and pass to the debit of his successor.

Presiding Elders
and the books.

"3. It shall be the duty of every preacher, who has the charge of a circuit, to see that his circuit be

Circuit Preachers'
relation.

duly supplied with books, and to take charge of all the books which are sent to him, from time to time, or which may be in his circuit; and he is to account with the presiding elder for the same. When a preacher leaves his circuit, he must settle with the presiding elder for all the books he has disposed of: he is also to make out an inventory of all that are remaining unsold, which shall be collected at one place; the amount of which shall go to his credit, and be transferred to his successor, who is to take charge of the same. If the preacher who has the charge of the circuit be negligent in dispersing the books, the presiding elder shall commit the charge of the books to another.

Superintendent of
Book business.

“4. The superintendent of the book-business may, from time to time, supply the preachers with books in those circuits which are adjacent to Philadelphia, and settle with the preachers for the same. In such cases the regulations respecting the presiding elders are not to apply.

Prices.

“5. In all cases where books are sent to distant places, the presiding elders or preachers shall be allowed to put a small additional price on such books as will best bear it, in order to pay the expense of freight or carriage: but the addition must not be more than what is necessary to defray such expenses.

Committee on
Accounts.

“6. Every annual conference shall appoint a committee or committees to examine the accounts of the presiding elders, preachers, and book-stewards in their respective districts or circuits. Every presiding elder and every preacher shall do every thing in their power to recover all debts due to the concern, and also all the books belonging to the concern, which may remain in the hands of any person within their districts or circuits. If any preacher be indebted to

“The concern.”

the book-concern, and refuse to make payment, or to come to a just settlement, let him be dealt with for a breach of trust, and such effectual measures be adopted for the recovery of such debts as shall be agreeable to the direction of the annual conferences respectively.

“The book concern.”

“7. There shall be no drafts made upon the Book-concern till its debts are discharged, and a sufficient capital provided for carrying on the business: after which the profits arising from the books shall be regularly paid to the chartered fund, and be applied with the annual income of the funded stock to the support of the distressed travelling preachers and their families the widows and orphans of preachers, &c.

First use of “the Book Concern” as the name.

Profits to the Chartered Fund and Preachers.

“8. It shall be the duty of the preacher or preachers who travel with any of the bishops, if he or they be authorized by the superintendent of the book concern, to act as an agent in the settlement of accounts, or in transacting any business belonging to the book concern.

Agents to settle accounts.

“9. In case of the death, dismissal, or resignation of the superintendent during the recess of the general conference, the Philadelphia conference shall have power to appoint another superintendent, till the next general conference.

Philadelphia Conference fills vacancies.

“10. No travelling preacher shall print or circulate any books or pamphlets, without the consent of the annual conference to which he belongs, except as an agent of the superintendent of the book-concern.

Preachers not to print or circulate outside publications.

“11. The Form of Discipline shall be printed by itself, and the Bishops' explanatory Notes by themselves; but in such a manner that the Notes may be conveniently bound up with the Form of Discipline. And every presiding elder, preacher or other person who has the charge of the books, may send to the

Discipline: with or without Bishops' Notes.

The Book Concern. superintendent of the book-concern for as many copies of the Form as he pleases, with or without the Notes."

No other important changes were made until 1804, when Section II was changed to read as follows:

"SECTION VII.

"Of the Printing and Circulating of Books, and of the Profits arising therefrom.

**Book Business
in New York.**

**First Book
Steward.**

**General Confer-
ence may
recommend.**

"1. The Book business shall be removed to and carried on in the City of New York. Ezekiel Cooper is re-appointed General Book Steward, who shall have authority to regulate the publications and all other parts of the business, as the state of the finances and the demands of the connection shall from time to time require. It shall be his duty to inform the annual conferences, if any of the preachers or private members of the society neglect to make due payment. He shall publish such books and tracts as are recommended by the general conference, and such as may be approved of and recommended by an annual conference, and none other. But he may reprint any book or tract, which has once been approved of and published by us, when in his judgment, and the judgment of the book committee, the same ought to be reprinted. The book committee, consisting of five, shall be annually appointed by the New-York conference, who shall, previous to each annual sitting, examine into the accounts of the general book steward, and report to the conference the state of the concern.—John Wilson is appointed Assistant Editor and General Book Steward; and in case of the death or resignation of

**Assitant Editor
and Book Steward.**

the editor and general book steward, the assistant shall carry on the concern till the sitting of the next New-York conference.

"2. It shall be the duty of every presiding elder, where no book steward is appointed, to see that his district be fully supplied with books. He is to order such books as are wanted, and to give direction to whose care the same are to be sent; and he is to take the oversight of all our books sent into his district, and account with the general book steward for the same. He is to have the books distributed among the several circuits in his district, and is to keep an account with each preacher who receives or sells the books; and is to receive the money, and to forward it to the general book steward. When a presiding elder is removed, he is to make a full settlement for all the books sold or remaining in his district and is also to make a transfer to his successor, of all the books and accounts left with the preachers in the district, the amount of which shall go to his credit and pass to the debit of his successor.

Duties of Presiding Elders.

"3. It shall be the duty of every preacher, who has the charge of a circuit, to see that his circuit be duly supplied with books, and to take charge of all the books which are sent to him, from time to time, or which may be in his circuit; and he is to account with the presiding elder for the same. When a preacher leaves his circuit, he must settle with the presiding elder for all the books he has disposed of; he is also to make out an inventory of all that are remaining unsold, which shall be collected at one place; the amount of which shall go to his credit, and be transferred to his successor, who is to take charge of the same. If the preacher who has the charge of the circuit, be negligent in dispersing the books,

Preachers' duties.

the presiding elder shall commit the charge of the books to another.

Book Steward's powers. "4. The general book steward may, from time to time, supply the preachers with books, in those circuits which are adjacent or convenient to New-York, and settle with them for the same: In such cases the regulations respecting the presiding elders are not to apply.

Prices charged. "5. In all cases where books are sent to distant places, the presiding elders or preachers shall be allowed to put a small additional price on such books as will best bear it, in order to pay the expense of freight or carriage: but the addition must not be more than what is necessary to defray such expenses.

Committee on Accounts. "6. Every annual conference shall appoint a committee or committees to examine the accounts of the presiding elders, preachers, and book stewards in their respective districts or circuits. Every presiding elder, minister, and preacher shall do every thing in their power to recover all debts due to the concern, and also all the books belonging to the concern, which may remain in the hands of any person within their districts or circuits. If any preacher or member be indebted to the book concern, and refuse to make payment, or to come to a just settlement, let him be dealt with for a breach of trust, and such effectual measures be adopted for the recovery of such debts as shall be agreeable to the direction of the annual conferences respectively.

Profits of business apportioned. "7. The profits arising from the book concern, after a sufficient capital to carry on the business is retained, shall be regularly applied to the support of the distressed travelling preachers and their families, the widows and orphans of preachers, &c. The general book steward shall every year send forward to

each annual conference, an account of the dividend which the several annual conferences may draw that year; and each conference may draw for their proportionate part, on any person who has book money in hand, and the drafts with the receipt of the conference thereon, shall be sent to the general book steward, and be placed to the credit of the person who paid the same. But each annual conference is authorized at all events to draw on the general book steward for one hundred dollars.

“8. In case of the death, dismissal, or resignation of the general book steward, during the recess of the general conference, the New-York conference shall have power to appoint another general book steward, till the next general conference.”

New York
Conference fills
vacancies.

In 1808 the following was added to paragraph 7 of Section VII—the action of 1804:

“But no general book steward or editor in the book concern shall serve in that department for more than eight years successively.

Time limit.

“8. No travelling preacher is permitted to publish any book or pamphlet without the approbation of the annual conference to which he belongs, or of a committee chosen by them.”

Restriction.

FIRST GENERAL CONFERENCE ACTION LOOK-
ING TO THE INCORPORATION OF
THE BOOK CONCERN.

The first motion relating to the incorporation of the publishing business was in 1804, as follows:

“Dr. Coke moved that the book committee and the general book steward take such legal steps for

Security but not
incorporation
desired.

security to the general conference of the stock and cash in hand, and of what may be in future in possession of the general book steward, as may appear necessary, to some person or persons well versed in the law of the land, but without any incorporation whatsoever; and if no other security but an incorporation be devised, the matter of security shall lie over to the next general conference." Carried. (See General Conference Journal, 1804, page 67.)

In 1820 the following action was taken:

Incorporation
authorized.

"*Resolved*, That the superintendents be authorized, with the assistance of the agents and book committee, if they shall jointly judge it expedient and necessary, to adopt some measures for the purpose of obtaining an incorporation or incorporations for the better security of the stock of the concern permanently to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in conformity to the rules and regulations which are now or hereafter may be in our Discipline on the subject."

Committee on
Incorporation.

In 1836 "the twenty-third article in the report of the Committee on Book Concern, relating to and authorizing and directing our Book Agents to obtain an Act of Incorporation for our Book Concern, was, on motion, referred to a Select Committee of three, to examine and report thereon."

"The Select Committee to whom was referred the twenty-third resolution in the report of the Committee on Book Concern report:

"That they have examined the opinions of three eminent lawyers, to whom were submitted sundry questions relating to the manner in which the property of the Book Concern is held in the city of New

York, and, taking these opinions as a guide, we recommend to the Conference the adoption of the following resolutions: Incorporation recommended.

Resolved, 1. That the surviving joint tenant, the Rev. Beverly Waugh, be and he is hereby requested to convey, under the advice of able legal counsel, the real estate which he now holds in trust for the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to the Revs. Thomas Mason and George Lane as joint tenants, and not tenants in common, in trust for the sole use and benefit of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The plan.

Resolved, 2. That the said Thomas Mason and George Lane be and they are hereby directed to apply to the next Legislature of the State of New York for such an Act of Incorporation as shall secure the real estate in the city of New York belonging to the Methodist Book Concern to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to be used and applied as the Discipline of said Church shall from time to time prescribe. In New York.

Resolved, 3. That the Book Agents at Cincinnati are hereby instructed that whenever it is thought advisable, in conformity with a resolution passed at the present session of this Conference, to purchase a lot for the purpose of erecting buildings for the branch of the Book Concern in Cincinnati, to take measures for securing the premises legally to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to be used and applied as the Discipline of said Church shall from time to time direct. In Cincinnati.

“(Signed,) N. BANGS, Chairman.

“May 27, 1836.”

L. of C.

The whole report as amended and adopted, so far as relates to Resolution 3, is as follows (see General Conference Journal, 1836, pages 488, 491):

Book Concern
at Cincinnati.

"6. There shall be an establishment of the Book Concern at Cincinnati, under the superintendence of an agent and an assistant, who shall manage the business in the western country so as to co-operate with the agents at New York."

"23. That for the purpose of securing the property belonging to the Book Concern more firmly to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Agents at New York and Cincinnati be authorized and directed to obtain, if practicable, an Act of Incorporation, and to take such other steps as may be deemed advisable for the accomplishment of this object."

Under this action of the General Conference of 1836, Acts of Incorporation were obtained, and herein printed for their historic interest. These being about to expire by limitation, new Charters were ordered and obtained as hereinafter appears.

FIRST ACT OF INCORPORATION OF "METHODIST BOOK CONCERN."

Laws 1837, Chapter 232.

An Act Relative to the Methodist Book Concern in the City of New York, passed April 21, 1837.

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

First incorporation
of the Agents.

§ 1. It shall be lawful for Thomas Mason and George Lane, agents for the Methodist Book Concern,

appointed by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and their successors, as such agents, to take and hold real estate in trust, for the purposes of such agency, and to demise and convey the same; but the value of such real estate, so taken and held by them, shall not exceed two hundred thousand dollars.

§ 2. The real estate heretofore conveyed to Thomas Mason and George Lane, as agents as aforesaid, shall be considered as part of the real estate to be held by them, and their successors, as such agents, in trust as aforesaid.

[NOTE.—The foregoing is given to show the background of the present—“*The Book Concern*”—and to direct the attention to other inquiry. It shows the original conception to be that to a *unit publishing business*, with accommodative distributing agencies.]

CHARTER OF METHODIST BOOK CONCERN IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

An Act to Incorporate the Methodist Book Concern in the city of New York, passed April 21, 1869.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

The Agents
re-incorporated.

§ 1. Thomas Carlton and John Lanahan, Agents of the "METHODIST BOOK CONCERN," and their successor or successors in office, are hereby created a body politic and corporate by the name of the

Corporate name. METHODIST BOOK CONCERN IN THE CITY OF
NEW YORK,

Rights and
privileges.

and by that name and style they and their successor or successors in office shall have perpetual succession, and shall be capable in law of holding property—real, personal, and mixed—either by purchase, gift, grant, devise, or legacy; subject, however, to all existing provisions of law relative to devises and bequest by last will and testament,

and to sell and convey the same; but the value of the real estate so held, in the State of New York, shall not exceed fifteen hundred thousand dollars; *provided*, that all such property shall be held in trust, and used only for the purpose or purposes hereinafter designated. Held in trust.

§ 2. The object of the said corporation shall be to promote the advantages of education and the spread of Christianity, by the publication and sale of books, tracts, newspapers, and periodicals, and by the dissemination of moral and religious literature; also by such other business as is commonly connected with publishing-houses or with book-making and book-selling. Objects.

§ 3. The persons named in the first section of this Act shall hold their offices until the quadrennial session of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in May, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, or until a successor or successors shall be elected in their places; and they shall have the management and disposition of the affairs and property of the said corporation during their term of service. Term of office.

§ 4. The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at its session in eighteen hundred and seventy-two, and at each session thereafter, may appoint the Agent or Agents of the said corporation, and shall have full power to Agents appointed.

By-laws. make by-laws for their government in the management and disposition of the property and business of the Concern; and in case of a vacancy by death, resignation, or removal from office for cause, the vacancy or vacancies may be filled as prescribed in the Book of Discipline of said Methodist Episcopal Church.

Of profits. § 5. None of the profits, produce, or property of said METHODIST BOOK CONCERN shall be employed, distributed, or donated in any manner except as the said General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church shall prescribe and direct.

Succession to
Church of 1837.

§ 6. All the real and personal property now held by, or in the names of, the present or any former Agents of the "METHODIST BOOK CONCERN in the City of New York," under an Act passed April twenty-first, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, relative to the "METHODIST BOOK CONCERN in the City of New York," shall, by virtue of this Act, become the property of this corporation.

Powers. § 7. The said corporation shall also possess the general powers specified in the third title of chapter eighteen of the first part of the Revised Statutes of the State of New York.*

§ 8. This Act shall take effect immediately.

*The provisions of this title are given on pages 100 to 106.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, } ss:

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original law.

Given under my hand and seal of office, at the city of Albany, this twenty-first day of April, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine.

D. WILLERS, JR.,
Dep. Sec'y of State.

THE REVISED STATUTES OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK.

Edition of 1859, Part 1, Chapter XVIII, Title III.

Section 1. Every corporation, as such, has Powers of corporations enumerated.
power:

1. To have succession by its corporate name for the period limited in its charter, and when no period is limited, perpetually.

2. To sue and be sued, complain and defend, in any court of law or equity.

3. To make and use a common seal, and alter the same at pleasure.

4. To hold, purchase, and convey such real and personal estate as the purposes of the cor-

poration shall require, not exceeding the amount limited in its charter.

5. To appoint such subordinate officers and agents as the business of the corporation shall require, and to allow them a suitable compensation.

6. To make by-laws, not inconsistent with any existing law, for the management of its property, the regulation of its affairs, and for the transfer of its stock.

Section 2. The powers enumerated in the preceding section shall vest in every corporation that shall hereafter be created, although they may not be specified in its charter or in the act under which it shall be incorporated.

Section 3. In addition to the powers enumerated in the first section of this title, and to those expressly given in its charter or in the act under which it is or shall be incorporated, no corporation shall possess or exercise any corporate powers except such as shall be necessary to the exercise of the powers so enumerated and given.

Section 4. No corporation created or to be created, and not expressly incorporated for banking purposes, shall, by any implication or construction, be deemed to possess the power of discounting bills, notes, or other evidences of debt, of receiving deposits, of buying gold and silver bullion or foreign coins, of buying and sell-

ing bills of exchange, or of issuing bills, notes, or other evidences of debt, upon loan or for circulation as money.

Section 5. Where the whole capital of a corporation shall not have been paid in, and the capital paid shall be insufficient to satisfy the claims of its creditors, each stockholder shall be bound to pay, on each share held by him, the sum necessary to complete the amount of such share, as fixed by the charter of the company, or such proportion of that sum as shall be required to satisfy the debts of the company.

Section 6. When the corporate powers of any corporation are directed, by its charter, to be exercised by any particular body or number of persons, a majority of such body or persons, if it be not otherwise provided in the charter, shall be a sufficient number to form a board for the transaction of business; and every decision of a majority of the persons duly assembled as a board shall be valid as a corporate act.

Section 7. If any corporation hereafter created by the Legislature shall not organize and commence the transaction of business within one year from the date of its incorporation, its corporate powers shall cease. (The Seventh Section of Title Third, Chapter XVIII, of the First Part of the Revised Statutes shall not be

so construed as to apply to any act for incorporating a railroad company, which has or shall have in its own provisions the terms and the time in which it shall be forfeited for non-user.)

Section 8. The charter of every corporation that shall hereafter be granted by the Legislature shall be subject to alteration, suspension, and repeal, in the discretion of the Legislature.

Section 9. Upon the dissolution of any corporation created or to be created, and unless other persons shall be appointed by the Legislature or by some court of competent authority, the directors or managers of the affairs of such corporation at the time of its dissolution, by whatever name they may be known in law, shall be the trustees of the creditors and stockholders of the corporation dissolved, and shall have full power to settle the affairs of the corporation, collect and pay the outstanding debts, and divide among the stockholders the moneys and other property that shall remain after the payment of debts and necessary expenses.

Section 10. The persons so constituted trustees shall have authority to sue for and recover the debts and property of the dissolved corporation, by the name of the trustee of such corporation, describing it by its corporate name, and shall be jointly and severally responsible to the

creditors and stockholders of such corporation to the extent of its property and effects that shall come into their hands.

Section 11. The dissolution of a corporation, by a decree of the Court of Chancery, or by the expiration of its charter or otherwise, shall not abate any suit or proceedings in favor of such corporation which shall have been pending at the time of such dissolution; but all suits or proceedings may be continued by the receivers who shall have been appointed for such corporation by the Court of Chancery, or by the trustees on whom the estate and effects of such corporation shall have devolved, in the name of such corporation, or in the names of such receivers or trustees, who may be substituted as plaintiff under the direction of the court in which the suit shall be pending, and subject to such order as the court may deem expedient in relation to the payment or security of costs.

Section 12. Whenever a receiver of the property or effects of a corporation has been appointed before its dissolution, or afterwards, new suits may be brought and carried on by such receivers, either in their own names or in the names of the corporation for which they shall have been appointed; but no new suit shall be brought in the name of a corporation after it

shall have dissolved, or after the expiration of its charter.

Section 13. No suit commenced in the name of any such receiver shall be abated by his removal or death; but the same may be continued in the name of his successor, or of the corporation, if its charter has not expired or been dissolved, as may be directed by the court in which the suit shall be pending.

Section 14. The court in which any suit or proceeding against a corporation which shall have been dissolved by the decree of the Supreme Court, or by the expiration of its charter, or otherwise, shall be pending at the time of such dissolution, shall have power, on the application of either party hereto, to make an order for the continuance of such suit or proceeding, and the same may thereafter be continued until a final judgment or decree shall be had therein, which shall have the like effect upon the rights of the parties as if such corporation had not been dissolved.

THE WESTERN METHODIST BOOK CONCERN.

FIRST CHARTER.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE METHODIST BOOK CONCERN AT CINCINNATI. (1839.)

(Local Laws of Ohio, Vol. 37, page 192.)

“Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio*, That John F. Wright and Leroy Swormstedt, Agents of the Methodist Book Concern, their successor or successors, are hereby created a body politic and corporate, by the name of the Methodist Book Concern; and as such shall have succession for thirty years, and by that name may contract and be contracted with, sue and be sued, may have a common seal, and the same alter and renew at pleasure. Name.

“Sec. 2. Said Methodist Book Concern shall be capable in law of holding property, real, personal and mixed, either by purchase, gift, grant, devise or legacy, and to sell and convey the same; but the value of the real estate so held shall not exceed one hundred thousand dollars: *Provided*, That all such property shall be held in trust only for the purposes of the said Book Concern: *Provided*, That said corporation shall not be authorized or permitted to issue any certificates of loan, or by any device to issue a circu- Rights.
Property in trust.

lating medium to be used as money: *Provided further*, That this Act shall not be at any time construed as conferring banking or any other powers except those expressly granted by it.

“Sec. 3. The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States shall elect or appoint the successor or successors of the said John F. Wright and Leroy Swormstedt at any regular meeting thereof; and should an Agent so appointed die, resign, or be removed from said agency in the interval of the General Conference, such vacancy may be filled in such way as the said General Conference shall prescribe; and the said John F. Wright and Leroy Swormstedt, and their successor or successors in office, shall hold their agency and conduct the business of the Book Concern in conformity to the rules and regulations of said General Conference.

“Sec. 4. The real estate heretofore conveyed to John F. Wright and Leroy Swormstedt, as Agents of the Methodist Book Concern, shall be considered as part of the real estate to be held by said corporation.

“Sec. 5. Any future Legislature shall have power to modify or repeal this act: *Provided*, such modification or repeal shall not affect the title to any real estate or personal property acquired or conveyed under its provisions.

“JAS. J. FARAN,

“Speaker of the House of Representatives.

“WILLIAM HAWKINS,

“Speaker of the Senate.

“Adopted March 12, 1839.”

REVISED CHARTER.

ACT OF INCORPORATION OF THE WESTERN
METHODIST BOOK CONCERN.

(Journal of the General Conference, 1868, pp. 298-300.)

Be it Remembered, That the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States of America, by the General Conference, an organized body representing the said The Methodist Episcopal Church, having a central or principal place of business in the city of Cincinnati, in the State of Ohio, with branches in the cities of Chicago and St. Louis, which place of business is known as THE WESTERN METHODIST BOOK CONCERN, at a session of a majority of the members of said Conference, held at the city of Chicago, in the State of Illinois, commencing on the first day of May, 1868, had the following proceedings, with the view of obtaining an Act of Incorporation under and by virtue of "An Act to provide for the Creation and Regulation of Incorporated Companies in the State of Ohio," passed May 1, 1852, and the acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, namely:

Charter revision.

On the 26th day of May, 1868, LUKE HITCHCOCK moved the appointment of a Committee

to take into consideration the obtaining of a Charter for "The Western Methodist Book Concern" under the Laws of Ohio, and the said Committee was thereupon appointed, to wit: The Standing Committee on the Book Concern. And on the first day of June, the said Committee made the following report, namely:

Committee
appointed.

Your Committee recommend the adoption of the following preamble and resolution, namely:

Report of.

WHEREAS, The Methodist Book Concern, located at Cincinnati, O., is a corporation under a special Charter, granted by the Legislature of Ohio, which special Charter expires by limitation in the year 1869, and its business has always been, and is now, managed by two persons under the direction of the General Conference; and WHEREAS, It is desirable to obtain a new Charter under the General Law of the State of Ohio, entitled "An Act to provide for the Creation and Regulation of Incorporated Companies in the State of Ohio," passed May 1, 1852, and the acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto; therefore,

Resolved, That the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, now assembled in Chicago, Ill., hereby apply for such Charter. And the General Conference having elected LUKE HITCHCOCK and JOHN M. WALDEN Agents, your

Charter
applied for.

Committee recommend the adoption of the following

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.

First. The corporate name of L. HITCHCOCK and J. M. WALDEN, Agents of the Western Methodist Book Concern, and their successor or successors in office, to be chosen as hereinafter provided, shall be "THE WESTERN METHODIST BOOK CONCERN," and by such name shall have perpetual succession with power to contract, be contracted with, to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded; to take and hold by gift, grant, devise, or otherwise, any property, real, personal, or mixed, in the State of Ohio, and in the States of Illinois and Missouri, and in any other State of the United States, whenever and as the General Conference may, from time to time, direct or determine, or as may be required in the transaction of the ordinary business of the corporation, and the same to manage, grant, convey, lease, or otherwise dispose of; and to execute such trust or trusts as may be confided to said corporation for the promotion of the objects of this incorporation.

Corporate name.

Rights, powers, and privileges.

Second. The objects of this corporation shall be the publication, diffusion, and circulation of moral and religious literature, books, periodicals, and publications, under the direction and in con-

Objects.

formity with the rules and regulations of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States.

General Confer-
ence elects and
directs.

Third. The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States shall elect or appoint a successor or successors of the said L. HITCHCOCK and J. M. WALDEN at any meeting of said Conference, and shall prescribe the term of their office; and should any person so elected or appointed die, resign, or be removed in the interval of said General Conference, such vacancy may be filled in such way as said General Conference shall prescribe; and said L. HITCHCOCK and J. M. WALDEN, and their successor or successors in office, shall hold their office, exercise the powers herein conferred, and manage and conduct the business of said corporation, and appropriate the funds thereof, in conformity with such rules, regulations, and directions as from time to time may be prescribed by the said General Conference.

Hold property.

Fourth. Any property, real, personal, or mixed, now held by ADAM POE and LUKE HITCHCOCK, Agents of the Methodist Book Concern, or by "The Methodist Book Concern," a corporation under a special Charter, granted by the State of Ohio, together with all its assets of every description, and wherever situated, is by

this action transferred to "The Western Methodist Book Concern," hereby incorporated; and said ADAM POE and LUKE HITCHCOCK shall, if necessary, convey the same by deed, or other writing, to "The Western Methodist Book Concern," so as to vest therein a complete title thereto.

Fifth. A failure to elect a Trustee or Trustees, at any time, shall not work a dissolution of this corporation.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I. W. WILEY,

Chairman Committee on the Book Concern.

I. C. PERSHING, *Secretary.*

And the said Report was adopted by the following vote; namely, 163 votes in favor of its adoption, and 1 vote against it. Report adopted.

And this was all the action of the said The General Conference in this behalf.

Now, therefore, I, WILLIAM L. HARRIS, Secretary of the said The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, duly elected and acting as such, at the session aforesaid; *do hereby certify* that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings of the said The General Conference in this behalf.

And I do further certify, That LUKE HITCHCOCK and JOHN M. WALDEN were duly elected

as Trustees or Agents as aforesaid, and that the name of the corporation adopted by the said The General Conference is "THE WESTERN METHODIST BOOK CONCERN," and that its principal enterprise or business is carried on in the County of Hamilton, in the State of Ohio, and this certificate is made for the purpose of becoming incorporated as aforesaid.

CHICAGO, ILL., June 1, 1868.

WILLIAM L. HARRIS, *Secretary.*

NOTE.—The foregoing Act of Incorporation must be recorded in the Recorder's Office, Hamilton County, Ohio, and thereupon it becomes complete.

Received June 11, 1868, and recorded in Book No. 2 of Church Records, page 248 Hamilton County Records.

THOMAS L. YOUNG, *Recorder.*

CHARTER OF THE CHARTERED FUND

OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

As Amended by Acts of the General Assembly of
the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approved
June 11, 1832, P. L. 604; April 3, 1837,
P. L. 168, and February 19, 1849,
P. L. 70.

ARTICLE I.*

It is provided and declared that the name, style, and title of this corporation shall be "The Trustees of the Fund for the Relief and Support of the Itinerant, Superannuated, and Worn-out Ministers and Preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, their Wives and Children, Widows and Orphans." And that the said Trustees shall consist of John Dickins, Thomas Haskins, Jacob

First corporate
name.

* Style and Title changed. See first amendment, page 94.

Baker, Henry Manly, Burton Wallace, Josiah Lusby, Hugh Smith, Caleb North, and Cornelius Comegys, and their successors, qualified and appointed as is hereinafter mentioned. And they are hereby vested with full powers for carrying into effect the benevolent and charitable purposes in this instrument mentioned and declared.

ARTICLE II.

Rights, powers,
and privileges.

It is provided and declared that the said Trustees, and their successors, by the name, style, and title aforesaid, shall be able and capable, in law, to take, receive, have, hold, possess, and enjoy all and all manner of lands, tenements, rents, annuities, franchises, and hereditaments, and any sum or sums of money, and any manner and portion of goods and chattels, given, granted, or devised unto them or their successors, by any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, agreeable to the intention of the donors respectively, and according to the objects, articles, and conditions in this instrument mentioned and declared. And by the name, style, and title aforesaid, shall be able and capable, in law, to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in any court or courts, before any judge or judges, justice or justices, in all manner of suits, complaints, pleas, causes, matters, and demands what-

soever, and all and every matter and thing therein to do, in as full and effectual a manner as any other person or persons, bodies politic and corporate, within this Commonwealth, may or can do.

ARTICLE III.

It is provided and declared that, in case of Vacancies filled. the death, resignation, or expulsion from membership (according to the rules and Discipline from time to time adopted by the itinerant ministers and preachers of the said Church in their General Conference assembled) of any one or more of the members of the said corporation, or their successors, then, and in such case, it shall be the duty of the remaining Trustees to nominate double the number of those whose seats may have been vacated as aforesaid, and to make a representation thereof, in writing, to the itinerant ministers and preachers of the said Church in their next General Conference assembled; whose duty it shall be then and there to proceed to choose, and, by a majority of votes, appoint one or more persons (as the case may be) out of the whole number of those nominated by the Trustees, as aforesaid, to fill such vacancy or vacancies, in order to keep up the number of NINE Trustees forever; and upon every such choice and appointment, a certificate shall issue

from the said General Conference, signed by their President and countersigned by their Secretary, and directed to the Trustees of the said corporation, containing the name or names of the person or persons so chosen and appointed, which said certificate shall be registered in the books of the said corporation; and the person or persons thus chosen and appointed shall be vested with all the powers and immunities of a member of the said corporation; Provided, nevertheless, that no person or persons shall be eligible as a Trustee or Trustees of the said corporation who has not been a member of the said Church (according to the Rules and Discipline thereof, as aforesaid) at least five years next preceding his or their election or appointment, as aforesaid, and who shall not be at least twenty-five years of age.

ARTICLE IV.

Meetings. It is provided and declared that the said corporation shall meet at least once in every year (for the dispatch of their necessary business) at such time and place as a majority of them may judge most convenient and proper. And when so met they shall have power to

By-laws. make such by-laws, rules, and regulations for their government, in the management of their

affairs, as a majority of them may judge necessary; and also at every such annual meeting they shall proceed to choose, and by a majority of votes appoint, two of their own number to act, the one as President, and the other as Secretary to the said corporation, who may continue them in office from year to year, as a majority of the said corporation may think proper.

ARTICLE V.*

ARTICLE VI.

It is provided and declared that the annual rents, interest, and income of the estate, real and personal, which now does, or at any time hereafter may, belong to the said corporation and their successors, shall by them be held subject to the exclusive order and control of the itinerant ministers and preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, in their General Conference (from time to time) assembled; and the said ministers and preachers, thus assembled, are hereby vested with full powers to appropriate and point out the mode of applying the same to the objects, under the limitations, and for the uses and purposes herein mentioned and expressly declared. Income applied.

* This Article stricken out and a new one inserted in its place. See second amendment, page 47.

ARTICLE VII.

Objects. It is provided and declared that the object and design of the fund hereby intended to be established is expressly for the purposes of relieving the distresses and supplying the deficiencies of the itinerant and superannuated or worn-out ministers and preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, who *remain in connection with, and continue subject to the order and control of,* the General Conference; as also for the relief of the wives and children, widows and orphans, of *such* ministers and preachers, and for no other use, intent, or purpose whatever.

ARTICLE VIII.

Amounts limited. It is provided and declared that no sum exceeding sixty-four dollars shall in any one year be appropriated and applied to the use of an itinerant, superannuated, or worn-out *single* minister or preacher; also, that no sum exceeding one hundred and twenty-eight dollars, in any one year, shall be applied to the use of an itinerant, superannuated, or worn-out *married* minister or preacher; and that no sum exceeding sixty-four dollars, in any one year, shall be applied to the use of each widow of such ministers and preachers as are herein before men-

tioned and described; and also, that no sum exceeding sixteen dollars shall be applied, in any one year, to the use of each child or orphan of such ministers and preachers as are herein before particularly mentioned and described.

ARTICLE IX.

It is provided and declared that no sum or sums of money, under any pretense whatever, shall be drawn from the fund hereby intended to be established other than for the uses and purposes, and under the limitations and restrictions herein before expressly mentioned and declared; Provided, nevertheless, that the Trustees of the said corporation, and their successors, shall have power to draw and apply, from time to time, as much money, belonging to the said Fund, as, in the judgment of a majority of them, may be wanting to defray all the necessary expenses of conducting the business of the said corporation. Uses of fund.

ARTICLE X.

It is provided and declared that it shall be the duty of the Trustees to cause regular and fair accounts to be kept (in books to be provided for that purpose) of the funds of the said corporation, as well as it respects the kind and Keep accounts.

amount of the capital stock, and of the annual interest and income thereof, as of all and every sum or sums of money which shall from time to time be drawn therefrom for the objects, under the limitations, and for the uses and purposes herein before particularly mentioned and declared; and, further, it shall be the duty of the said Trustees and their successors, at every General Conference of the ministers and preachers

Report. as aforesaid, to prepare and lay before them a statement of the affairs of the said Fund for their inspection and examination; which said statement shall be signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary of the said corporation, certifying that the same is fair and correct.

I have perused and examined the preceding instrument, and am of the opinion that the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth and contained are lawful.

JARED INGERSOLL,
December 10, 1796. *Attorney-General.*

We, the Justices of the Supreme Court, certify to his Excellency the Governor that we have perused and examined the preceding instrument,

and concur with the Attorney-General in opinion that the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth and contained are legal.

THOMAS M'KEAN,
JASPER YEATES,
EDWARD SHIPPEN,
THOMAS SMITH.

December, 22, 1796.

Pennsylvania, ss.

In the name and by the authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Thomas Mifflin, Governor of the said Commonwealth, to Matthew Irwin, Esquire, Master of the Rolls, in and for the said Commonwealth, sends greeting:

WHEREAS, It has been duly certified to me by Jared Ingersoll, Esq., attorney of the said Commonwealth; and by Thomas M'Kean, Esq., chief justice; and Edward Shippen, Jasper Yeates, and Thomas Smith, Esquires, justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, that they have respectively perused and examined the foregoing act or instrument for the incorporation of "The Trustees of the Fund for the Relief and Support of the Itinerant, Superannuated, and Worn-out Ministers and Preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the

United States of America, their Wives and Children, Widows and Orphans," and that they concur in opinion that the objects, articles, and conditions, therein set forth and contained, are lawful. Now Know You, that in pursuance of the act of the General Assembly, in such case made and provided, I have transmitted the said act or instrument of incorporation unto you, the said Matthew Irwin, master of the rolls aforesaid; hereby requiring you to enroll the same at the expense of the applicants, to the intent, that according to the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth and contained, the parties may become and be a corporation and body politic in law and in fact: to have continuance by the name, style, and title in the said instrument provided and declared.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State, at Philadelphia, the thirteenth day of January, in the year one [L. S.] thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Commonwealth the twenty-first.

By the Governor: THOMAS MIFFLIN.

A. J. DALLAS, *Secretary.*

FIRST AMENDMENT.

AN Act to amend the Charter of the Trustees of the Fund for the Relief and Support of the Itinerant, and Superannuated, and Worn-out Ministers and Preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church (in the United States of America), their Wives and Children, Widows and Orphans.

WHEREAS, It has been represented to this General Assembly, that great inconvenience has occurred to this corporation, by reason of the length of their corporate name, style, and title, and that errors and misnomers have thereby happened, and in some cases lawsuits have been occasioned; and praying that the said name, style, and title may be altered; and that since the date of their Charter, to wit, the year seventeen hundred and ninety-seven, the funds in their hands have so accumulated by donations, devises, and bequests, by benevolent individuals, as to produce an income greater in amount than the sum limited by the Act of Assembly of seventeen hundred and ninety-one; and that the said income is divided yearly between twenty-two Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and by them appropriated solely to the support and relief of the itinerant, superannuated, and worn-out min-

isters and preachers, their wives and children, widows and orphans, of the said Church.

And the said corporation pray, that a law may pass, so amending the Charter of the said corporation as to alter their name, style, and title; and to allow the said corporation to hold real and personal estate, to an amount which will produce an income not exceeding three thousand dollars.

And the prayer of the said petitioners appearing to this General Assembly to be reasonable; therefore—

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that the name, style, and title of the said corporation be changed and altered, and that from and after the passing of this Act, the name, style, and title shall be, “THE CHARTERED FUND OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.”

Provided always, nevertheless, That the change or alteration hereby made in the name, style, and title of the said corporation shall in nowise prejudice the interests of the said corporation

in their title to any real or personal estate, or any claim or claims the said corporation may have on any person or persons, bodies corporate or politic, or the claim or claims of any person or persons, bodies corporate or politic, against the said corporation, but the same shall be and remain as if such change or alteration had not been made.

Section 2. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Charter of the said corporation be so altered and amended, that the said corporation by their name, style, and title, shall be able and capable in law, to take, receive, and hold all and all manner of lands, tenements, annuities, franchises, and hereditaments, and any sum or sums of money, any manner and portion of goods and chattels to be employed and disposed of according to the objects, articles, and conditions of their Charter granted unto them on the thirteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven, or by the will and intention of any donor to the said corporation.

Hold all kinds
of property.

[*Provided always, nevertheless,* That the clear yearly value or income of the messuages, houses, lands and tenements, rents, annuities, or other

hereditaments and real estate of the said corporation, and the interest of the money by them lent, shall not exceed the sum of three thousand dollars, any law or usage of this Commonwealth to the contrary notwithstanding.] *

JOHN LAPORTE,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

J. R. BURDEN,

Speaker of the Senate.

Approved the eleventh day of June, Anno Domini eighteen hundred and thirty-two.

GEO. WOLF, *Governor.*

[Pamphlet Laws of 1832, p. 604.]

SECOND AMENDMENT.

An Act further to amend the Charter of "The Chartered Fund of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the United States of America."

WHEREAS, It has been represented to this General Assembly, that great loss has been sustained by this corporation, by reason of the Trustees thereof being restricted by the fifth article of the original Charter, from selling, conveying, and transferring the real or personal

* This last proviso repealed and supplied. See third amendment, page 14.

estate of the said corporation, without first making application to the General Conference for their concurrence and direction, and the said General Conference have directed the Trustees of the said Chartered Fund to make application to the General Assembly, to have the Charter of the said corporation so amended as to enable the said Trustees to sell and convey the real estate, and sell and transfer the personal estate of the said corporation, when they shall consider it expedient, and the said corporation pray that a law may pass so amending their said Charter, and the prayer of the petitioners appearing to this General Assembly to be reasonable; therefore—

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that the whole of the fifth article in the original Charter of "The Chartered Fund of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America," be stricken from the said Charter, and that the said fifth article be no longer a part of the said Charter, and that in future the fifth article of the said Charter shall be:

Article V stricken out.

Article 5. That it shall and may be lawful

for the said Trustees, or a majority of them, at any time when they shall deem it expedient, to

May sell property.

and to sell and convey any real estate which now is or hereafter may become vested in the said corporation, and to sell and transfer any personal estate of which the said corporation is or may hereafter become possessed, and that they invest the moneys arising from such sale or sales in such manner or way as they shall consider most beneficial for the said corporation.

LEWIS DEWART,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

J. R. BURDEN,

Speaker of the Senate.

Approved the third day of April, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven.

JOS. RITNER, *Governor.*

[Pamphlet Laws of 1837, p. 168.]

THIRD AMENDMENT.

An Act further to amend the Charter of "The Chartered Fund of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the United States of America."

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority

of the same, that the proviso attached to the second section of the Act, entitled, "An Act to Amend the Charter of the Trustees of the Fund for the Relief and Support of the Itinerant, and Superannuated, and Worn-out Ministers and Preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the United States of America, their Wives and Children, Widows and Orphans," approved June eleventh, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, be, and the same is hereby, repealed; and that hereafter the clear yearly value or income of the messuages, houses, lands and tenements, rents, annuities, or other hereditaments, and real estate of the said corporation (which said corporation is now entitled "The Chartered Fund of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America"), and the interest of the money by them lent, shall not exceed the sum of ten thousand dollars.

May hold in-
creased values.

Section 2. That the Board of Trustees shall have the power of filling any vacancy or vacancies that may occur in their body, by death, resignation, or otherwise; subject, however, to the approval of the first General Conference that may be held after such vacancy or vacancies shall have occurred; and that so much of the provisions of the original Charter, and the sev-

Fill vacancies.

eral supplements thereto, as is hereby altered,
be and the same is hereby repealed.

WILLIAM F. PACKER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

GEORGE DARSIE,

Speaker of the Senate.

Approved the nineteenth day of February,
one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine.

WM. F. JOHNSTON, *Governor.*

[Pamphlet Laws of 1849, p. 70.]

EARLY CHARTERS
OF THE
MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

“An act to incorporate the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Passed April 9, 1839.

“The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

“§ 1. Robert R. Roberts, Joshua Soule, Elijah Hedding, James O. Andrew, Beverly Waugh, Thomas A. Morris, Daniel Ostrander, Nathan Bangs, Thomas Mason, George Lane, Francis Hall, Joseph Smith, Peter Badeau, D. M. Reese, M. D., George Innes, M. Houseworth, Philip Romaine, L. S. Burling, J. P. Aimes, John Valentine, William Gale, Abraham Stagg, Erastus Hyde, Henry Moore, James Harper, Thomas Brown, Peter Macnamara, William B. Skidmore, Stephen Dando, J. B. Oakley, Henry Worrall, George Suckley, T. Barrett, M. D., G. Coutant, J. L. Phelps, M. D., B. F. Howe, Israel D. Disosway, G. P. Disosway, Benjamin Disbrow, Ralph Mead, Jotham S. Fountain, Samuel Martin; and all persons who now are, or hereafter may become, associated with them, are hereby constituted a body corporate,

by the name of 'The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church,' and by that name and style be capable of purchasing, holding, and conveying such real estate as the purposes of the corporation shall require; but the annual income of the real estate to be held by them shall not exceed the sum of five thousand dollars.

"§ 2. The object of the said corporation is to diffuse more generally the blessings of education, civilization, and Christianity throughout the United States and elsewhere.

"§ 3. The management and disposition of the affairs and property of the said corporation shall be vested in a Board of Managers, to be elected annually on the third Monday in April in the city of New York.

"§ 4. The persons named in the first section of this Act shall be the first Board of Managers of such corporation, and shall hold their offices until the next annual election, or until others shall be elected in their places.

"§ 5. The said corporation shall possess the general powers, and be subject to the liabilities imposed in and by the third title of the eighteenth chapter of the first part of the Revised Statutes.

"§ 6. The Legislature may at any time alter or repeal this Act.

"§ 7. This Act shall take effect immediately.

"An act for the relief of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Passed April 6, 1850.

"The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

"§ 1. The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, incorporated on the 9th April,

1839, shall be capable of taking, holding, or receiving any real estate, by virtue of any devise contained in any last will and testament of any person whatsoever, the clear annual income of which devise shall not exceed the sum of ten thousand dollars: Provided, no person leaving a wife, or child, or parent, shall devise to such corporation more than one-fourth of his or her estate, after the payment of his or her debts; and such devise shall be valid to the extent of such one-fourth; and no such devise shall be valid in any will which shall not have been made and executed at least two months before the death of the testator.

“§ 2. This Act shall take effect immediately.

“An act to amend ‘An act to incorporate the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.’ Passed June 30, 1853.

“The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

“§ 1. The third section of ‘An Act to incorporate the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church,’ passed April 9, 1839, is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

“§ 3. The management and disposition of the affairs and property of the said corporation shall be vested in a Board of Managers, to be annually elected at a meeting of the Society to be called for that purpose, and held in the city of New York, at such time and on such notice as the Board of Managers for the time being shall previously prescribe: such Board shall consist of not less than thirty-two lay members, and of so many clerical members, not exceeding that number, as shall be determined upon at such annual

meeting, and each of whom shall be a minister in good and regular standing in the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Board of Managers shall have power to fill any vacancy that may happen, until the ensuing annual election. Thirteen members of the Board at any meeting thereof shall be a sufficient number for the transaction of business; and at any meeting of the Society twenty-five members of the Society shall be a sufficient quorum.

“An act to consolidate the several acts relating to the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church into one act, and to amend the same. Passed April 11, 1859.

“The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

“§ 1. The Act entitled ‘An Act to incorporate the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church,’ passed April ninth, eighteen hundred and thirty-nine, and the several Acts amendatory thereof, and relating to the said Society, are respectively hereby amended and consolidated into one Act; and the several provisions thereof as thus amended and consolidated are comprised in the following sections:

“§ 2. All persons associated or who may become associated together in the Society above named, are constituted a body corporate, by the name and style of ‘The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church,’ and are hereby declared to have been such body corporate since the passage of said Act of April ninth, eighteen hundred and thirty-nine; and such corporation are and shall be capable of purchasing, holding, and conveying such real estate as the purposes of the said corporation shall require; but the annual income of the real estate held by them

at any one time, within the State of New York, shall not exceed the sum of thirty thousand dollars.

“§ 3. The objects of the said corporation are charitable and religious; designed to diffuse more generally the blessings of education and Christianity, and to promote and support missionary schools and Christian missions throughout the United States and the continent of America, and also in foreign countries.

“§ 4. The management and disposition of the affairs and property of the said corporation shall be vested in a Board of Managers, to be annually elected at a meeting of the Society to be called for that purpose, and held in the city of New York, at such time and on such notice as the Board of Managers, for the time being, shall previously prescribe. Such board shall consist of not less than thirty-two lay members, belonging to the Methodist Episcopal Church, and of so many clerical members, not exceeding that number, as shall be determined upon at such annual meeting, and each of whom shall be a minister in good regular standing in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Such Board of Managers may fill any vacancy happening therein, until the term shall commence of the Managers elected at such annual meeting; shall have power to direct by what officer the conveyance of real estate by said corporation shall be executed; and shall have such other power as may be necessary for the management and disposition of the affairs and property of the said corporation.

“§ 5. Thirteen members of the said Board of Managers, at any meeting thereof, shall be sufficient number for the transaction of business; and at any meeting of the Society twenty-five members shall be a sufficient quorum. The managers elected at each annual meeting of the Society shall be the managers

of such corporation for one year from the first day of January following, and until others, elected in their places, shall be competent to assume their duties.

“§ 6. The said corporation shall be capable of taking, receiving, or holding any real estate, by virtue of any devise contained in any last will and testament of any person whomsoever; subject, however, to the limitation expressed in the second section of this Act, as to the aggregate amount of such real estate; and the said corporation shall be also competent to act as a trustee in respect to any devise or bequest pertaining to the objects of said corporation; and devises and bequests of real or personal property may be made directly to said corporation, or in trust, for any of the purposes comprehended in the general objects of said Society; and such trusts may continue for such time as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes for which they may be created.

“§ 7. The said corporation shall also possess the general powers specified in and by the third title of the third article of chapter eighteen of the first part of the Revised Statutes of the State of New York.

“§ 8. The Legislature may at any time alter or repeal this Act.

“§ 9. This Act shall take effect immediately.

“An act to amend the Charter of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Passed April 14, 1869.

“The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

“§ 1. The Act entitled ‘An Act to consolidate the several Acts relating to the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church into one Act, and to

amend the same, passed April 11, 1859;’ and the Act entitled ‘An Act to incorporate the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church,’ passed April ninth, eighteen hundred and thirty-nine, and the several Acts amendatory thereof, and relating to the said Society, are respectively hereby amended and consolidated into one Act; and the several provisions thereof as thus amended and consolidated are comprised in the following sections.

“§ 2. All persons associated or who may become associated together in the Society above named are constituted a body corporate, by the name and style of ‘The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church,’ and are hereby declared to have been such body corporate since the passage of said Act of April ninth, eighteen hundred and thirty-nine; and such corporation are and shall be capable of purchasing, holding, and conveying such real estate as the purposes of the said corporation shall require; but the annual income of the real estate held by them at any one time, within the State of New York, shall not exceed the sum of thirty thousand dollars.

“§ 3. The objects of the said corporation are charitable and religious; designed to diffuse more generally the blessings of education and Christianity, and to promote and support missionary schools and Christian missions throughout the United States and Territories, and also in foreign countries.

“§ 4. The management and disposition of the affairs and property of the said corporation shall be vested in a Board of Managers, to be annually elected at a meeting of the Society to be called for that purpose, and held in the city of New York, at such time and on such notice as the Board of Managers, for the time being, shall previously prescribe. Such Board

shall consist of thirty-two laymen of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and thirty-two traveling ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Such Board of Managers may fill any vacancy happening therein, until the term shall commence of the managers elected at such annual meeting; shall have power to direct by what officer the conveyance of real estate by said corporation shall be executed; and shall have such other power as may be necessary for the management and disposition of the affairs and property of the said corporation, in conformity with the Constitution of said Society, as it now exists, or as it may, in the manner therein provided, be from time to time amended.

“§ 5. Thirteen members of the said Board of Managers, at any meeting thereof, shall be a sufficient number for the transaction of business; and at any meeting of the Society twenty-five members shall be a quorum. The managers elected at each annual meeting of the Society shall be the managers of such corporation for one year from the first day of January following, and until others, elected in their places, shall be competent to assume their duties. The Corresponding Secretaries of said Society shall be elected by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and shall hold their office for four years, and until their successors are elected; and in case of a vacancy by resignation, death, or otherwise, the bishops of the said Methodist Episcopal Church shall elect their successors, to hold their office till the ensuing General Conference.

“§ 6. The said corporation shall be capable of taking, receiving, or holding any real estate, by virtue of any devise contained in any last will and testament of any person whomsoever; subject, however,

to the limitation expressed in the second section of this Act, as to the aggregate amount of such real estate; and also to all provisions of law now existing in relation to devises and bequests; and the said corporation shall be also competent to act as a trustee in respect to any devise or bequest pertaining to the objects of said corporation; and devises and bequests of real or personal property may be made directly to said corporation, or in trust, for any of the purposes comprehended in the general objects of said Society; and such trusts may continue for such time as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes for which they may be created.

“§ 7. The said corporation shall also possess the general powers specified in and by the Third Title of Chapter Eighteen of the First Part of the Revised Statutes of the State of New York.

“§ 8. This Act shall take effect immediately.

“REVISED STATUTES OF THE STATE OF NEW
YORK.

“PART I. CHAPTER XVIII, THIRD TITLE OF ART. 3,
OF THE GENERAL POWERS, PRIVILEGES, AND LIABILITIES OF CORPORATIONS.

“Section 1. Every corporation, as such, has power:

“1. To have succession, by its corporate name, for the period limited in its charter; and when no period is limited, perpetually.

“2. To sue and be sued, complain and defend, in any court of law or equity.

“3. To make and use a common seal, and alter the same at pleasure.

“4. To hold, purchase, and convey such real and

personal estate as the purposes of the corporation shall require, not exceeding the amount limited in the charter.

"5. To appoint such subordinate officers and agents as the business of the corporation shall require, and to allow them a suitable compensation.

"6. To make by-laws, not inconsistent with any existing law, for the management of its property, the regulation of its affairs, and for the transfer of its stock.

"Sec. 2. The powers enumerated in the preceding section shall vest in every corporation that shall hereafter be created, although they may not be specified in its charter or in the Act under which it shall be incorporated.

"Sec. 3. In addition to the powers enumerated in the first section of this title, and to those expressly given in its charter or in the Act under which it is or shall be incorporated, no corporation shall possess or exercise any corporate powers, except such as shall be necessary to the exercise of the powers so enumerated and given.

"AN ACT

"TO AMEND CHAPTER ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE OF THE LAWS OF EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE, ENTITLED 'AN ACT TO LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF PROPERTY TO BE HELD BY CORPORATIONS ORGANIZED FOR OTHER THAN BUSINESS PURPOSES,' AND RELATING TO SUCH CORPORATIONS.

"Approved by the Governor, June 7, 1890. Passed, three-fifths being present.

"The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

"Section 1. Chapter one hundred and ninety-one

of the laws of eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, entitled 'An Act to limit the amount of property to be held by corporations organized for other than business purposes,' is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

"Section 1. Any religious, educational, Bible, missionary, tract, literary, scientific, benevolent, or charitable corporation, or corporation organized for the enforcement of laws relating to children or animals, or for hospital, infirmary, or other than business purposes, may take and hold, in its own right or in trust, for any purpose comprised in the objects of its incorporation, property not exceeding in value three million dollars, or the yearly income derived from which shall not exceed two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, notwithstanding the provisions of any special or general Act heretofore passed, or certificate of incorporation affecting such corporations. In computing the value of such property no increase in value arising otherwise than from improvements made thereon shall be taken into account. The personal estate of such corporations shall be exempt from taxation, and the provisions of chapter four hundred and eighty-three of the laws of eighteen hundred and eighty-five, entitled 'An Act to tax gifts, legacies, and collateral inheritances in certain cases,' and the Acts amendatory thereof, shall not apply thereto nor to any gifts to any such corporation by grant, bequest, or otherwise; provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to any moneyed or stock corporation deriving an income or profit from the capital, or otherwise, or to any corporation which has the right to make dividends or to distribute profits or assets among its members.

"Sec. 2. This Act shall not affect the right of any

such corporation to take and hold property exceeding in value the amount specified in section one of this Act, provided such right is conferred upon such corporation by special statute; nor affect any statute by which its real estate is exempt from taxation.

“Sec. 3. This Act shall take effect immediately.

“VOL. II, LAWS OF 1892.

“The General Corporation Law provides as follows:

“Section 11. Grant of General Powers.—Every corporation as such has power, though not specified in the law under which it is incorporated:

“1. To have succession for the period specified in its certificate of incorporation or by law, and perpetually when no period is specified.

“2. To have a common seal, and alter the same at pleasure.

“3. To acquire by grant, gift, purchase, devise, or bequest, to hold and to dispose of such property as the purposes of the corporation shall require, subject to such limitations as may be prescribed by law.

“4. To appoint such officers and agents as its business shall require, and to fix their compensation; and

“5. To make by-laws not inconsistent with any existing law, for the management of its property, the regulation of its affairs, and the transfer of its stock, if it has any. . . .

“Sec. 12. Limitations of Amount of Property of a Non-stock Corporation.—A corporation not having capital stock may take and hold property not exceeding in value three million dollars, or the yearly income derived from which shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars, notwithstanding the provisions

of any general or special Act heretofore passed or certificate of incorporation affecting such corporation.

In computing the value of such property no increase in value arising otherwise than from improvements made thereon shall be taken into account. . . .

“Sec. 14. Acquisition of Property in other States.— Any domestic corporation transacting business in other States or foreign countries may acquire and dispose of such property as shall be requisite for such corporation in the convenient transaction of its business.

“AN ACT

“IN RELATION TO THE EXEMPTION OF THE REAL PROPERTY OF RELIGIOUS, CHARITABLE, AND EDUCATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS FROM TAXATION.

“*Approved by the Governor, April 29, 1893. Passed, three-fifths being present.*

“The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

“Section 1. The real property of a corporation or association organized exclusively for the moral and mental improvement of men and women, or for religious, charitable, missionary, hospital, educational, patriotic, historical, or cemetery purposes, or for two or more of such purposes, and used exclusively for carrying out thereupon one or more of such purposes, shall be exempt from taxation. But no such corporation or association shall be entitled to any such exemption if any officer, member, or employee thereof shall receive or may be lawfully entitled to receive any pecuniary profit from the operations thereof, except reasonable compensation for services in effecting

one or more of such purposes, or as proper beneficiaries of its strictly charitable purposes; or if the organization thereof, for any of such avowed purposes, be a guise or pretense for directly or indirectly making any other pecuniary profit for such corporation or association, or for any of its members or employees, or if it be not in good faith organized and conducted exclusively for one or more of such purposes. The real property of any such corporation or association entitled to such exemption held by it exclusively for one or more of such purposes, and from which no rents, profits, or income are derived, shall be so exempt, though not in actual use therefor, by reason of the absence of suitable buildings or improvements thereon, if the construction of such buildings or improvements is in progress, or is in good faith contemplated by such corporation or association. The real property of any such corporation not so used exclusively for carrying out thereupon one or more of such purposes, but leased or otherwise used for other purposes, shall not be so exempt; but if a portion only of any lot or building of any such corporation or association is used exclusively for carrying out thereupon one or more of such purposes of any such corporation or association, then such lot or building shall be so exempt only to the extent of the value of the portion so used, and the remaining portion of such lot or building to the extent of the value of such remaining portion shall be subject to taxation. Property held by an officer of a religious denomination shall be entitled to the same exemptions, subject to the same conditions and exceptions as property held by a religious corporation.

“Sec. 2. This Act shall take effect immediately.”

CHARTER OF 1873.

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Passed April 4, 1873.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The Act entitled "An Act to Amend the Charter of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," passed April fourteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine; also the Act entitled "An Act to Consolidate the Several Acts Relating to the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church into one Act, and to amend the same," passed April eleventh, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine; and the Act entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," passed April ninth, eighteen hundred and thirty-nine, and the several Acts amendatory thereof, and relating to the said Society, are respectively hereby amended and consolidated into one Act; and the several provisions thereof, as thus amended and consolidated, are comprised in the following sections:

Former charters consolidated.

Section 2. All persons associated, or who may become associated, together in the Society above

Corporate name. named are constituted a body corporate, by the name and style of "The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," and are hereby declared to have been such body corporate since the passage of said Act of April ninth, eighteen hundred and thirty-nine; and such corporation is and shall be capable of purchasing, holding, and conveying such real estate as the purposes of the said corporation shall require; but the annual income of the estate held by it at any one time, within the State of New York, shall not exceed the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars.

May buy and sell property.

Objects. Section 3. The objects of the said corporation are charitable and religious; designed to diffuse more generally the blessings of education and Christianity, and to promote and support missionary schools and Christian missions throughout the United States and Territories, and also in foreign countries.

Board of Managers. Section 4. The management and disposition of the affairs and property of the said corporation shall be vested in a Board of Managers, composed of thirty-two laymen of the Methodist Episcopal Church and thirty-two traveling ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church appointed by the General Conference of said Church at its quadrennial sessions, and of the

bishops of said Church, who shall be *ex officio* members of said Board. Such Managers as were appointed by said General Conference at its last session shall be entitled to act as such from and after the passage of this Act, until they or others appointed by the ensuing General Conference shall assume their duties. Any such Board of Managers may fill any vacancy happening therein until the term shall commence of the Managers appointed by an ensuing General Conference; said Board of Managers shall have such power as may be necessary for the management and disposition of the affairs and property of said corporation, in conformity with the Constitution of said Society as it now exists, or as it may be from time to time amended by the General Conference, and to elect the officers of the Society, except as herein otherwise provided; and such Board of Managers shall be subordinate to any directions or regulations made, or to be made, by said General Conference. Fill vacancies.

Section 5. Thirteen members of the said Board of Managers, at any meeting thereof, shall be a sufficient number for the transaction of business. The Corresponding Secretaries, the Treasurer, and the Assistant Treasurer of said Society shall be elected by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Quorum.
Election of officers.

Term. shall hold their office for four years, and until their successors are elected; and in case of a vacancy by resignation, death, or otherwise, the bishops of the said Methodist Episcopal Church shall fill any vacancy in the office till the ensuing General Conference. And until the next session of the General Conference said Board of Managers may appoint and remove at pleasure the Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer of said corporation; and the latter officer may exercise his duties, as the Board may direct, in any State.

**Board may re-
move officers.**

**Rights, powers,
and privileges.**

Section 6. The said corporation shall be capable of taking, receiving, or holding any real estate, by virtue of any devise contained in any last will and testament of any person whomsoever; subject, however, to the limitation expressed in the second section of this Act as to the aggregate amount of such real estate, and also to the provisions of an Act entitled "An Act Relating to Wills," passed April thirteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty; and the said corporation shall be also competent to act as a Trustee in respect to any devise or bequest pertaining to the objects of said corporation, and devises and bequests of real or personal property may be made directly to said corporation, or in trust, for any of the purposes comprehended in the general ob-

jects of said Society; and such trusts may continue for such time as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes for which they may be created.

Section 7. The said corporation shall also possess the general powers specified in and by the Third Title of Chapter Eighteen of the First Part of the Revised Statutes of the State of New York. General powers.

Section 8. This Act shall take effect immediately.

EARLY CONSTITUTIONS OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

(Notes by Bishop Walden.)

The Missionary Society having been incorporated in 1839, the Constitution as revised by the General Conference of 1840, being in an authoritative sense the first Constitution of the Society, is published in full that it may be readily compared with the present Constitution as revised by the General Conference of 1900 (see pages 000-000). The changes made in the instrument itself and in the methods of administration during these sixty years are marked, interesting, and instructive.

The chief changes were made in 1844, 1860, 1868, and 1872, and mainly affected the articles relating to the Corresponding Secretariat, the Board of Managers, and the General Missionary Committee. These changes mark the transition from a local Society to a thoroughly Connectional Institution. By giving a summary of some of the articles referred to, and publishing others as they existed at different dates, the evolution of the more essential parts of the Constitution is here indicated.

The Secretariat.—At first the only unqualified authority accorded the General Conference was the appointment of the corresponding secretaries. The changes made in the article relate to their number and rank. In 1840 the number was not specified, and three were elected. In 1844 the number was limited to one. In 1860 provision was made for one assistant corresponding secretary; in 1864 for two such assistants. In 1872 provision was made for three corresponding secretaries; in 1884 this number was reduced two, and so remained until 1900.

Board of Managers.—Articles 3, 5, and 6 of the first Constitution remained in force until the amendment to the charter enacted June 30, 1853, went into effect. After this date the provision of the Constitution as to the composition of the Board of Managers was determined by the charter. This was amended June 11, 1859, April 14, 1869, and April 4, 1873 (see Section 4 in each enactment herewith published).

General Missionary Committee.—This Committee was created in pursuance with Article 16 of the first Constitution, and became operative in 1844. Its relation and functions are so important, and the changes in the Constitution affecting it illustrate so clearly the evolution of the Society, that the provision as made in 1844 and as revised in 1852, 1864, and 1868 are published here.

The most radical and important changes were made in 1872, but the article adopted then is the same as that in the present Constitution, except the in-

crease in the Contingent Fund and the last proviso limiting the amount of the appropriation.

The Contingent Fund was made \$10,000 in 1860.

While minor changes were made at other dates, what is published will show the steps by which has been created one of the most potential and effective agencies in the entire economy of Methodism.

"THE CONSTITUTION AS ADOPTED BY THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1836.

"The Constitution as amended by this Conference, on the recommendation of the Board of Managers, is as follows, viz.:

"ARTICLE I. This association, denominated The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, is established for the express purpose of enabling the several Annual Conferences more effectually to extend their missionary labors throughout the United States and elsewhere; and also to assist in the support and promotion of missionary schools and missions in our own and in foreign countries.

"ARTICLE II. The payment of two dollars annually shall constitute a member; the payment of twenty dollars at one time a member for life.

"ARTICLE III. The officers of this society shall consist of a president, vice-president, recording secretary, treasurer, and assistant treasurer, who, together with thirty-two managers, shall form a Board for the transaction of business. They shall all be members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and be annually elected by the society. Each Annual Conference shall have also the privilege of appointing one vice-president from its own body.

“ARTICLE IV. There shall also be a resident corresponding secretary appointed by the General Conference, whose salary shall be fixed and paid by the Board of Managers, who shall be exclusively employed in conducting the correspondence of the society, and, under the direction of the Board, in promoting its general interests by traveling or otherwise. With the approbation of the managers, he may employ such assistance from time to time as may be judged necessary for the interests of the cause, the compensation for which shall be fixed by the Board. He shall be *ex-officio* a member of the Board of Managers. Should his office become vacant by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Board shall have power to provide for the duties of the office until the next session of the New York Conference, which, with the concurrence of the presiding bishop, shall fill the vacancy until the ensuing General Conference.

“ARTICLE V. The Board shall have authority to make by-laws for regulating its own proceedings, to appropriate money to defray incidental expenses, and to print books at our own press for the benefit of the Indian and other foreign missions, fill vacancies that may occur during the year, and shall present a statement of its transactions and funds to the society at its annual meeting; and also shall lay before the General Conference a report of its transactions for the four preceding years, and the state of its funds.

“ARTICLE VI. Ordained ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, whether traveling or local, being members of this society, shall be *ex-officio* members of the Board of Managers.

“ARTICLE VII. The annual meeting for the election of officers and managers shall be held on the third Monday in April, in the city of New York.

“ARTICLE VIII. At all meetings of the society and of the Board, the president, or in his absence the vice-president first on the list then present, and in the absence of all the vice-presidents a member appointed by the meeting for that purpose shall preside.

“ARTICLE IX. Twenty-five members at all meetings of the society, and thirteen at all meetings of the Board of Managers, shall be a quorum.

“ARTICLE X. The minutes of each meeting shall be signed by the chairman.

“ARTICLE XI. Same as in former Constitution, with the exception of the following words, inserted in the second sentence between the words “Conference” and “society,” viz., “or other Auxiliary,” so as to read, “Each Conference or other Auxiliary society,” etc.

“ARTICLE XII. Any Auxiliary or branch society may appropriate any part or the whole of its funds to any one individual mission or more under the care of this society, which special appropriation shall be publicly acknowledged by the Board; but in the event that more funds be raised for any individual mission than is necessary for its support, the surplus shall go into the general treasury of the parent society, to be appropriated as the Constitution directs.

“ARTICLE XIII. As in the former Constitution.

“ARTICLE XIV. As in the former Constitution.

“ARTICLE XV. As in the former Constitution.

“ARTICLE XVI. As in the former Constitution.”

“CONSTITUTION, AS REVISED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1840.

“Art. 1. This association, denominated ‘The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church,’

is established for the express purpose of enabling the several Annual Conferences more effectually to extend their missionary labors throughout the United States and elsewhere; and also to assist in the support and promotion of missionary schools and missions in our own and in foreign countries.

“Art. 2. The payment of two dollars annually shall constitute a member; the payment of twenty dollars at one time a member for life. Any person paying one hundred and fifty dollars at one time into the treasury shall be a manager for life, and the contribution of five hundred dollars shall constitute the donor a patron for life.

“Art. 3. The officers of this Society shall consist of a president, vice-presidents, corresponding secretaries, recording secretary, treasurer, and assistant treasurer, who, together with thirty-two managers, shall form a Board for the transaction of business. They shall all be members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and be annually elected by the Society, except the corresponding secretaries. Each Annual Conference shall have the privilege of appointing one vice-president from its own body.

“Art. 4. The corresponding secretaries shall be appointed by the General Conference, one of whom shall reside in New York, and shall conduct the correspondence of the Society, under the direction of the Board. They shall be subject to the direction and control of the Board of Managers, by whom their salaries are to be fixed and paid. They shall be exclusively employed in conducting the correspondence of the Society, and, under the direction of the Board, in promoting its general interests, by traveling or otherwise. With the approbation of the managers, they may employ such assistance, from time to time,

as may be judged necessary for the interests of the cause; the compensation for which shall be fixed by the Board. Should the office of the one in New York become vacant by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Board shall have power to provide for the duties of the office until the next session of the New York Conference, which, with the concurrence of the presiding bishop, shall fill the vacancy until the ensuing General Conference.*

“Art. 5. The Board shall have authority to make by-laws for regulating its own proceedings, to appropriate money to defray incidental expenses, to provide for the support of superannuated missionaries, widows, and orphans of missionaries who may not be provided for by the Annual Conferences; and to print books at our own press, for the benefit of Indian and other foreign missions, fill up vacancies that may occur during the year, and shall present a statement of its transactions and funds to the Society at its annual meeting, and also shall lay before the General Conference a report of its transactions for the four preceding years, and the state of its funds.

“Art. 6. Ordained ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, whether traveling or local, being members of this Society, shall be *ex-officio* members of the Board of Managers.

“Art. 7. The annual meeting, for the election of officers and managers, shall be held on the third Monday in April, in the city of New York.

“Art. 8. At all meetings of the Society and of the Board the president, or in his absence the vice-president first on the list then present, and in the absence of all the vice-presidents a member appointed by the meeting for that purpose, shall preside.

*For filling the vacancies of the other secretaries, see Discipline, part ii, section vi, paragraphs 8 and 9.

“Art. 9. Twenty-five members at all meetings of the Society, and thirteen at all meetings of the Board of Managers, shall be a quorum.

“Art. 10. The minutes of each meeting shall be signed by the chairman.

“Art. 11. It is recommended that within the bounds of each Annual Conference there be established a Conference Missionary Society, auxiliary to this institution, with branches, under such regulations as the Conferences shall respectively prescribe. Each Conference, or other Auxiliary Society, shall annually transmit to the corresponding secretary of this Society a copy of its annual report, embracing the operations of its branches, and shall also notify the treasurer of the amount collected in aid of the missionary cause; which amount shall be subject to the order of the treasurer of the Parent Society, as provided for in the thirteenth article.

“Art. 12. Any Auxiliary or Branch Society may appropriate any part or the whole of its funds to any individual mission, or more, under the care of this Society, which special appropriation shall be publicly acknowledged by the Board; but in the event that more funds be raised for any individual mission than necessary for its support, the surplus shall go into the general treasury of the Parent Society, to be appropriated as the Constitution directs.

“Art. 13. The treasurer of this Society, under the direction of the Board of Managers, shall give information to the bishops annually, or oftener, if the Board judge it expedient, of the state of the funds, and the sums which may be drawn by them for the missionary purposes contemplated by this Constitution; agreeably to which information the bishops shall have authority to draw upon the treasurer for

any sum within the amount designated, which the Missionary Committee of the Annual Conferences respectively shall judge necessary for the support of the missions and of the mission schools under their care; provided always that the sums so allowed for the support of a missionary shall not exceed the usual allowance of other itinerant preachers. The bishops shall always promptly notify the treasurer of all drafts made by them, and shall require regular quarterly communications to be made by each of the missionaries to the corresponding secretary of the Society, giving information of the state and prospects of the several missions in which they are employed. No one shall be acknowledged a missionary, or receive support out of the funds of this Society, who has not some definite field assigned to him, or who could not be an effective laborer on a circuit, except as provided for in Article 5. The assistant treasurer shall be subject to the direction of the treasurer, and of the Board of Managers.

“Art. 14. Whenever a foreign mission, or one not provided for by an Annual Conference, is to be established, or is already established, either among the aborigines of our country, or elsewhere, it shall be the duty of the bishops making such appointment immediately to notify the treasurer of the Missionary Society of the place, the number of missionaries to be employed, together with the probable amount necessary for the support of any such mission; which information shall be laid before the managers of the Society; and they shall make an appropriation according to their judgment, from year to year, of the amount called for to sustain and prosecute the mission or missions designated; for which amount the missionary, or the superintendent of the mission or

missions, shall have authority to draw on the treasurer of the Society in quarterly or half-yearly installments.

“Art. 15. In all other cases of the appointment of a missionary, the name of such missionary, and the district in which he is to labor, together with the probable expenses of the mission, shall be communicated by the bishop, or the Mission Committee of each Annual Conference, to the treasurer of this Society, that a proper record of the same may be preserved.

“Art. 16. This Constitution shall not be altered but by the General Conference, upon the recommendation of the Board of Managers, or by the Society, at an annual meeting, on the recommendation of the General Conference.

“ARTICLE XIII, CONSTITUTION OF 1844.

“The annual conferences shall be divided into as many mission districts as there are effective superintendents, and there shall be a committee, consisting of one from each mission district, to be appointed by the bishops, and to be called *the General Missionary Committee*. It shall be the duty of this committee to meet annually in the city of New York, at the time of the holding of the anniversary of the missionary society, to act jointly with the board of managers, the corresponding secretary, and the treasurer, in fixing the amount which may be drawn for during the ensuing year, and the division of said amount between foreign and domestic missions. Said committee shall, in conjunction with the board of managers and bishop who shall preside in the New York Conference, determine what fields shall be occupied or continued as foreign missions, and the number of per-

sons to be employed on said missions, and shall, in conjunction with the board, estimate the sums necessary for the support of each mission, subject to the approval of the presiding bishop. Said committee shall determine the amount for which each bishop shall draw for the domestic missions of those conferences over which he shall preside, and he shall not draw on the treasurer for more than said amount.

“Provided nevertheless, that in the intervals between the meetings of the General Missionary Committees, the Board of Managers, with the concurrence of a majority of the bishops, may, if they shall deem it important, adopt a new missionary field, and also provide for any unforeseen emergency that may arise; and to meet such demands, may expend any additional sum not exceeding five thousand dollars.

“Should any of the members of said committee in the interval of the General Conference go out of office by death, resignation, or otherwise, the bishop presiding in the conferences where the vacancy shall occur shall appoint another to fill his place.

“Said committee to be amenable to the General Conference, to which it shall make full reports of its doings.

“Any expense incurred in the discharge of its duties shall be met by the treasurer of the society.

“ARTICLE XIII, CONSTITUTION OF 1852.

“The annual conferences shall be divided into as many mission districts as there are effective superintendents, and there shall be a committee, consisting of one from each mission district, to be appointed by the bishops, and to be called *the General Missionary Committee*. It shall be the duty of this committee to

meet annually in the city of New York, between the 1st and 15th of November, as shall be determined by the corresponding secretary and treasurer, to act jointly with the board of managers, the corresponding secretary, and the treasurer, in fixing the amount which may be drawn for during the ensuing year, and the division of said amount between foreign and domestic missions. Said committee shall, with the concurrence of the board of managers, and with the concurrence of at least two of the bishops, determine what fields shall be occupied or continued as foreign missions, and the number of persons to be employed on said missions, and shall, in conjunction with the board, estimate the sums necessary for the support of each mission, subject to the approval of two or more of the bishops. Said committee shall determine the amount for which each bishop may draw for the domestic missions of those conferences over which he shall preside, and he shall not draw on the treasurer for more than said amount.

“Provided nevertheless, that in the intervals between the meetings of the General Missionary Committee, the Board of Managers, with the concurrence of the bishop who has charge or is to have charge of the work proposed, may, if they shall deem it important, adopt a new missionary field, and also provide for any unforeseen emergency that may arise; and to meet such demands may expend any additional sum not exceeding five thousand dollars.

“Should any of the members of said committee in the interval of the General Conference go out of office by death, resignation, or otherwise, the bishop presiding in the conferences where the vacancy shall occur, shall appoint another to fill his place.

“Said committee to be amenable to the General

Conference, to which it shall make full reports of its doings.

"Any expense incurred in the discharge of its duties shall be met by the treasurer of the society.

"ARTICLE XII, CONSTITUTION OF 1864.

"The Annual Conferences shall be divided into as many mission districts as there are effective superintendents; and there shall be a committee consisting of one from each mission district, to be appointed by the bishops, and to be called the *General Missionary Committee*. It shall be the duty of this committee—

"First. To meet annually in the city of New York between the 1st and 15th of November, as shall be determined by the corresponding secretary, the assistant corresponding secretary, and the treasurer.

"Secondly. To act jointly with the Board of Managers, the corresponding secretary, assistant corresponding secretary, second assistant corresponding secretary, and treasurer, in fixing the amount which may be drawn for during the ensuing year.

"Thirdly. To divide said amount between,

"1. Foreign missions;

"2. Domestic missions;

"3. Missions in the United States and Territories not included in the bounds of any of the Annual Conferences.

"4. Other missions not under our immediate care.

"Fourthly. Said committee shall, with the concurrence of the Board of Managers, and with the concurrence of at least two of the bishops, determine what fields shall be occupied or continued as foreign missions, and the number of persons to be employed on said missions, and shall, in conjunction with the

Board, estimate the sums necessary for the support of each mission, subject to the approval of two or more of the bishops. Said committee, with the concurrence of the Board and bishops as aforesaid, shall determine the amount for which each bishop may draw for the domestic missions of those conferences over which he shall preside, and shall divide the amount appropriated to the missions in the United States and Territories not included in the Annual Conferences to such sections of the country as in their judgment the interests of the work require; and the bishop shall not draw on the treasurer for more than said amount.

"In the intervals of the annual meetings of the committee the bishops shall have full power to administer these missions.

"The Board shall appoint a committee, who, with the bishop making the appointment, shall fix the amount for the support of each missionary in this third class of missions.

"Fifthly. Said committee, by and with the concurrence of the Board and bishops, as aforesaid, shall also determine the amount to be appropriated for the support of missions not under our immediate care, and the mode of disbursement thereof.

"*Provided nevertheless*, that in the intervals between the meetings of the General Missionary Committee, the Board of Managers, with the concurrence of the bishop who has charge, or is to have charge of the work proposed, may, if they shall deem it important, adopt a new missionary field, and also provide for any unforeseen emergency that may arise, and to meet such demands may expend any additional sum not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars.

"Should any of the members of said committee

in the interval of the General Conference go out of office by death, resignation, or otherwise, the bishop presiding in the conferences where the vacancy shall occur shall appoint another to fill his place.

“Said committee to be amenable to the General Conference, to which it shall make full reports of its doings.

“Any expense incurred in the discharge of its duties shall be met by the treasurer of the society.

“ARTICLE XI, CONSTITUTION OF 1868.

“GENERAL MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

“The Annual Conferences shall be divided into as many mission districts as there are effective superintendents, and there shall be one member from each mission district to be appointed by the bishops, and a like number of members to be appointed annually by the Board of Managers, who, with the corresponding secretaries and treasurer of the Society, shall constitute a committee, to be called the *General Missionary Committee*.

“The General Missionary Committee shall meet annually in the city of New York, at such time, in the month of November, as shall be determined by the corresponding secretaries and treasurer.

“The bishops shall also be duly notified to attend the meetings of the General Missionary Committee, to preside over its deliberations, and to give their advice in respect to any matters before the Committee.

“Said General Missionary Committee, with the concurrence of the Board of Managers, and with the concurrence of a majority of the bishops present, shall determine what fields shall be occupied as foreign missions, the number of persons to be employed

on said missions, and the amount necessary for the support of each mission. Said General Missionary Committee, with the concurrence of the Board and bishops, as aforesaid, shall also determine the amount for which each bishop may draw for the domestic missions of the conferences over which he shall preside, and the bishop shall not draw on the treasurer for more than said amount. *Nevertheless*, in the intervals between the meetings of the General Missionary Committee, the Board of Managers, with the concurrence of the bishop who has charge, or is to have charge of the work proposed, may, if they shall deem it important, adopt a new foreign mission field; the Board may also provide for any unforeseen emergency that may arise in any of our missions. To meet such demands, the Board may expend any additional amount not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars.

“Should any member of the General Missionary Committee appointed by the bishops go out of office by death, resignation, or otherwise, the bishops shall appoint another to fill the vacancy.

“The General Missionary Committee shall be amenable to the General Conference, to which it shall make full report of its doings.

“Any expenses incurred in the discharge of its duties shall be met by the treasurer of the Society.”

CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—1900.

As Revised by the General Conference of 1900.

ARTICLE I.

NAME AND OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY.

The name of this association shall be "THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH." Its objects are charitable and religious; designed to diffuse more generally the blessings of education and Christianity, and to promote and support missionary schools and Christian missions throughout the United States and Territories, and also in foreign countries, under such rules and regulations as the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church may from time to time prescribe.

ARTICLE II.

MEMBERS, HONORARY MANAGERS, AND PATRONS.

The payment of twenty dollars at one time shall constitute a member for life. Any person

paying one hundred and fifty dollars at one time into the treasury shall be an honorary manager for life; and the contribution of five hundred dollars shall constitute the donor an honorary patron for life; any such honorary manager or patron shall be entitled to a seat, and the right of speaking, but not of voting, in the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE III.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

The management and disposition of the affairs and property of the said corporation shall be vested in a Board of Managers, consisting of the bishops of said Church, who shall be *ex officio* members of said Board, and thirty-two laymen, and thirty-two traveling ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, elected by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, according to the requirements of the existing Charter of the Society; vacancies in the Board shall be filled as the Charter provides; and the absence without excuse of any Manager from six consecutive meetings of the Board shall be equivalent to a resignation. The Board shall also have authority to make by-laws not inconsistent with this Constitution or the Charter; to print books for Indian and foreign missions, and

missions in which a foreign language is used; to elect a President, Vice-Presidents, and a Recording Secretary; to fill vacancies that may occur among the officers elective by its own body; and shall present a statement of its transactions and funds to the Church in its Annual Report, and also shall lay before the General Conference a report of its transactions for the four preceding years, and the state of its funds.

ARTICLE IV.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES.

There shall be one Corresponding Secretary, who shall be executive officer of the Society, and a First Assistant Corresponding Secretary, both of whom shall be elected by the General Conference. The Board of Managers shall have authority to elect such additional Secretaries as may be necessary.

They shall be subject to the direction and control of the Board of Managers, by whom their salaries shall be fixed, and their salaries shall be paid out of the treasury. They shall be exclusively employed in conducting the correspondence of the Society, in furnishing the Church with missionary intelligence, and, under the direction of the Board, in supervising the mission-

ary work of the Church, and by correspondence, traveling, and otherwise, in promoting the general interests of the Society.

Should the office of either of the Secretaries become vacant by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Board shall have power to provide for the duties of the office until the bishops, or a majority of them, shall fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE V.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

At the regular meeting of the Board next succeeding the final adjournment of the General Conference, the officers to be elected by the Board shall be chosen and hold their office for the term of one year, or until their successors shall be elected; or, if a vacancy occur during the year by death, resignation, or otherwise, it may be filled at any regular meeting of the Board.

ARTICLE VI.

PRESIDING OFFICER.

At all meetings of the Board, the President, or, in his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents, and in the absence of the President and of all the Vice-Presidents, a member appointed by the meeting for that purpose, shall preside.

ARTICLE VII.

QUORUM.

Thirteen Managers at any meeting of the Board shall be a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII.

MINUTES.

The minutes of each meeting shall be signed by the Chairman of the meeting at which the same are read and approved.

ARTICLE IX.

AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

It is recommended that within the bounds of each Annual Conference there be established a Conference Missionary Society, auxiliary to this institution, under such regulations as the Conferences shall respectively prescribe.

ARTICLE X.

SPECIAL DONATIONS.

Whenever any charge, including the Sunday-school, shall raise its full apportionment for Missions, then any attendant of said charge shall have the privilege of making special donations

to any mission or work in such mission under the supervision of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and such special donations shall be received by the Missionary Society for the specified purpose, and be credited to said charge.

ARTICLE XI.

GENERAL MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

The General Conference shall divide the Annual Conferences into fourteen Mission Districts, from each of which there shall be one representative, to be appointed for the term of four years by the General Conference at each of its sessions, on the nomination of the delegates of the Annual Conferences within the Mission Districts respectively, and fourteen representatives, to be appointed annually by the Board of Managers from its own members, who, with the Corresponding and Recording Secretaries and the Treasurers of the Society and the Board of Bishops, shall constitute a committee, to be called the General Missionary Committee; *provided* that the bishops shall fill any vacancy that may occur among the members appointed by the General Conference, so that each Mission District may be fully represented at each annual meeting.

The General Missionary Committee shall meet

annually at such place in the United States as the Committee may, from year to year, determine, and at such time in the month of November as shall be determined by the Secretaries and Treasurers, of which due notice shall be given to each member; and the bishops shall preside over the deliberations of the Committee; but the annual meeting of said Committee, which for the year 1888 shall be held in the city of New York, shall not be held in the same city more frequently than once in four years.

Said General Missionary Committee shall determine what fields shall be occupied as foreign missions, the number of persons to be employed on said missions, and the amount necessary for the support of each mission; and it shall also determine the amount for which each bishop may draw for the domestic missions of the Conferences over which he shall preside, and the bishop shall not draw on the Treasurers for more than said amount. Nevertheless, in the intervals between the meetings of the General Missionary Committee, the Board of Managers may provide for any unforeseen emergency that may arise in any of our missions, and, to meet such demands, may spend any additional amount not exceeding fifty thousand dollars; *provided*, the General Committee shall not appropriate more for a given

year than the total income of the Society for the year immediately preceding.

The General Missionary Committee shall be amenable to the General Conference, to which it shall make a full report of its doings.

Any expenses incurred in the discharge of its duties shall be paid from the treasury of the Society.

ARTICLE XII.

SUPPORT OF SUPERANNUATED AND OTHER MISSIONARIES.

The Board may provide for the support of superannuated missionaries, widows and orphans of missionaries, who may not be provided for by their Annual Conferences respectively, it being understood that they shall not receive more than is usually allowed to other superannuated ministers, their widows, and orphans.

The amount allowed for the support of a missionary shall not exceed the usual allowance of other itinerant preachers; and in the case of domestic missions the bishop or President of the Conference shall draw for the same in quarterly installments, and shall always promptly notify the Treasurer of all drafts made by him. The administration of appropriations to foreign missions shall be under the direction of the Board of Managers.

No one shall be acknowledged as a missionary, or receive support as such from the funds of the Society, who has not some definite field assigned to him in the service of the Society, or who could not be an effective laborer on a circuit, except as above provided.

ARTICLE XIII.

AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution shall be subject to alteration or amendment only by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

CHARTER
OF THE
Woman's Foreign Missionary Society
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK, } ss.

We, the undersigned, Caroline R. Wright, Anna A. Harris, Sarah K. Cornell, and Harriet B. Skidmore, of the City of New York, and Susan A. Sayre, of the City of Brooklyn, being all citizens of the United States of America, and citizens of the State of New York, do hereby, pursuant to, and in conformity with the Act of the Legislature of the State of New York passed on April 12, 1848, entitled, "An Act for the Incorporation of Benevolent, Charitable, and Missionary Societies," and the several Acts of the said Legisla-

ture amendatory thereof, associate ourselves together and form a body politic and corporate, under the name and title of "The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," which we certify is the name or title by which said Society shall be known in law. And we do hereby further certify that the particular business and object of said Society is to engage and unite the efforts of Christian women in sending female missionaries to women in foreign mission fields of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in supporting them and native Christian teachers and Bible-readers in those fields.

That the number of managers to manage the business and affairs of said Society shall be seventeen, and that the names of such managers of said Society, for the first year of its existence, are: Lucy A. Alderman, Sarah L. Keen, Ellen T. Cowen, Hannah M. W. Hill, Mary C. Nind, Elizabeth K. Stanley, Harriet M. Shattuck, Isabel Hart, Caroline R. Wright, Harriet B. Skidmore, Rachel L. Goodier, Annie R. Gracey, Harriet D. Fisher, Sarah K. Cornell, Anna A. Harris, Ordelia M. Hillman, and Susan A. Sayre.

That the place of business or principal office of said Society shall be in the City and County of New York, in the State of New York.

Witness our hand and seal this 20th day of
December, A. D. 1884.

CAROLINE R. WRIGHT,	[SEAL]
ANNA A. HARRIS,	“
HARRIET B. SKIDMORE,	“
SUSAN A. SAYRE,	“
SARAH K. CORNELL,	“

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK, } ss.

On the 20th day of December, 1884, before
me personally came and appeared Caroline R.
Wright, Anna A. Harris, Harriet B. Skidmore,
and Sarah K. Cornell, to me known, and to me
personally known to be the individuals described
in and who executed the foregoing certificate,
and they severally duly acknowledged to me that
they executed the same.

[NOTARY'S SEAL.]

ANDREW LEMON,
Notary Public (58) New York County.

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF KINGS, }
CITY OF BROOKLYN, } ss.

On the 22d of December, A. D. 1884 before
me came Susan A. Sayre, to me known, and known
to me to be one of the individuals described in

and who executed the foregoing certificate, and duly acknowledged to me that she executed the same.

[NOTARY'S SEAL.]

F. G. MINTRAM,
Notary Public for King's County.

STATE OF NEW YORK. }
COUNTY OF KINGS, } ss.

I, Rodney Thursby, Clerk of the County of Kings and Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, in and for said county (said court being a Court of Records) DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that F. G. Mintram, whose name is subscribed to the Certificate of Proof, or acknowledgment of the annexed instrument and thereon written, was at the time of taking such proof or acknowledgment, a Notary Public of the State of New York, in and for said County of Kings, dwelling in said County, commissioned and sworn, and duly authorized to take the same. And, further, that I am well acquainted with the handwriting of such Notary, and verily believe the signature to the said Certificate is genuine, and that said instrument is executed and acknowledged according to the laws of the State of New York.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said County and Court, this 24th of December, 1884.

[SEAL]

RODNEY THURSBY, *Clerk.*

[Endorsed.]

THE WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF
THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION, DECEMBER
27, 1884.

I, the undersigned, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, for the First Judicial District, do hereby approve the within certificate, and do consent that the same be filed pursuant to the provisions of an Act of the Legislature of the State of New York, entitled, "An Act for the Incorporation of Benevolent, Charitable, Scientific, and Missionary Societies," passed April 12, 1848, and the several Acts extending and amending said Act. Dated New York, December 26, 1884.

ABM. R. LAWRENCE, *J. S. C.*

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK, } ss.

I, James A. Flack, Clerk of the said City and County, and Clerk of the Supreme Court of said State for said County, do certify that I have

compared the preceding with the original Certificate of Incorporation of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, on file in my office, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of such original. Endorsed, filed, and recorded, December 27, 1884, 1 hour, 25 minutes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed my official seal, this 12th day of November, 1888.

[SEAL]

JAMES A. FLACK, *Clerk.*

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
Woman's Foreign Missionary Society
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

This organization shall be called "THE WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH."

ARTICLE II.

PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Society is to engage and unite the efforts of Christian women in sending missionaries to the women in foreign mission fields of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in supporting them and native Christian teachers and Bible-readers in those fields and all forms of work carried on by the Society.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

The payment of one dollar annually shall constitute membership, and twenty dollars life-membership. Any person paying one hundred dollars shall become a Manager for life, and the contribution of three hundred dollars shall constitute the donor a Patron for life.

ARTICLE IV.

ORGANIZATION.

The organization of this Society shall consist of a General Executive Committee, Co-ordinate Branches, District Associations, Auxiliary Societies, to be constituted and limited as laid down in subsequent articles.

ARTICLE V.

GENERAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Section 1. "The management and general administration of the affairs of the Society shall be vested in a General Executive Committee consisting of a President, Recording Secretary, General Treasurer, the Corresponding Secretary, and two delegates from each Branch, the Literature Committee, and the Superintendent of German

Work. The President, Recording Secretary, Gen-Treasurer, and Superintendent of German Work shall be elected annually by the General Executive Committee. The two delegates and reserves shall be elected at the Branch Annual Meetings." Said Committee shall meet in Boston, the third Wednesday in April, 1870, and annually, or oftener, thereafter, at such time and place as the General Executive Committee shall annually determine.

Section 2. The duties of the General Executive Committee shall be:

First. To take into consideration the interests and demands of the entire work of the Society as presented in the report of the Branch Corresponding Secretaries, and in the estimates of the needs of mission fields; to ascertain the financial condition of the Society; to appropriate its money in accordance with the purposes and method therein indicated; to devise means for carrying forward the work of the Society; fixing the amounts to be raised; employing new missionaries, designating their field of labor, examining the reports of those already employed, and arranging with the several Branches the work to be undertaken by each.

Second. To transact any other business that the interests of the Society may demand, pro-

vided all the plans and directions of the Committee shall be in harmony with the provisions of the Constitution.

ARTICLE VI.

PERMANENT COMMITTEES OF WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

REFERENCE COMMITTEE.

1. The Committee of Reference shall be composed of the Branch Corresponding Secretaries.

2. It shall meet immediately after the adjournment of the General Executive Committee, and organize by the election of a Chairman and Secretary.

3. All cases of emergency that would come before the General Executive Committee, arising in the interim of its sessions, shall be submitted to this Committee, and decided by a majority vote.

4. The Chairman shall send each resolution that is submitted to the Committee to each member, and when all have returned their votes, the Recording Secretary shall declare the result, and record both resolutions and votes.

5. The Committee shall present a full report of its action during the year to the General Executive Committee for approval and permanent record.

CONSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

1. This Committee shall be composed of the Branch Corresponding Secretaries.

2. It shall meet and organize immediately after the adjournment of the General Executive Committee, by the election of a Chairman and Secretary.

3. This Committee shall take charge of the missionary periodicals of the Society and arrange for the publication of an Annual Report of the work of the Society. This Committee shall report annually to the General Executive Committee.

4. The publisher shall give the Chairman an itemized report for the receipts and expenditures of the periodicals, properly audited, by the first of October. If she finds it necessary to deviate from the published instructions of the General Executive Committee, she shall lay the matter before this Committee, and be subject to its direction.

5. A Committee of Three shall be appointed annually by the Constitutional Publication Committee, to whom shall be intrusted the investment and control of the funds of these publications.

6. The publisher shall commence and close her financial year with October 1st.

7. If the office of editor or publisher becomes vacant during this year, this Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE.

There shall be a Literature Committee of Three, whose duty it shall be to provide all the literature of the Society except the periodicals and the General Executive Committee's Report.

ARTICLE VII.

CO-ORDINATE BRANCHES.

Section 1. Co-ordinate Branches of this Society, on their acceptance of this relationship under the provisions of the Constitution, may be organized in accordance with the following general plan for districting the territory of the Church:

Name.	Headquarters.
New England Branch.....	Boston, Mass.
New England States.	
New York Branch.....	New York, N. Y.
New York, New Jersey.	
Philadelphia Branch.....	Philadelphia, Pa.
Pennsylvania and Delaware.	
Baltimore Branch.....	Baltimore, Md.
Maryland, District of Columbia, Eastern Virginia, and Florida.	

Name.	Headquarters.
Cincinnati Branch.....	Cincinnati, O. Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee.
Northwestern Branch.....	Chicago, Ill. Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin.
Des Moines Branch.....	Des Moines, Ia. Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana.
Minneapolis Branch.....	Minneapolis, Minn. Minnesota, North and South Dakota.
Topeka Branch.....	Topeka, Kan. Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.
Pacific Branch.....	Los Angeles, Cal. California, Nevada, Arizona, and Hawaii.
Columbia River Branch.....	Portland, Ore. Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

This plan, however, may be changed by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of the General Executive Committee present at any annual meeting of the same.

Section 2. The officers of each Branch Society shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, an Auditor, and such other officers as shall be necessary for the efficient work of the Branch. These, with

the exception of Auditor, shall constitute an Executive Committee for the administration of the affairs of the Branch, nine of whom shall be a quorum for the transaction of business. These officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Branch, and shall continue in office until others are chosen in their stead.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall have supervision of the work assigned to the Branch by the General Executive Committee, provide for all the needs, and receive reports from all forms of work carried on by the Society, who, by the plan of the General Executive Committee, are to be supported by the Branch.

Section 4. No Branch shall project new work, or undertake the support of new missionaries, except by the direction or with the approval of the General Executive Committee.

Section 5. Each Branch may make such by-laws as may be deemed necessary to its efficiency, not inconsistent with this Constitution.

ARTICLE VIII.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

District Associations shall be formed wherever practicable; said Associations to have supervision of all Auxiliaries within their limits.

ARTICLE IX.

AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

Any number of women who shall contribute annually may form a Society auxiliary to that Branch of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, within whose prescribed territorial limits they may reside, by appointing a President, one or more Vice-Presidents or Managers, a Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer, who together shall constitute a local Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X.

RELATING TO THE MISSIONARY AUTHORITIES OF THE CHURCH.

Section 1. This Society shall work in harmony with and under the supervision of the authorities of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The appointment, recall, and remuneration of missionaries, and the designation of their fields of labor, shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and annual appropriations to mission fields shall be submitted for revision and approval to the General Missionary Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Section 2. All missionaries sent out by this Society shall labor under the direction of the particular Conference or Missions of the Church in which they may be severally employed. They shall be annually appointed by the President of the Conference or Mission, and shall be subject to the same rules of removal that govern the other missionaries.

Section 3. All the work of the Woman's Society in foreign lands shall be under the direction of the Conference or Missions, and their Committees, in exactly the same manner as the work of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Superintendent or Presiding Elder having the same relation to the work and the person in charge that he would have were it in charge of any other member or the Conference or Mission.

Section 4. The funds of the Society shall not be raised by collections or subscriptions taken during any of our regular Church services, nor in any Sunday-schools, but shall be raised by such methods as the Constitution of the Society shall provide, none of which shall interfere with the contributions of our people and Sunday-schools for the treasury of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and the amount so collected shall be reported by the pas-

tor to the Annual Conference, and be entered in a column among the benevolent collections in the Annual and General Minutes.

Section 5. Section 4 of this paragraph (§ 362) shall not be so interpreted as to prevent the women from taking collections in meetings convened in the interests of their Societies; nor from securing memberships and life-memberships in audiences where their work is represented; nor from holding festivals, or arranging lectures in the interest of their work.

ARTICLE XI.

CHANGE OF CONSTITUTION.

This Constitution may be changed at any annual meeting of the General Executive Committee, by a three-fourths vote of those present and voting, notice of the proposed change having been given at the previous annual meeting; but Article X shall not be changed except with the concurrence of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION.

Notice of the following changes in Constitution were given at the General Executive Committee held in Philadelphia, 1901:

Notice is hereby given that the following change is asked in Article III of the Constitution: In place of the words, "The payment of one dollar annually shall constitute membership," insert the words, "The payment of ten cents a month shall constitute membership." When this is adopted, a by-law shall be framed, providing that twenty cents of this amount *may* be used as contingent funds.

MRS. L. P. HAUSER,

MRS. I. W. JOYCE,

MRS. L. R. MCKINSTRY.

Mrs. Keen presented the following proposed Constitutional changes:

Articles I and II under Constitutional Publication Committee to remain the same, but Article III modified to read:

Article III. All cases of emergency concerning publications arising in the interim of the sessions of the General Executive Committee shall be submitted to the Constitutional Publica-

tion Committee, and the case shall be decided by the majority vote.

Article IV. As Article III. This Committee shall take charge of the missionary periodicals of the Society, and arrange for the publication of an Annual Report of the work of the Society, and shall have supervision of all business concerning the publications.

This Committee shall report annually to the General Executive Committee.

Article V. As Article IV. Same as printed to last line, where add, "She shall report semi-annually to the Constitutional Publication Committee."

Article VI. Same as Article V.

Article VII. Same as Article VI.

Article VIII. If the office of editor, publisher, or member of Literature Committee becomes vacant during the year, this Committee shall have power to fill the vacancy. Add at the end of Literature Committee, "and shall report semi-annually to the Constitutional Publication Committee."

Mrs. O'Neal gave notice of change of Constitution in Article V, to insert, after Literature Committee, "Superintendent of Little Light Bearers."

FORMS FOR WILL AND DEVISE.

Special attention is called to the following form of bequest and devise required by the incorporation of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society:

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I hereby give and bequeath to the "Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," incorporated under the laws of the State of New York.....dollars to be paid to the Treasurer of said Society, whose receipt shall be sufficient acquittance to my executors therefor.

FORM OF DEVISE OF REAL ESTATE.

I hereby give and devise to the "Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," (describe land, etc., intended to be given to the Society) and to their successors and assigns forever.

. NOTE.—Prompt notice of all bequests and devises should be given to the Corresponding Secretary of the Branch within which the donor resides.

Mrs. H. B. Skidmore, 230 West 59th Street, New York, is the Treasurer of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, with power to sign release to executors, through whom the Society may receive bequests, and to perform such other acts as are required by the Act of Incorporation, and which can not be legally executed by Branch Treasurers.

The following resolution was adopted at the General Executive Committee at Springfield, Mass., and ordered published in the Annual Report:

Resolved, That the Treasurer of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of New York, be authorized to accept and receive all gifts and legacies to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, or to any Branch thereof, and to give all suitable receipts, releases, and acquittances therefor, under the corporate seal, or otherwise; and also, by the direction of a majority of the members of the Reference Committee given either at a meeting of said Committee, or separately by the individuals comprising the same, to execute under the corporate seal, acknowledge, and deliver conveyances or re-

leases of any land or property owned, held, or claimed by the said Society, or any other instrument necessary or useful for the promotion of the purposes of said Society.

LUCY A. ALDERMAN,	SARAH E. CRANDON,
HARRIET B. SKIDMORE,	MARY S. HUSTON,
SARAH L. KEEN,	CHARLOTTE S. WINCHELL,
ELIZA P. STEVENS,	MATILDA WATSON,
ELLEN T. COWEN,	ELIZABETH M. CROW.

CHARTER
OF THE
WOMAN'S HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF THE
Methodist Episcopal Church.

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

The undersigned, a majority of whom are citizens of the State of Ohio, desiring to become incorporated under the laws of Ohio, in such cases made and provided, do hereby subscribe and acknowledge the following Articles of Incorporation:

First. The name of the corporation shall be "The Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church."

Second. The said corporation shall be located at Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio.

Third. The said corporation is not for profit, but is wholly benevolent and charitable.

Fourth. The purpose and objects of the corporation shall be to enlist and organize Christian women to labor in behalf of needy and destitute women and children in all parts of our country, without distinction of race, and to co-operate with the other Societies and agencies of The Methodist Episcopal Church in educational and missionary work; to employ women to work in destitute localities; to instruct the ignorant and unfortunate in the practice of industry and economy; and in the principles of sanitary law and morality, and to establish schools and evangelistic agencies throughout the United States and Territories.

Thus done and certified at Cincinnati, Ohio, this 20th day of November, A. D. 1884.

ELIZA G. DAVIS,	[SEAL]
ELIZABETH RUST,	“
E. J. FOWLER WILLING,	“
M. E. AMPT,	“
LOUISA HEMESATH,	“

THE STATE OF OHIO, }
HAMILTON COUNTY. } ss.

Be it remembered that on the 20th day of November, 1884, before me the subscriber, a Notary Public in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Eliza G. Davis, Elizabeth

Rust, E. J. Fowler Willing, M. E. Ampt, and Louisa Hemesath, known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing Articles of Incorporation, and severally acknowledged that they respectively signed and sealed the same as their voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my Notarial Seal, the day and year last aforesaid.

[SEAL]

WM. J. T. WILSON,

Notary Public, Hamilton County, O.

THE STATE OF OHIO, }
HAMILTON COUNTY. } ss.

I, Daniel J. Dalton, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, a Court of Record within and for the County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that it appears of record in this office that Wm. J. T. Wilson, whose name is subscribed to the annexed instrument, was at the time of taking such proof, or acknowledgment, a Notary Public in and for said County, duly commissioned and qualified, and duly authorized to administer oaths, to take acknowledgments of deeds, etc.

And further, that I am well acquainted with the handwriting of said Wm. J. T. Wilson, and verily believe that the signature to the said cer-

tificate, or proof of acknowledgment, is genuine. I further certify that said instrument is executed and acknowledged according to the laws of this State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the Seal of said Court, at Cincinnati, this 21st day of November, A. D. 1884.

[SEAL] DANIEL J. DALTON, *Clerk,*
By RICHARD C. ROHNER, *Deputy.*

[Certificate under Section 906, Revised Statutes
of the United States.]

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, STATE OF OHIO. }
Office of the Secretary of State. }

I, Lewis C. Laylin, Secretary of State of the State of Ohio, and being the officer who, under the Constitution and Laws of said State, is duly constituted the keeper of the records of articles of incorporation of all companies incorporated under the laws thereof, and the records of all papers relating to the creation of said incorporated companies, and empowered to authenticate exemplifications of the same, do hereby certify that the annexed instrument is an exemplified copy, carefully compared by me with the original record now in my official custody as Sec-

retary of State, and found to be true and correct, of the Articles of Incorporation of "The Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," filed in this office on the 22d day of November, A. D. 1884, and recorded in Volume 31, Page 242, of the Records of Incorporations; that said exemplification is in due form and made by me as the proper officer, and is entitled to have full faith and credit given it in every court and office within the United States.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto attached my official signature and the Great Seal of the State of Ohio, at Columbus, this 1st day of March, A. D. 1902.

[SEAL]

LEWIS C. LAYLIN,
Secretary of State.
(Signed)

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
WOMAN'S HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF THE
Methodist Episcopal Church.

ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1900,
WITH VERBAL CHANGES, AUTHORIZED BY
THE BOARD OF MANAGERS IN NEW
YORK CITY, NOVEMBER, 1901.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

This organization shall be known as the
"Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Meth-
odist Episcopal Church."

ARTICLE II.

OBJECTS.

The aim of this Society shall be to enlist and
organize the efforts of Christian women in be-

half of the needy and destitute in all sections of our country, and to co-operate with the other Societies and agencies of the Church in educational, missionary, and deaconess work.

ARTICLE III.

ORGANIZATION.

Section 1. This Society shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio. The headquarters and principal office of the Society shall be in the city of Cincinnati. The officers of the Society shall be a President, five Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and twelve Managers (twenty-one in all), who together shall constitute the Board of Trustees. There shall also be seven Associate Managers, who, with the Secretaries of Bureaus, shall be entitled to sit with the Board of Trustees and participate in its deliberations.

Section 2. Vacancies in the Board of Trustees occurring *ad interim* shall be filled by the Board.

Section 3. The regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held in November, February, May, and September. Special meetings may be held at the call of the President and Recording Secretary, and eleven shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. The duties of the Board of Trustees shall be:

(1) To execute all orders of the Board of Managers.

(2) To determine all matters referred to it by the Board of Managers.

(3) To administer all the affairs of the Society between the annual sessions of the Board of Managers.

Section 5. The Annual Meeting of the Board of Managers shall be held in the city of Cincinnati, unless otherwise provided. The Board of Managers shall consist of the Board of Trustees and such of the following persons as shall be in attendance at the Annual Meeting, viz.: The Associate Managers, the Secretaries of Bureaus, the General Organizers, the Chairman of Standing Committees appointed or confirmed by the Society at its Annual Meeting, the Editor and Publisher of *Woman's Home Missions*, the Editor of *Children's Home Missions*, the Editor of the Annual Report, and the Corresponding Secretary of and one delegate from each Conference Society.

Section 6. The work of the Annual Meeting shall be:

(1) To elect the officers of the Society and the Associate Managers as indicated in Section 1.

(2) To take into consideration the demands of the entire work of the Society, to receive the reports of the Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, of Secretaries of Bureaus, of Conference Secretaries, and Standing Committees, to determine the fields of labor, to estimate the needs of the various fields, and to make appropriations for the ensuing year.

(3) To transact any other business that the interests of the Society may demand; provided all its plans and enactments be in harmony with the Constitution.

Section 7. The duties of the President, Vice-Presidents, and Recording Secretary shall be such as usually devolve upon such officers.

Section 8. The duty of the Corresponding Secretary shall be to make herself acquainted with the needs and opportunities of the mission-fields, to correspond with the Bureau and Conference Secretaries, and to secure from them such details of their work as will be necessary to make quarterly reports to the Board of Trustees, and annual reports to the Board of Managers concerning the condition and needs of the mission-fields.

Section 9. The Treasurer shall keep an account of the receipts and disbursements of the Society, and make a report of the same at the

Annual Meeting of the Board of Managers, and at each regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. She shall pay the appropriations made by the Board of Managers, and such bills as the Board of Trustees may approve. The accounts shall be audited by a committee elected by ballot at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE IV.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION.

Section 1. A Conference Society shall consist of all the Auxiliary Societies in a given Conference, together with a Conference Executive Board. It shall take the name of the Conference in which it is located.

Section 2. The officers of the Conference Society shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary (who may also be Treasurer), a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer. These, together with the officers of the districts, shall constitute the Executive Board of the Conference Society for the administration of the affairs of the Society, and five shall constitute a quorum. These officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Conference Society, and hold office till others are chosen.

Section 3. The duties of the Executive Board of the Conference Society shall be: To plan for the establishment and growth of the Society within the Conference bounds; to provide for an Annual Meeting and arrange Anniversary exercises; to transact any other business that the interest of the Society may demand, provided its action be in harmony with this Constitution.

Section 4. (1) The duties of the President and Recording Secretary shall be such as usually appertain to their respective officers, and to cooperate with the Corresponding Secretary and other officers in organizing and conducting the work.

(2) The duties of the Corresponding Secretary shall be to attend the session of the Annual Conference; to create interest in the work of the Society; to organize Auxiliary Societies in the various charges in the Conference; to conduct the correspondence of the Society; to forward quarterly to the General Corresponding Secretary a statement of the work of the Conference Society (as per blank provided); and to present an annual report to the Board of Managers at its Annual Meeting.

(3) The duty of the Treasurer shall be to receive and to forward quarterly to the General Treasurer the funds of the Society.

(4) Special Work. Individuals, Auxiliaries, or Conference Societies may, subject to the approval of the Conference Board and of the Board of Trustees, raise special funds for the purchase of property for the building or care of Homes, for the support of teachers, deaconesses, or pupils in the schools or Homes of the Society.

ARTICLE V.

AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

Any number of women who shall organize under the Constitution and By-laws for Auxiliaries and pay their annual dues, thereby become a Society auxiliary to the Conference Society, and are entitled to one delegate for every twenty members to the Annual Meeting of the Conference Society, provided that each Auxiliary shall have one delegate.

ARTICLE VI.

MEMBERSHIP.

The payment of one dollar annually shall constitute membership in the Society, and the payment of twenty dollars life membership. Any person paying one hundred dollars shall become an Honorary Manager for life, and the contribution of three hundred dollars shall constitute the donor an Honorary Patron for life.

ARTICLE VII.

RELATION TO OTHER BRANCHES OF CHURCH WORK.

Section 1. This Society shall engage in educational, missionary, and deaconess labor, exclusively in our own land, and shall work in harmony with the connectional Societies of the Church.

The missionaries supported by the Woman's Home Missionary Society shall labor under the direction of the authorities of the Missionary Society, and if in a mission shall be subject to the same rules and regulations that govern the other missionaries in that particular mission.

Section 2. The funds of the Woman's Home Missionary Society shall not be raised by collection, nor by subscriptions taking during any regular Church service, nor in Sunday-schools, but shall be raised by securing members, life members, honorary members, managers, and patrons, by collections taken in audiences convened in the interests of the Society, and by other methods which will not interfere with the collections and contributions for the Treasury of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and the amounts so collected shall be reported to the Annual Conference through the preachers in charge, in order that they may be entered among

the benevolent collections, and published in the Annual and General Minutes.

Section 3. The Annual Meeting of the Board of Managers of the Woman's Home Missionary Society, which determines its work for the ensuing year, shall be so arranged that its fields of labor, its general plans of work, and its appropriations may be submitted to the General Missionary Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church for approval at its Annual Meeting in November.

ARTICLE VIII.

This Constitution, except Article VII, may be amended by the Board of Managers at its Annual Meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, three months' notice of the proposed change having been sent to each organization, and published in *Woman's Home Missions*.

Amendments to Article VII may be proposed as above, but to become effective must be approved by the General Conference.

CHARTER
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

As enacted by the Legislature of the State of New York, April 14, 1869, and amended by an Act of the said Legislature passed February 17, 1885.

For the action of the General Conference authorizing the Board to secure such an amendment to its Charter see Journal of the General Conference of 1884, pages 251, 353.

For the full text of the Act of Amendment see Chapter 19 of the Laws of the State of New York, enacted in the year 1885.

CHARTER.

An Act to Establish and Incorporate The Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Passed April 14, 1869.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Edmund S. Janes, Calvin Kingsley, John W. Lindsay, John McClintock, William L. Harris, Thomas Bowman, John Elliott, Oliver Hoyt, Charles C. North, Harvey B. Lane, James Harlan, Isaac Rich, and their successors in office as hereinafter provided for, are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name and style of The Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and such corporation is and shall be capable of purchasing, holding, and conveying such real estate as the purposes of the said corporation shall require; but the annual income of the real estate held by it at any one time within the State of New York shall not exceed the sum of thirty thousand dollars.

Objects. Section 2. The object of the said corporation shall be to diffuse more generally the blessings of education and Christianity throughout the United States and elsewhere, under the direction of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Section 3. The government of the said corporation, and the management of its property, business, and affairs, are hereby vested in a Board Management. which consist of twelve Trustees, of whom six shall be ministers, two of these bishops, and six laymen, all of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which number five shall be a quorum, and competent to act at any regular or adjourned meeting thereof; and the said Trustees, as such, shall constitute the said corporation.

Section 4. The persons first herein named shall be and act as the first Board of Trustees Trustees. of the said corporation, classified as follows, namely: From the first day of May, 1868, for *four* years, Calvin Kingsley, William L. Harris, Harvey B. Lane, Isaac Rich; for *eight* years, Edmund S. Janes, John McClintock, Charles C. North, James Harlan; for *twelve* years, John W. Lindsay, Thomas Bowman, John Elliott, Oliver Hoyt; and the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at each regular session shall elect four Trustees to serve for twelve years, to fill the places vacated according to the above classification; *Provided*, however, that all vacancies occurring more than six months before the session of the General Conference shall be filled by the bishops of said Church, the persons so appointed to hold office only up to the time of the General

Conference, when their places shall be held as vacant, and shall be filled by said General Conference; *Provided*, also, that should any one of the Trustees of said corporation cease to be a member or minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, his office and membership as said Trustee shall at the same time cease.

Powers. Section 5. The Board of Trustees herein provided for shall have such power as may be necessary for the management of the affairs and property of said corporation not inconsistent with this Charter or the rules and regulations of said General Conference, and shall make quadrennial reports to that body; and it shall be the duty of the Board to receive and securely invest the principal of the Centenary Educational Fund of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and to appropriate the interest only, from time to time, to the following purposes, to wit:

Purposes. To aid young men preparing for the foreign missionary work of the Methodist Episcopal Church; to aid young men preparing for the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church;

To the aid of the Biblical or theological schools now in existence, and of such others as may, with the approval of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, hereafter be established; to the aid of the universities,

colleges, or academies existing under the patronage of said Church, or which may hereafter be established;

Provided, that no appropriation shall be made by the Board at any time for building purposes, whether for Biblical schools or for universities, colleges, or academies; and provided, further, that no university, college, or academy not now in existence shall be aided by the Board unless the Board shall first have been consulted and shall have approved of the establishment and organization of such institution. Can not build.

All future contributions of money or property made to the Fund shall be held in trust by the Board for the aid of needy and worthy young persons seeking an education, or for such specific educational purposes as the donors shall direct.

It shall also be the duty of said Board of Education to receive, separately invest, and augment the Sunday-school Children's Fund, commenced during the centenary year, and to appropriate only the interest and income thereof, and of all contributions thereto received prior to the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, to assist meritorious Sunday-school scholars in obtaining a more advanced education; provided, however, that the said Board of Education may appropriate immediately, in aid

Aid Sunday-school
Children's Fund.

of students, such a proportion of the principal of all gifts and contributions to said Sunday-school Children's Fund, which may be received after said first day of January in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, as will enable it to provide suitably for the aid of all properly-recommended students; and if any surplus remain in any year after appropriating so much of the principal of such gifts and contributions as may be requisite for the purpose aforesaid, such surplus shall be added to the permanent Sunday-school Children's Fund, accumulated and invested by said Board of Education prior to the said first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five.

Annual Conference
participants.

Each Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in behalf of properly-recommended students from within its bounds, shall be entitled to share equitably in the income of the permanent Sunday-school Children's Fund aforesaid, and in the appropriation of gifts and contributions to the Sunday-school Children's Fund received after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five; provided, no Conference shall share in the income or distribution of said Fund which shall not take annual collections in behalf of this Fund in the Sunday-schools within the bounds of said Conference.

The Board shall also serve as a general agency of the Church in behalf of ministerial and general education. It shall recognize as auxiliaries all educational societies now existing within the Church, and which may hereafter be formed, on condition that such societies send an annual report of their statistics to the Board. Any Annual Conference may form an Educational Society, auxiliary to the Board of Education, with the understanding that all collections or contributions for educational purposes made by order of said Conference shall be appropriated at its discretion. All contributions to permanent funds made by order of an Annual Conference may be held and administered by the Conference Auxiliary, if it be incorporated, and, if not, shall be forwarded to said Board of Education, to be held in trust for the purposes specified by the donors.

Ministerial
education.

The Board shall seek to promote the cause of education throughout the Church by collecting and publishing statistics, by furnishing plans for educational buildings, and by giving counsel with regard to the location and organization of new institutions, and shall also have authority to constitute a general agency for communication between teachers desiring employment and those needing their services.

Statistics.

Aid.

Section 6. The said Trustees at the first meet-

Organize Board. ing of the said Board, and annually thereafter, shall organize said Board by the election from their number of a President, Secretary, and Treasurer; and shall have power to adopt and enforce a Constitution, and such By-laws, Rules, and Regulations, not inconsistent with the Constitution or laws of this State, or of the United States, as may be deemed advisable for the government of the business and affairs of said corporation, and for the regulation of the action of the said Board, its officers and agents, in the discharge of its and their duties, in fully executing and carrying into effect the objects, intents, and purposes of this act; but the acts of the said Trustee, as such, shall be subject at all times and subordinate to the directions and instructions of said General Conference relative thereto.

May receive and hold grants.

Section 7. The said corporation shall be capable of taking, receiving, and holding any real or personal property by virtue of any devise or bequest contained in any last will or testament of any person whomsoever, subject, however, to the limitation expressed in the first section of this Act, and subject also to the restrictions upon devises and bequests contained in an Act entitled "An Act Relating to Wills," passed April thirteenth, one thousand eight hundred and sixty;

and the said corporation shall be also competent to act as a Trustee in respect to any devise or bequest pertaining to the object of said corporation, and devises and bequests of real or personal property may be made directly to said corporation or in trust for any of the purposes comprehended in the general objects of said society, and such trusts may continue for such time as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes for which they may be created.

May act as trustee.

Section 8. The said corporation shall also possess the general powers, and be subject to the liabilities, specified in and by the Third Title of Chapter Eighteen of the First Part of the Revised Statutes of the State of New York.

Section 9. This Act shall take effect immediately.

CONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

ARTICLE I.

OBJECT AND DESIGN.

The object of this Board is, to promote theological and general education in the Methodist Episcopal Church under the conditions prescribed by the Charter and by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

ARTICLE II.

TRUSTEES.

The Board shall consist of twelve Trustees, chosen as provided in the Charter, section 4, and with the powers and duties prescribed in the Charter, sections 5, 6, 7, and 8.

ARTICLE III.

OFFICERS.

The officers of this Board shall consist of a President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer, to

be elected at the annual meeting. Besides these officers, the Board may appoint such other officers or agents, paid or unpaid, as may from time to time be necessary in the judgment of the Board to carry out its objects. The duties of all the officers shall be prescribed in the By-laws.

All elections shall be by ballot, unless the ballot be dispensed with by a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting.

ARTICLE IV.

QUORUM.

Five members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings of the Board.

ARTICLE V.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

There shall be annually appointed three members of the Board who shall constitute the Standing Committee on Finance, to whose care and management shall be intrusted the funds of the corporation, the fixing and changing the official bonds of the Treasurer, and the proper investment and appropriation of the moneys and revenues of the corporation, under the direction of the Board of Trustees; and no investments or

securities shall be changed by the Treasurer without the consent of a majority of this Committee first obtained by resolution adopted at a regular meeting thereof; and minutes of all the proceedings of the Finance Committee shall be kept and submitted to the stated meetings of the Board of Trustees for approval.

ARTICLE VI.

AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

Section 1. Any Annual Conference or Associate Conferences may form an Education Society auxiliary to the Board of Education with the understanding that all collections or contributions for educational purposes, made to such Education Society, shall be appropriated at its own discretion. All contributions to permanent funds made by order of an Annual Conference may be held and administered by the Conference Auxiliary if it be incorporated, and if not, shall be forwarded to this Board of Education to be held and administered for the purposes specified by the donors.

Section 2. All Auxiliary Societies are required to send annually a report of their doings to this Board.

ARTICLE VII.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL FUND.

Section 1. It shall be a special interest and duty of this Board to augment the Sunday-school Children's Fund commenced during the centenary year, and to appropriate its proceeds according to the directions of the Charter and of the General Conference.

Section 2. No Conference shall share in the proceeds of money contributed hereafter to this fund which shall not direct that annual collections be taken up in its behalf in the Sunday-schools within the bounds of said Conference, according to the recommendation of the General Conference fixing on the second Sunday in the month of June as the Children's-day; said collection to be taken on that day, if possible, and, if not, on such other day as may be found practicable.

ARTICLE VIII.

OF CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION.

The Board of Trustees may, at any stated meeting, or at a special meeting called for the purpose, make amendments to this Constitution not inconsistent with the Charter, provided that such amendment or amendments shall have been

proposed at a previous meeting, and shall be passed by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board.

UNIVERSITY SENATE.

Section 1. There shall be a University Senate of the Methodist Episcopal Church quadrennially appointed by the bishops under the authority of the General Conference. It shall be composed of persons actively engaged in the work of education, one from each General Conference District and one at large. It is not required that the Conference relation of a ministerial member be held in the General Conference District which he represents, provided his residence and educational work are within such District. If, in consequence of the retirement of a member from educational work, or from any other cause, a vacancy occur in the body during the quadrennium, it shall be the duty of the bishops at their next semi-annual meeting to fill said vacancy.

Section 2. The Senate shall determine and at least quadrennially revise the minimum equivalents of academic work to be required for promotion to the Baccalaureate degrees in the educational institutions of our Church. The curricula thus determined shall provide for the historical and literary study of the Bible in the vernacular.

Section 3. At the written request of the President and Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Education, or at the written request of any three of its own members, the Senate shall investigate the scholastic requirements and methods of any designated institution claiming to be under the patronage of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and shall report to the Board of Education its decision as to whether the requirements and methods of said institution are such as to justify its official recognition by the authorities of the Church. Such decision shall thereafter govern the action of the Board of Education.

Section 4. The Senate shall at least quadrennially report to the Board of Education its requirements and decisions, and on the basis of these the Board of Education shall in its official lists and in its administration classify the educational institutions of the Church, whatever their legal or self-chosen name may be.

CHARTER OF THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION.

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Sunday-school Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Acts Amendatory thereof. Passed April 11, 1874.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The Act entitled an "Act to Incorporate the Sunday-school Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church," passed February four, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, and any Act amendatory thereof, or relating to said Society, are hereby respectively amended so as to read as follows:

Section 2. The several persons now composing the said Society, and all persons who may become associated with them, and their successors, are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic, by the name of the "Sunday-school Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church," and by that

name they and their successors shall and may have perpetual succession, and shall, in law, be capable of suing and being sued in any court whatever, and may have and use a common seal, and may alter the same at pleasure; and such corporation is and shall be capable of purchasing, holding, and conveying such real and personal estate as the purposes of the said corporation shall require, not exceeding in amount the sum of five hundred thousand dollars; but the annual income of the real estate held by it at any one time within the State of New York shall not exceed the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars.

Section 3. The objects of the said corporation are charitable and religious; designed to advance the interests and promote the cause of Sabbath-schools in connection with the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States and elsewhere.

Section 4. The management and disposition of the affairs and property of the said corporation shall be vested in a Board of Managers, composed of thirty-two laymen of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and thirty-two traveling ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, appointed by the General Conference of said Church, at its quadrennial sessions, and of the bishops of said Church, who shall be *ex officio* members of said Board. Such Managers

as were appointed by said General Conference at its last session shall be entitled to act as such, from and after the passage of this Act, until they or others appointed by the ensuing General Conference shall assume their duties. Any such Board of Managers may fill any vacancy happening therein until the term shall commence of the Managers appointed by an ensuing General Conference. Said Board of Managers shall have such power as may be necessary for the management and disposition of the affairs and property of the said corporation, in conformity with the Constitution of said Society, as it now exists, or as it may be from time to time amended by the General Conference, and to elect the officers of the Society, except as herein otherwise provided; and such Board of Managers shall be subordinate to any directions or regulations made, or to be made, by said General Conference.

Section 5. Thirteen members of the said Board of Managers, at any meeting thereof, shall be a sufficient number for the transaction of business. The Corresponding Secretaries and the Treasurer of said Society shall be elected by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and shall hold their offices for four years, or until their successors are elected; and in case

of a vacancy by resignation, death, or otherwise, the bishops of the said Methodist Episcopal Church shall fill any vacancy in the office till the ensuing General Conference. And, until otherwise provided by the General Conference, said Board of Managers may appoint and remove at pleasure the Treasurer of said corporation.

Section 6. The said corporation shall be capable of taking, receiving, or holding any real or personal estate, by virtue of any devise contained in any last will and testament of any person whomsoever; subject, however, to the limitation expressed in the second section of this Act as to the aggregate amount of such real estate, and also to the provisions of an Act entitled "An Act Relating to Wills," passed April thirteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty; and the said corporation shall be also competent to act as a Trustee in respect to any devise or bequest pertaining to the objects of said corporation, and devises and bequests of real or personal property may be made directly to said corporation, or in trust, for any of the purposes comprehended in the general objects of said Society, and such trusts may continue for such time as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes for which they may be created.

Section 7. The said corporation shall also possess the general powers specified in and by the Third Title of Chapter Eighteen of the First Part of the Revised Statutes of the State of New York.

Section 8. This Act shall take effect immediately.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION.

(Adopted by the General Conference at Cincinnati,
May 27, 1880.)

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

The title of this Association shall be the Sunday-school Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECT.

The object of this Society shall be to promote the cause of Sunday-schools in connection with the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States and elsewhere.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

The payment of ten dollars at one time to this Society shall constitute an Honorary Member for life; and the payment of fifty dollars at one time an Honorary Director for life.

ARTICLE IV.

The funds of the Society shall be expended at the discretion of the Board of Managers in defraying the current expenses of the Union and in forwarding the object contemplated by the second article of the Constitution.

In all cases of application for aid, if relief be deemed necessary, it shall be granted in Sunday-school publications of the Methodist Episcopal Church only, unless the circumstances seem to demand the appropriation of money. In case of more calls on the Board for aid than they can meet, they shall appropriate to the relief of the most necessitous cases first, without respect to location.

ARTICLE V.

PRESIDENT.

The senior bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church shall be President of the Society. The remaining bishops shall be its Vice-Presidents, ranking in order of seniority. An honorary Vice-President may be appointed by each Annual Conference. There shall be appointed for this Society by the General Conference a Treasurer and a Corresponding Secretary, who shall be the editor of the Sunday-school publications. The other officers of this Society shall be a Recording

Secretary and two elected Vice-Presidents, who shall severally be appointed by the Board of Managers at the regular quarterly-meeting held in June of each year.

ARTICLE VI.
ANNIVERSARY.

A public anniversary of the Society shall be held each year at such time and place as the Board of Managers shall determine.

ARTICLE VII.
POWERS OF BOARD.

The Board of Managers shall have the power to form their own By-laws; to fill vacancies occurring in the intervals of General Conference; to remove the Treasurer from office for cause to them sufficient, but only after a fair investigation before a quorum of the Board with a bishop in the chair; to call special meetings of the Society whenever they shall deem necessary; to prepare and circulate such Sunday-school information, appeals, or directions as they may think proper; and also to offer such advice and suggestions as they may deem suitable to the Book Agents and editors regarding Sunday-school publications; to give orders on the Book Agents for such books

as may be needed; and to transact such other business as of right belongs to their station, and which the interests of the Union may demand.

ARTICLE VIII.

When any member of the Board shall have been absent from four consecutive regular meetings of the Board without sending an excuse, such absence shall be treated as a resignation, and the Board shall have authority to declare his place vacant and to fill it as other vacancies are filled.

ARTICLE IX.

AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution can not be altered except by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

CHARTER OF THE TRACT SOCIETY.

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Passed April 20, 1874.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The Act entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," passed April fifteenth, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, and any Act amendatory thereof, or relating to said Society, are hereby respectively amended so as to read as follows:

Section 2. The several persons now composing the said Society, and all other persons who may become associated with them, and their successors, are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic, by the name of "The Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," and by that name they and their successors shall and may have per-

petual succession, and shall, in law, be capable of suing and being sued in any court whatsoever, and may have and use a common seal, and may alter the same at pleasure; and such corporation is and shall be capable of purchasing, holding, and conveying such real and personal estate as the purposes of the said corporation shall require, not exceeding in amount five hundred thousand dollars; but the annual income of the real estate held by it at any one time within the State of New York shall not exceed the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars.

Section 3. The object of the said corporation shall be to diffuse the blessings of education, civilization, and Christianity, throughout the United States and elsewhere, by the publication and distribution of tracts, cheap publications, and books.

Section 4. The management and disposition of the affairs and property of the said corporation shall be vested in a Board of Managers, composed of thirty-two laymen of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and thirty-two traveling ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, appointed by the General Conference of said Church at its quadrennial sessions, and of the members of said Board. Such Managers as were bishops of said Church, who shall be *ex-officio*

appointed by said General Conference at its last session shall be entitled to act as such, from and after the passage of this Act, until they or others appointed by the ensuing General Conference shall assume their duties. Any such Board of Managers may fill any vacancy happening therein until the term shall commence of the Managers appointed by an ensuing General Conference. Said Board of Managers shall have such power as may be necessary for the management and disposition of the affairs and property of the said corporation, in conformity with the Constitution of said Society, as it now exists, or as it may be from time to time amended by the General Conference, and to elect the officers of the Society, except as herein otherwise provided; and such Board of Managers shall be subordinate to any directions or regulations made, or to be made, by said General Conference.

Section 5. Thirteen members of the said Board of Managers, at any meeting thereof, shall be a sufficient number for the transaction of business. The Corresponding Secretaries and the Treasurer of said Society shall be elected by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and shall hold their offices for four years, or until their successors are elected; and in case of a vacancy by resignation, death, or otherwise,

the bishops of the said Methodist Episcopal Church shall fill any vacancy in the office till the ensuing General Conference. And, until otherwise provided by the General Conference, said Board of Managers may appoint and remove at pleasure the Treasurer of said corporation.

Section 6. The said corporation shall be capable of taking, receiving, or holding any real or personal estate, by virtue of any devise contained in any last will and testament of any person whomsoever; subject, however, to the limitation expressed in the second section of this Act as to the aggregate amount of such real estate, and also to the provisions of an Act entitled "An Act relating to Wills," passed April eighteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty; and the said corporation shall be also competent to act as a trustee in respect to any devise or bequest pertaining to the objects of said corporation, and devises and bequests of real or personal property may be made directly to said corporation, or in trust for any of the purposes comprehended in the general objects of said Society, and such trusts may continue for such a time as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes for which they may be created.

Section 7. The said corporation shall also pos-

sess the general powers specified in and by the Third Title of Chapter Eighteen of the First Part of the Revised Statutes of the State of New York.

Section 8. This Act shall take effect immediately.

CONSTITUTION OF THE TRACT SOCIETY.

(Adopted by the General Conference at Cincinnati,
May 27, 1880.)

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

This Association shall be denominated the
Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECTS.

Its object shall be to diffuse knowledge by
the circulation of the publications of the Meth-
odist Episcopal Church in the English and other
languages in our own and foreign countries.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

Any person paying to this Society at one time
\$10 shall thereby become an honorary member
for life; and the payment of \$25 at one time
shall constitute an honorary director for life.

ARTICLE IV.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Persons constituted honorary life members by the payment of \$10, not designated for any special object, shall be entitled to receive tracts to the value of two dollars each year; or, if they prefer, they may receive tracts at any one time to the amount of half the sum paid.

ARTICLE V.

ANNIVERSARIES.

A public anniversary shall be held each year at such time and place as the Board of Managers shall determine.

ARTICLE VI.

PRESIDENT.

The senior bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church shall be President of the Society. The remaining bishops shall be its Vice-Presidents, ranking in the order of seniority. An honorary Vice-President may be appointed by each Annual Conference. There shall be appointed by the General Conference a Treasurer and a Corresponding Secretary, who shall be the editor of the tracts. The other officers of the Society shall be a Recording Secretary and two elected Vice-Presidents, who shall severally be appointed by

the Board of Managers at the regular quarterly-meeting held in June of each year.

ARTICLE VII.

EXPENDITURES.

The funds of this Society shall be expended under the direction of the Board of Managers in payment of the necessary expenses of the institution, and in the promotion of its general objects. In all cases of gratuitous aid, books and tracts shall be given instead of money, unless the latter is strictly necessary to the accomplishment of a constitutional object.

ARTICLE VIII.

POWERS OF BOARD.

The Board of Managers shall have power to enact their own by-laws; to fill vacancies in the Board occurring in the intervals of the General Conference; to remove the Treasurer from office, for cause to them sufficient, but only after a fair investigation before a quorum of the Board with a bishop in the chair; to provide for the translation and publication of tracts; to employ colporteurs; to print and circulate appeals to the Churches in behalf of the benevolent objects of the Society; to raise and disburse funds for those objects, and to establish committees of finance and appropriations wherever necessary.

ARTICLE IX.

AUXILIARIES.

Each Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church may form a Conference Tract Society auxiliary to this, with power to adopt such measures as in the judgment of said Conference are best calculated to promote the objects of this association, and to form sub-auxiliaries in its several circuits and stations. The Presidents of the Conference Auxiliaries shall be honorary Vice-Presidents of this Society, or, where there is no Auxiliary, the Conference may appoint an honorary Vice-President.

ARTICLE X.

VACANCIES.

When any member of the Board shall have been absent from four consecutive regular meetings of the Board without sending an excuse, such absence shall be deemed a resignation, and the Board shall have authority to declare the place vacant, and to fill it as other vacancies are filled.

ARTICLE XI.

AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution can not be altered except by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

REVISED CHARTER
OF THE
BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

As embodied in the Original Act of Incorporation, approved March 13, 1865; and a Supplement thereto, approved March 11, 1869; and modified by a further Supplement, approved February 26, 1873.

WHEREAS, The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at a session held in the city of Brooklyn, in the State of New York, did, on the twenty-eighth day of May, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two, provide for the appointment of a Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and did on the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two, designate the persons constituting the Board of Managers of the Church Extension Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in-

corporated by an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Church Extension Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," approved the thirteenth day of March, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, to constitute said Board of Church Extension; and

WHEREAS, The Church Extension Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, incorporated as aforesaid, did at the regular annual meeting of the said Society, duly convened in the city of Philadelphia, on the twenty-second day of November, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two, unanimously concur with the aforesaid action of the General Conference of the said Methodist Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Managers of the said Church Extension Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church has, in pursuance of the action of the said Society and of the action of the General Conference aforesaid, petitioned the General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania for an Act amendatory to the Act of Incorporation of said Church Extension Society to conform with the action of said Church Extension Society and the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as hereinbefore recited; now, therefore,

Section 1. *Be it enacted*, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same: That the name of the said corporation be and is hereby changed from that of the Church Extension Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church to that of the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Section 2. That Thomas T. Tasker, Sr. (and others named), and their successors, and such others persons who are now or shall hereafter be associated with them as members of said Board, upon the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, be and they are hereby enacted into a body politic and corporate in deed and in law by the
Corporate name. name, style, and title of "The Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church," and by that name shall have perpetual succession, and be able to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in any court of law and equity, and elsewhere, and shall be able and capable in law
Powers. and equity to take and hold to them and their successors, either by gift, devise, grant, bargain, sale, release, or otherwise, any lands, real estate whatsoever, and also to take and hold, for the use of said Board, any goods and chattels, sum or sums of money and other personal property

whatever, by gift, grant, bargain, sale, will, devise, bequest, or otherwise, from any person whatever, capable of making the same; and the said real and personal estate to grant, bargain, sell, mortgage, alien, and dispose of at their pleasure, and generally to do all and singular the matter and things which shall be lawful for them to do for the well-being and due management of the affairs of the said Board. *Provided*, That the real estate of the said Board shall not exceed the net yearly income of one hundred thousand dollars. Annuities.

Section 3. That it shall be lawful for the said Board of Church Extension to accept contributions to the funds of said Board from any person or persons capable of making the same, subject to an annuity payable to the order of the persons making such donations. *Provided, however*, That all amounts so received shall be loaned by said Board on adequate securities; *and provided further*, That the aggregate amount of annuities that the said Board shall assume to pay shall never be allowed to exceed the annual interest receivable on the loans made by the said Board.

Section 4. That it shall and may be lawful for the said corporation to have a common seal, Seal. and the same at will and pleasure change, alter,

and renew, as they shall think proper, and shall have and exercise all the rights, privileges, and immunities, necessary for the purposes of the corporation hereby constituted, and as herein expressed.

Section 5. That the said Board of Church Extension shall be appointed by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and perpetuated in the manner set forth in the Book of Discipline of said Church; and the said Board shall be under the direction and control of the General Conference of the said Methodist Episcopal Church in all things not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of Pennsylvania.

Section 6. That the present Board of Managers of the Church Extension Society aforesaid shall constitute the said Board of Church Extension until the next ensuing session of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and until their successors are duly appointed as provided in the preceding section.

General Confer-
ence control.

Tenure.

(HISTORIC.)

EARLY CONSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH
EXTENSION SOCIETY OF THE METH-
ODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

(See General Conference Journal, 1864, page 492.)

ARTICLE I.

“This association, denominated ‘The Church Extension Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church,’ is organized for the purpose of enabling the several Annual Conferences to extend and establish our Christian influence and power throughout the United States and Territories, by aiding, wherever necessary, to secure suitable houses of public worship and such other church property as may promote the general design.

ARTICLE II.

“The payment of twenty dollars at one time shall constitute a member for life. Any person paying one hundred and fifty dollars at one time into the treasury shall be an honorary manager for life; and the contribution of five hundred dollars shall constitute the donor an honorary patron for life; both of whom shall be entitled to a seat and the right of speaking, but not of voting, in the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE III.

“The officers of this Society shall be a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Recording Secretary.

ARTICLE IV.

“The management and disposition of the affairs and property of this Society shall be vested in a Board of Managers, consisting of twenty-five laymen, all being members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and so many clerical members, not exceeding that number, as shall be determined at each annual meeting called for that purpose, each of whom shall be a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and all of whom, both the lay and clerical members, shall be elected at the said annual meeting.

ARTICLE V.

“The Corresponding Secretary shall be appointed by the General Conference. He shall reside in the city of Philadelphia, and conduct the correspondence of the Society under the direction of the Board. He shall be subject to the direction and control of the Board of Managers, by whom his salary is to be fixed and paid. He shall be exclusively employed in conducting the correspondence of the Society, and, under the direction of the Board, in promoting its general interests by traveling or otherwise. Should his office become vacant by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Board shall have power to provide for the duties of the office until the bishops, or a majority of them, shall fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE VI.

“The Board shall have authority to appoint all the officers required by the charter, and to make by-laws for regulating its own proceedings; to appropriate money to defray incidental expenses; fill vacancies that may occur in their own body during the year; and shall present a statement of its transactions and funds to the Society at its annual meeting, and also shall lay before the General Conference a report of its transactions for the four preceding years, and the state of its funds.

ARTICLE VII.

“The annual meeting for the election of officers and managers shall be held on the ——— in November, in the city of Philadelphia, and the term of the service of the officers and managers so elected shall commence January 1st following.

ARTICLE VIII.

“At all meetings of the Society and of the Board, the President, or in his absence the Vice-President first on the list then present, and in the absence of all the Vice-Presidents a member appointed by the meeting for that purpose, shall preside.

ARTICLE IX.

“Twenty-one members at each meeting of the Society, and nine at each meeting of the Board of Managers, shall be a quorum.

ARTICLE X.

“The minutes of each meeting shall be signed by the Chairman of the meeting at which the minutes are read and approved.

ARTICLE XI.

“It is recommended that within the bounds of each Annual Conference there be established a Conference Church Extension Society, auxiliary to this association, under such regulations as the Conferences respectively may prescribe.

ARTICLE XII.

“Any auxiliary society or donor may designate the society or societies to which they desire any part or the whole of the donation by them made to be appropriated, which special designation shall be publicly acknowledged by the Board. But in the event that more funds should be raised for any particular society or object than is necessary, or than have been appropriated by the General Committee, the surplus shall be at the disposal of this Society for its general purposes.

ARTICLE XIII.

“The Annual Conferences shall be divided into as many districts as there are effective superintendents, and there shall be a committee consisting of one from each district, to be appointed by the bishops, and to be called the *General Committee*. It shall be the duty of this committee to meet annually, in the city of Philadelphia, between the 1st and 20th of November, as shall be determined by the Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, to act jointly with the Board of Managers, the Corresponding Secretary, and the Treasurer, in fixing the amounts which may be donated and loaned during the ensuing year, and the division of said amounts among the several Annual Conferences and societies applying for aid. Said committee, with the concurrence of the Board, shall de-

termine the amounts for which each bishop may draw, to be donated and loaned respectively within the limits of those Conferences over which he shall preside, and he shall not draw on the Treasurer for more than said amount; and in no case shall money be donated or loaned to any society if after such donation or loan there shall remain any legal encumbrance or claim against the property to be secured, except only such as may be held by this Society.

“Should any of the members of said General Committee, in the interval of General Conference, go out of office by death, resignation, or otherwise, the bishop presiding in the Conferences where the vacancy shall occur shall appoint another to fill the vacancy.

“Said committee shall be amenable to the General Conference, to which it shall make full report of its doings.

“Expenses incurred in the discharge of its duties shall be paid by the Treasurer of the Society.

ARTICLE XIV.

“This Constitution shall not be altered or amended but by the General Conference, upon the recommendation of the Board of Managers, or by the Board on the recommendation of the General Conference.”

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
CHURCH EXTENSION SOCIETY
OF THE
Methodist Episcopal Church.

(See General Conference Journal, 1868, page 555.)

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

This association, denominated "The Church Extension Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," is organized for the purpose of assisting the several Annual Conferences to extend and establish our Christian influence throughout the United States and Territories by aiding, wherever most needed, to secure suitable sites for and house of public worship, and such other Church property as may promote the general design.

ARTICLE II.

MEMBERSHIP.

The payment of one dollar shall constitute a member for one year, and the payment of twenty dollars at one time shall constitute a member

for life. Any person paying one hundred and fifty dollars at one time into the treasury shall be an honorary manager for life; and the contribution of five hundred dollars shall constitute the donor an honorary patron for life; each of whom shall be entitled to a seat and the right of speaking, but not of voting, in the Board of Managers. Five thousand dollars or more contributed at one time shall constitute a separate Loan Fund, which shall bear the name of the contributor, or such name as he shall designate. Said fund shall never be donated for any purpose, or used for current expenses, but shall be a perpetual fund, to be loaned in aid of church extension, under the direction of the Board; and the Corresponding Secretary shall report annually the investment thereof, and the work accomplished thereby.

ARTICLE III.

OFFICERS.

The officers of this Society shall be a President, five Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Recording Secretary.

ARTICLE IV.

MANAGEMENT.

The management and disposition of the affairs and property of this Society shall be vested

in a Board of Managers, consisting of thirty-five laymen, all being members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and thirty-five traveling ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, all of whom shall be elected at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE V.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

The Corresponding Secretary shall be appointed by the General Conference. He shall conduct the correspondence of the Society under the direction of the Board, and shall be subject to the direction and control of the Board of Managers, by whom his salary shall be fixed and paid. He shall be exclusively employed in conducting the affairs of the Society, and under the direction of the Board, in promoting its general interest by traveling or otherwise. Should a vacancy occur by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Board shall have power to provide for the office until the next ensuing annual meeting, when a joint meeting of the bishops, General Committee, and Board of Managers shall fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE VI.

POWERS OF BOARD.

The Board shall have authority to appoint all the officers required by the Charter, except as

provided in Article V, and to make by-laws for regulating its own proceedings; to employ such agents as it may deem necessary; to appropriate money to defray incidental expenses; fill vacancies that may occur in its own body during the year; and shall present a statement of its transactions and funds to the General Committee at its annual meeting; and also shall lay before the General Conference a report of its transactions for the four preceding years, and state of its funds.

ARTICLE VII.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting for the election of Managers shall be held in the month of November in each year, in the city of Philadelphia, and the term of the service of the Managers so elected shall commence January 1st following. At the first meeting in January the Board shall elect the officers required by the Charter for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE VIII.

PRESIDENT.

At all meetings of the Society and of the Board, the President, or, in his absence, the Vice-President first on the list then present, and, in the absence of all the Vice-Presidents, a member appointed by the meeting for that purpose, shall preside.

ARTICLE IX.

QUORUM.

Twenty-one members at each meeting of the Society, and nine at each meeting of the Board of Managers, shall be a quorum.

ARTICLE X.

MINUTES.

The minutes of each meeting shall be signed by the Secretary thereof.

ARTICLE XI.

CONFERENCE BOARDS.

In order to be entitled to any of the funds of this Society, each Annual Conference shall at each session appoint a Board of Church Extension, composed of equal numbers of ministers and laymen, consisting of a President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer, and not less than three additional members, so located that a quorum thereof may be convened at any time. And the Secretary of the Conference shall immediately thereafter notify the Corresponding Secretary of this Society of such appointment, and of the names and post-office address of each member thereof.

Said Board shall have authority to adopt by-laws not inconsistent with this Constitution, and

shall, under the direction of the Parent Board, have charge of all the interests and work of church extension within the bounds of the Conference. It shall, in connection with the Conference, take all necessary measures to procure liberal annual collections from each congregation in the Conference, and special donations and bequests to the Loan Fund of the Society. It shall carefully examine all applications for aid from within the bounds of the Conference, and recommend only such as are found to be truly needy and meritorious. It shall keep and preserve, in suitable books to be furnished by the Parent Board, a faithful record of all its proceedings, and account of amounts asked and received each year from every pastoral charge. And the Treasurer of said Board shall remit all funds in his hands to the Treasurer of the Parent Society at least once in every three months.

It shall make full report of its proceedings for the preceding year to each session of the Annual Conference, and at the same time to the Parent Board.

A failure to comply with any of the provisions of this article shall forfeit all claims upon the funds of this Society.

ARTICLE XII.

APPLICATIONS.

All applications for aid from the funds of this Society shall be made in accordance with blank forms to be furnished by the Parent Board, and shall set forth:

1. The number of Church members, Sunday-school children, and congregation to be accommodated, the population of the place, and prospects of growth.

2. The legal incorporation of the Church or Board of Trustees.

3. The location, size, present and prospective value of the site, the validity of the title thereto, and whether held in trust for the Methodist Episcopal Church.

4. A description of the building to which the aid if granted will be applied, and, if required, a copy of the plans and specifications of the architect shall be submitted, and, if deemed necessary by the Parent or Conference Board, modified as may be suggested.

5. The estimated and probable cost when completed.

6. The available resources, and amount of reliable subscription, and that those immediately interested have done or are doing all that could reasonably be expected.

7. What amount of debt, if any, may be allowed to remain against the property, and how soon the Trustees or others will agree to remove it.

8. Is the property insured? Will it be? To what amount?

9. Whether the Church, if aided, will become self-supporting, and how soon, and to what extent it may be expected to aid in the general work of God.

10. Any additional facts and circumstances that will assist the Board to a proper decision on the application.

Every such application for aid shall be first submitted to the Conference Board of Church Extension, and said Board shall certify its action thereon to the Parent Board, and aid shall be granted only by the concurrent action of both the Conference and Parent Boards. Provided, however, that in any case in which such Conference Board can not be created, or act, the bishop having charge, or a committee by him appointed, may perform the duties herein imposed upon the Conference Board.

ARTICLE XIII.

SURPLUS.

Contributors may designate the object to which they desire any part or the whole of the

donation by them made to be appropriated, which special designation shall be publicly acknowledged by the Treasurer. But in the event that more funds should be raised for any particular object than the Parent Board shall deem necessary, or than have been appropriated by the General Committee, the surplus shall be at the disposal of this Society for its general purposes.

ARTICLE XIV.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

The Annual Conferences shall be divided into as many districts as there are effective Superintendents, and there shall be a Committee, consisting of one from each district, to be appointed by the bishops, and to be called the *General Committee of Church Extension*. It shall be the duty of this Committee to meet annually in the city of Philadelphia, on such day in the month of November as shall be determined by the Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, to act jointly with the bishops, Board of Managers, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer, in fixing the amounts which may be donated and loaned during the current year, and the division of said amounts within the bounds of the several Annual Conferences, and to Churches applying for aid; and in no case shall money be donated or loaned for any

object, if after such donation or loan there shall remain any legal incumbrance or claim against the property to be secured, except only such as may be held by this Society, or approved by the Board of Managers.

Should any member of said General Committee, in the interval of General Conference, go out of office by death, resignation, or otherwise, the bishop presiding in the Conference to which he belonged shall appoint another member thereof to fill the vacancy.

Said Committee shall be amenable to the General Conference, to which it shall make full report of its doings.

Expenses incurred in the discharge of its duties shall be paid by the Treasurer of the Society. .

ARTICLE XV.

AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution shall not be altered or amended but by the General Conference, upon the recommendation of the Board of Managers, or by the Board on the recommendation of the General Conference.

FREEDMEN'S AID AND SOUTHERN EDUCATION SOCIETY.

The unique character and peculiar history of this Society fully justifies an elaborate mention of the facts and persons connected with its early organization. Hence the following:

ORGANIZING CONVENTION. .

(Official Report.)

“Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church,
“Cincinnati, Ohio, August 7, 1866.

“In pursuance with a call, a Convention of ministers and laymen met this day, at 2 o'clock P. M., in Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, to confer in regard to the work of relief and education required in behalf of the Freedmen.

“The following persons were present, viz.: Bishop D. W. Clark, Revs. Adam Poe, J. M. Reid, R. S. Rust, J. M. Walden, J. R. Stillwell, and Mr. J. F. Larkin, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Rev. Luke Hitchcock and Hon. Grant Goodrich, of Chicago, Ill.; Rev. B. F. Crary, of St. Louis, Mo.; and Rev. Robert Allyn, of Lebanon, Ill.

“Bishop D. W. Clark was chosen Chairman, and Rev. J. M. Walden Secretary.

“Prayer was offered by Dr. Crary.

"The following call for the Convention was read:

" 'Cincinnati, Ohio, July 30, 1866.

" 'Dear Brother,—The undersigned request a meeting of a few leading ministers and laymen of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the West, to confer in regard to the relation of our Church to the work of relief and education in behalf of the Freedmen. We have been associated with the Western and Northwestern Freedmen's Aid Commissions. The official positions assigned us by them have made us the representatives of our Church in these catholic * Societies; and, so long as they had the hearty co-operation of the leading religious denomination, or even a majority of them, we felt that our position could but have the approval of our brethren, and that the best interests of the Freedmen and the country would be subserved by the members of our Church making these Commissions the almoners of their contributions for the benefit of the Freedmen.

" 'Now we look to our brethren for counsel. For more than a year there has been a strong tendency toward denominational movements. One sect after another has withdrawn from the Commissions, and organized within itself, till they can rely on the general co-operation of scarcely more than one leading denomination besides our own. On the other hand, demands for teachers and schools in connection with the mission-work of our Church in the South have been constantly increasing, with no adequate provisions to meet them. In view of these and other facts, we feel that the time has come when the matter should have the careful and prayerful consideration of those whose judgment upon it would have great influence with the Church.

* These societies were undenominational and general.

“If deemed best to continue our co-operation with the existing Commissions, the cause demands that the whole strength of our Church be secured to it. If a society to co-operate with our Missionary and Church Extension Societies seems to be required, it should be organized without delay. A decision should be reached at once, that the timely approval of the Fall Conferences in the West may be secured.

“We therefore join in requesting you to attend a meeting for the purpose named, to be held in Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, Cincinnati, O., on Tuesday, August 7th, at 2 o'clock P. M. We believe that the importance of the interests involved will secure your attendance, if possible for you to come.

“ADAM POE,	T. M. EDDY,
“J. F. LARKIN,	GRANT GOODRICH,
“I. W. WILEY,	R. M. HATFIELD,
“J. M. REID,	J. M. WALDEN.’
“R. S. RUST,	

“The following letter from Bishop Morris was read:

“Springfield, O., August 6, 1866.

“Dear Brethren,—Your printed notice of a meeting at Trinity, to-morrow, for the relief and education of Freedmen, with an invitation to attend, is received. It is not convenient for me to go, nor is it important to the main object in view that I should be there. You who have been practically engaged in the great and good enterprise know more about it than I do, and understand what measures are requisite for its accomplishment better than I can tell you. In a word, I have more confidence in your judgment than in my own. Yet one thing is clear to my mind—that is, if we, as a Church, do not meet our

own responsibility, no one will meet it for us. May the Lord favor us with prudent measures and successful results! Yours truly, T. A. MORRIS.'

"A letter from Rev. Dr. F. C. Holliday was read, containing the following paragraph:

"It is not convenient for me to attend, but my opinion is that it will be much better for us to operate through our own organization, and avoid all entangling alliances. Be responsible for our own work, and let others be responsible for theirs. That such must ultimately be the condition of things is generally admitted. That the time has come to shape our action in that direction, I believe.'

"DR. WALDEN'S STATEMENT.

"By request of the meeting, Rev. J. M. Walden submitted a statement, as follows:

"Since the organization of the Western and Northwestern Freedmen's Aid Commissions, the membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church have been aiding these Societies in prosecuting their work in behalf of the Freedmen. We have met to consider whether this co-operation shall be continued, or whether the times and work require the organization of a Society to be controlled entirely by members of our own Church.

"It should be known what the Commissions, as now organized, are accomplishing. Those in the West have planted schools at the more important points in the Mississippi Valley, maintained in these schools, during the past year, an average, at least, of one hundred teachers, mostly Christian men and women, opened Sunday-schools, relieved the poor, cared for the orphan.

“It should also be stated that, after efforts extending through the past two and a half years, the several undenominational societies have been united in a National Commission, having its branches in the East and West, a movement that may possibly benefit the work in various ways.

“My remarks are confined mainly to the operations of the catholic Societies in the West, because it is with these I am most familiar; but I may say that the work is the same as prosecuted by the Society in the East, except that they have been enabled to accomplish more, and have been less careful as to the Christian sentiments and standing of their teachers and agents.

“With these undenominational Commissions already in the field, accomplishing, as they have, a great and good work, it will be asked, What has suggested the propriety, or indicated the necessity, of organizing a Society that shall be Methodistic in its character, and what would be the probable results of such a movement?

“The following considerations, among others, have suggested such a movement to those who have given attention to the question:

“1. The organization of denominational societies by other branches of the Christian Church. The Freedmen's Aid Commissions, though not national, were at first the representatives of nearly all the leading denominations in the Freedmen's relief work. In their Boards of Officers these denominations were represented, and contributions for the support of the work were received alike from all; but most of the denominations have organized societies within themselves, or made other special arrangements—viz.: The United Presbyterian, United Brethren, Friends, Old School

Presbyterian, Baptist, Congregationalist, and Protestant Episcopal Churches—leaving the New School Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal Churches the only denominations of any size which have continued their co-operation, without diversion, with the Commissions.

“2. These denominational societies are co-operating with and strengthening the missionary efforts of their respective Churches, by sustaining schools at those points where their missionaries are laboring; hence the question comes up whether the contributions of Methodists might not and ought not to be made to aid our mission-work in the same way among the Freedmen.

“3. A large per cent of the home collections come from the Methodist Churches and people. During the past year about \$100,000 in cash have been collected in the West—between \$69,000 and \$70,000 at Chicago, between \$13,000 and \$14,000 at Cincinnati, and the balance of the sum named at Indianapolis, Detroit, and Cleveland. This does not include the collections made at Pittsburg, and I have no data at hand to aid in an estimate. I think I am safe in saying that not less than fifty per cent of the whole amount has come from the membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This ratio must increase, as Churches open to the agents of the Commissions during a part of the past year are now being closed, especially the Congregationalist and Baptist.

“4. The funds thus contributed are expended by undenominational societies. While other denominations have organized their own societies, or selected their special denominational agencies, they are as largely represented among the officers and directors of the Commissions as before they made these sec-

tarian movements. The catholic Commissions can not favor any Church movements without compromising their position, and thereby exciting the feelings they would allay; and hence the Methodist Mission Schools are languishing, though a small per cent of what our Church has given to the Commissions would have fully sustained them.

“These are the leading facts which have led to the call of this Convention, and forced upon us the question: Shall we organize a Methodist Freedmen’s Aid Society, or shall we still co-operate with the existing Commissions?

“If, after carefully considering all the facts, it shall be deemed best to continue our co-operation with the American Freedmen’s Union Commission and its branches, this meeting may serve a good purpose in doing much to make that co-operation general and hearty, as the facts I have mentioned have diminished the zeal of our people in the cause as now carried forward.

“I may now briefly mention some of the possible results of the new movement within the pale of our own Church, at least such as have occurred to my mind:

“1. The schools organized would be supplied with Methodist teachers, and might be under the local supervision of our missionaries, thereby securing to them a religious character congenial to the habits and feelings of the colored people.

“2. It would give our missionary work greater favor with the Freedmen. There has been a strange quickening of the mind of that race, and the Church which aids them most in the matter of education will gain the greatest influence over them. There will

be more or less distress among the Freedmen, and to relieve this will tend in the same direction.

“3. It would further strengthen our mission-work by furnishing Sunday-school teachers, and increase the efficiency of the Sunday-schools by making them a part of a Church movement.

“4. At a moderate estimate it should secure fifty thousand dollars, to be applied to these schools in connection with our mission-work. This would support one hundred teachers nine months in the year; each teacher would have an average attendance of fifty scholars (5,000). And if these began in the alphabet, they would learn to read during the single session.

“5. At many points the Freedmen might aid in supporting schools. Tuition in the schools of the Northwestern Freedmen's Aid Commission average about eighty dollars per month this year; the next will probably be better. At some places the Freedmen will become responsible for the teachers' board.

“6. Under the new Freedmen's Bureau Bill the Government is to provide every Society with school-houses for all the teachers they will support.

“7. A Methodist Freedmen's Aid Society would give our Church a more direct, and hence a greater, interest in the education of the Freedmen, and consequently increase the zeal in the mission-work in their behalf.

“8. If there should arise a necessity for ecclesiastical legislation in regard to this work, the experience acquired within the time intervening between this and the next session of the General Conference would be of great service in shaping such legislation.

“In all these ways it will aid the Church in meet-

ing those responsibilities which are indicated on the one hand by the predilection of so large a proportion of the colored people in her favor, and on the other hand by the efficiency which has been vouchsafed to her as a missionary Church.

“‘Objections will be suggested:

“‘1. It will be claimed that the effect of such an organization will be injurious to existing Commissions. It is not certain that we are to be held responsible if it is clearly seen that our Church would do more by her own Society than in any other way.

“‘2. The objection has been made, though it will not be by any one present, that the educational work among the Freedmen should be kept distinct from the religious movement in their behalf. I read from the paper of the American Missionary Association the following, not so much to show the fallacy of this as to show the purpose of that Society as an agency largely under the control of the Congregational Churches. Speaking of the division of the religious and educational work, they say:

“‘“We wish now to state briefly that no such division of labor is contemplated:

“‘“1. Because the instruction of the people is a legitimate part of our work, the charter of the American Missionary Association making distinct provision for educational efforts.

“‘“2. Because the division would be highly inexpedient, uneconomical, and injurious; and

“‘“3. That we can not abandon our educational work among the Freedmen without forfeiting more than half our power to do them good, and diminishing the real benefits done to them far more than could be compensated for by any fancied good to result from our relinquishment of it.

“ “As a missionary organization—the first body to commence the work of supplying the physical wants of the Freedmen, the first to send them missionaries and teachers—we can not, without unfaithfulness to them and to God, relinquish to other hands our efforts for their education. Most especially we can not relinquish it to those who do not require a Christian standing in their teachers.

“ “The work to be done for the Freedmen is in reality one work. The supply of necessary clothing is but a part of that work; the intellectual education of the people is another part. The grand work is the elevation of the people, fitting them for the duties and the responsibilities of their new position, making them better men and citizens, winning them to Christ, and preparing them for eternal life. For accomplishing this end, the American Missionary Association insists on using the highest motives that God has furnished—the best means that he, in his wisdom, has provided—the gospel in the hands, and with the example of living Christians.”

“3. It is objected that the Methodist Episcopal Church has so much work before it that a new enterprise will embarrass those already undertaken. It may be replied:

“ (a) That the collection will be taken for the Freedmen, and it is only to say who shall control it.

“ (b) The Centenary will soon be over, and hence will not long affect this movement.

“ (c) If within our Church, the application for collections can be best controlled so as not to embarrass other claims.’

"REMARKS BY MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION.

"The presentation of this statement was followed by remarks by most of the members of the Convention. It is sufficient for this record to give the general drift of the discussion.

"Dr. Rust called special attention to the fact that after a long time the several independent Commissions of the country had formed a National Commission. This grand National Society has just been fairly launched, and we should be very careful in adopting measures that might tend towards breaking it up. The hope of the Commission now is to be instrumental in introducing or in aiding in the introduction of a great Free-school System throughout the South, and the new movement now suggested might not be favorable to so broad, grand, and necessary a work.

"Rev. Dr. Poe favored the organization of a Methodist Society, and said that he could maintain his present relation to the Commissions, if the best interests of the Freedmen's cause required it, and aid both Societies. The members of other denominations had retained their places in the Commissions, and it would be as consistent for him to do so likewise, and this new Society can do the work that is needed in connection with our missions among the Freedmen, which the Commissions have failed or declined to do.

"Rev. J. R. Stillwell, Collecting Agent of the Western Freedmen's Aid Commission, thought it doubtful whether the undenominational Commissions could sustain themselves should the patronage of our Church be withdrawn, and in that event something now contributed by smaller denominations to these Commissions would be lost to the cause. In reply

to an inquiry, he stated that about seventy-five per cent collections came from Methodist people and Methodist congregations.

"The Secretary, Dr. Walden, presented letters upon the same subject from other agents. Chaplain J. R. Locke reported that two-thirds of his collections were from Methodist congregations. Rev. J. L. Gibson reported that three-fourths of his were from the same. Similar statements were received in regard to the work of other agents, fully showing that during the past year more than one-half of the contributions in the West have come from our Church.

"Rev. Dr. Crary, Judge Goodrich, Rev. Dr. Allyn, and Rev. Dr. Hitchcock took part in the discussion of the facts brought before the Convention, and the policy these facts seemed to indicate as demanded by our Church.

"Bishop Clark made a statement as to the wants of the mission work in his department, and the advantage of having schools connected with missions among the Freedmen.

"The Secretary, Dr. Walden, then offered the following resolution, viz.:

"*Resolved*, That the time has come for the organization of a Society for the relief and education of the Freedmen and people of color in general, to co-operate with the Missionary and Church Extension Societies of the Methodist Episcopal Church.'

"After further discussion of the necessity of this Convention organizing at this time such a Society so as to bring it before the Fall Conferences for their action, the resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote.

"On motion, a Committee consisting of Dr. Walden, Judge Goodrich, Dr. Crary, Dr. Hitchcock, and

Dr. Rust was appointed to report a plan of organization and prepare a draft of a Constitution.

"The Committee on Organization reported the draft of the Constitution, the articles of which were taken up and discussed seriatim, and with the preamble, after some amendments, adopted as follows:

"**'CONSTITUTION OF THE FREEDMEN'S AID SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.**

"**'WHEREAS, The highest success of the missionary work of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the South requires the maintenance of schools among the Freedmen; and**

'WHEREAS, The existing General Freedmen's Aid Commission can not consistently aid a denominational work; and

'WHEREAS, There is no specific provision by benevolent organization in our Church to meet the special educational wants of the Freedmen, we therefore do form a Society under the following Constitution, with the name and for the purposes therein declared:

'Article I. This organization shall be known as the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

'Article II. The object of this Society shall be to labor for the relief and education of the Freedmen, especially in co-operation with the Missionary and Church Extension Societies of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*

'Article III. Any person contributing one dollar

*When the Society was chartered under the laws of Ohio, its object was stated to be "to labor for the relief and education of Freedmen and others," so as to include work among white as well as colored people.

to its treasury shall be an annual member of this Society. Any person contributing twenty dollars shall be a life-member. Any person contributing one hundred dollars shall be a life-manager. Any person contributing five hundred dollars shall be a patron.

“Article IV. There shall be a Board of Managers, consisting of the bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, two persons—one minister and one layman—named by any Annual Conference organizing an Auxiliary Society, together with the persons hereinafter named, their successors and such other persons as may be elected at any Quarterly or Annual Meeting of the Society; namely, Adam Poe, J. M. Reid, I. W. Wiley, William Nast, R. S. Rust, J. M. Walden, J. C. Harrison, T. M. Eddy, L. Hitchcock, R. M. Hatfield, C. H. Fowler, H. Crews, B. F. Crary, A. C. George, B. St. J. Fry, Robert Allyn, F. C. Holliday, J. V. R. Miller, Clinton B. Fisk, Grant Goodrich, Harvey DeCamp, John Pfaff, M. B. Hagans, J. F. Larkin, T. F. Shaw, John Dubois, R. F. Queal, Daniel Goss, A. R. Scranton, George F. Foster, S. Rich, A. S. W. Goodwin, B. R. Bonner, David McDonald, J. H. Ross, Michael Ihle.

“Article V. The Society shall annually elect a president, one or more vice-presidents, a corresponding secretary, a general field superintendent, and a recording secretary. The Agent of the Western Methodist Book Concern shall be the treasurer, with such assistant treasurers as the Board of Managers may designate. The Board of Managers shall fill vacancies occurring among the officers in the interim of the annual meeting, define the duties of the officers and Executive Committee, and adopt such other by-laws as may be required.

“Article VI. The Board of Managers may intrust

its business to an Executive Committee, composed of the bishop or bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in charge of the mission-work among the Freedmen in the South, together with not less than fifteen members elected by the Board: Provided, that any member of the Executive Committee may delegate another manager to attend a session of the committee at which he can not be present. The corresponding secretary and general field superintendent shall be members *ex officio* of the Executive Committee, and five members shall be a quorum.

“Article VII. There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Society, for the election of officers and transaction of other business, on the third Wednesday of October, at such hour and place as the Board of Managers shall determine, to which an exhibit of the transactions of the treasury, and reports from the corresponding secretary and general field superintendent, shall be presented. The Board of Managers shall provide in the by-laws for all other meetings.

“Article VIII. This Constitution may be amended by the Society at the Annual Meeting, or at a special meeting called for the purpose by the Executive Committee.’

“EDUCATION OF THE FREEDMEN.

“VOICE OF THE BISHOPS.

“To the Pastors and Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church:

“DEAR BRETHREN,—The emancipation of four millions of slaves has opened at our very door a wide field calling alike for mission and educational work. It has devolved upon the Church a fearful responsibility. Religion and education alone can make free-

dom a blessing to them. The school must be planted by the side of the Church; the teacher must go along with the missionary. In no other way can our work reach its highest success among the Freedmen of the South. They claim this culture as immortal beings, at our hands. Without it their true position as members of society can never be attained. It is needful, that they may sustain proper domestic relations among themselves, and that their children may be saved from the blighting effects entailed by the system of slavery. It is indispensable to the highest and most permanent success of our mission work among them. And then, too, a consideration of vital importance to the Christian world, is the fact that from among themselves the ministers are to be raised up who shall conserve, carry forward, and make permanent the work of Christianizing and educating the race.

“The time may come when the States in the South will make some provision for the education of the colored children now growing up in utter ignorance in their midst. But thus far they have made none, nor perhaps can it soon be expected of them. Christian philanthropy must supply this lack. While other Churches, North and South, are entering this broad field, we have our own work and our own duty to perform. We can not turn away from the appeal that comes home to our consciences and hearts. Nor can we delay. *The emergency is upon us, and we must begin to work now.*

“As a suitable channel through which the benefactions of our Church to this object may best reach their design, the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church has been organized. It is designed to co-operate with our missionary work in

the South, and, in fact, a supplement to that work. There are openings for hundreds of teachers at this moment. Hundreds of teachers are ready to go. The means to send them are only wanting.

“In view of the great emergency of the case, and the certainty that the benefactions of our people can better reach their end through our own channels than through any other, we commend to you the Freedmen’s Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. And especially would we urge upon all pastors and congregations, in view of the present great and passing wants, to make for this object a collection as soon as practicable.

“We also recommend that the Churches in the East contribute with special reference to the establishment of schools in the Southern States bordering upon the Atlantic, and that the Churches in the West direct their efforts especially to the States lying south of them in the great Mississippi Valley. We further recommend to the Executive Committee of the Freedmen’s Aid Society, to distribute the schools established by them in the South, so as to cover the whole territory of the South as far as practicable, so that the fruits of this blessed work may be most widely diffused.

“Done by order of the Board of Bishops, at New York City, November 8, 1866.

“D. W. CLARK, Sec’y of the Board.”

ORIGINAL ACT OF INCORPORATION.

1870.

At a meeting of a majority of the members of the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, an organized association having a central place of business in Cincinnati, Ohio, held pursuant to call, at the Western Methodist Book Concern, November 1, 1870, the same being the annual meeting, Bishop D. W. Clark was chosen Chairman, and Rev. J. M. Walden Secretary. Whereupon it was resolved to take the necessary steps to become incorporated under the laws of Ohio. On motion of Rev. R. S. Rust, D. D., a committee of three was appointed—Rev. Drs. Reid, Rust, and Walden—to report Articles of Association, which committee reported the following preamble and Constitution, viz.:

WHEREAS, The highest success of the missionary work of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the South requires the maintenance of schools of various grades among the Freedmen; and

WHEREAS, There is no specific provision by benevolent organizations in our Church to meet the special educational wants of the freedmen,—

We do, therefore, incorporate this Society

under the following Constitution with the name and for the purposes therein declared:

ARTICLE I. This organization shall be known as the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*

ART. II. Its object shall be to labor for the relief and education of Freedmen and others, especially in co-operation with the Missionary and Church Extension Societies of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

ART. III. The contribution of one dollar during any year, and the attendance at the annual meeting, shall constitute a member of this Society. Any person contributing twenty dollars (\$20) to its treasury shall be an honorary member. Any person contributing one hundred dollars (\$100) shall be an honorary director. Any person contributing five hundred dollars (\$500) shall be a patron.

ART. IV. There shall be a Board of Directors, consisting of D. W. Clark, L. Hitchcock, I. W. Wiley, R. S. Rust, J. M. Walden, J. M. Reid, William Nast, S. M. Merrill, J. F. Larkin, J. M. Phillips, J. V. R. Miller, J. F. Chalfant, M. B. Hagans, H. DeCamp, R. F. Queall, Grant Goodrich, B. F. Holliday, A. Shinkle, B. St. James

* Name as amended, Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society. See page 291; also Amendment of Charter, page 294.

Fry, and their successors, who shall be elected annually by the Society. The Directors shall hold their office until their successors are elected.

ART. V. The Society shall annually elect a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Recording Secretary, who shall be the officers of the Board of Directors. The Agent of the Western Methodist Book Concern shall be the Treasurer, with such Assistant Treasurers as the Board of Directors may designate. The Board of Directors shall fill all vacancies occurring among the officers in the interim of the annual meetings, define the duties of the officers and Executive Committee, and adopt such other by-laws as may be required.

ART. VI. The Board of Directors may intrust its business to an Executive Committee composed of not less than nine members elected by the Board; Provided, that any member of the Executive Committee may delegate another Director to attend a session of the Committee at which he can not be present. The Corresponding Secretary shall be a member *ex-officio* of the Executive Committee, and five members shall constitute a quorum.

ART. VII. There shall be an annual meeting of the Society for the election of officers and Directors and the transaction of other business

on the third Wednesday of October, or at such time and place as the Board of Directors shall determine, to which an exhibit of the transactions of the treasury and reports from the Corresponding Secretary shall be presented.

The Board of Directors shall provide in the by-laws for all other meetings.

The report of the Committee was adopted, and the name of said corporation as appears above agreed to, and the persons named as a Board of Directors were duly elected.

On motion, the Secretary was directed to make out and certify to the recorder of this county a correct transcript of this meeting for the purpose of record.

On motion, adjourned.

D. W. CLARK, *President.*

J. M. WALDEN, *Secretary.*

THE STATE OF OHIO, } *To wit:*
HAMILTON COUNTY, }

I, J. M. Walden, Secretary of the meeting of the members of the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as appears above, do hereby certify that the record of the proceedings of the said meeting is true as above set forth; that the corporate name adopted by the said meeting, and by which the said asso-

ciation desires hereafter to be known, is the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and that the persons named in the said proceedings, as above set forth, were duly elected Directors.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto set my hand, November 1, 1870.

J. M. WALDEN, *Secretary.*

Received and recorded, November 17, 1870, in Church Record No. 2, pp. 543-5.

THOS. L. YOUNG, *Recorder.*

DECREE CHANGING NAME.

Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton County.
Term of July, A. D. 1888.

81,248
In the matter of the Freedmen's Aid Society } *Ex-parte.*
of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The petitioners herein, by M. B. Hagans, their attorney, now come and produce the publication required by law, duly sworn to: and the Court having examined the same, and finding that thirty days' notice has been given of the object and

prayer of the petition according to the statute, the said publication and notice are hereby approved and confirmed, and the same ordered to be filed and made part of the record in this cause.

And thereupon this cause came on to be heard upon the petition and notice, and upon good cause shown it is ordered that the name of the said The Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church be, and the same is hereby, changed to "The Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," according to law and the prayer of the petition, and the petitioners are ordered to file a copy of this order with the recorder of Hamilton County, Ohio, and to publish a copy hereof in some newspaper of general circulation in said county, as required by law, and to pay the costs of this proceeding, taxed at ——— dollars.

THE STATE OF OHIO, }
HAMILTON COUNTY. } ss.

I, Daniel J. Dalton, clerk of the Court of Common Pleas within and for Hamilton County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an order made by the said court on the 27th day of July, 1888, Min. 106.

Witness my hand and seal of said Court at Cincinnati this first day of August, A. D. 1888.

[COURT SEAL.]

DANIEL J. DALTON, *Clerk.*

By LOUIS R. PRENOT, *Deputy.*

Received and recorded September 3, 1888, in Book No. 6, page 261, Hamilton County, Ohio, Records.

JOHN HAGERTY, *Recorder*

AMENDED ACT OF INCORPORATION.

1892.

We, the undersigned, being all of the members of the corporation now known as "the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," originally incorporated on the 17th day of November, 1870, under the name of "The Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," as appears in Church Records, No. 2, pages 543-5, Hamilton County, Ohio, Records, the name of which corporation was duly changed, on the 3d day of September, 1888, to "The Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," as appears in Book No. 6, page 261, of the Records of Hamilton County,

Ohio, do hereby waive the notices required by Section 3238a of the Revised Statutes of Ohio; and do, furthermore, hereby

Resolve, That the original Articles of Incorporation of "The Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," now known as "The Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," shall be amended so as to read as follows:

WHEREAS, The highest success of the missionary work of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the South requires the maintenance of schools of various grades among the Freedmen and others; and

WHEREAS, There is no specific provision by other benevolent organizations in the Methodist Episcopal Church to meet the educational wants of the freedmen and others in the South, we do therefore amend the original Articles of Incorporation of this Society, as set forth in the following Constitution, with the name, and for the purposes therein declared:

Name. ARTICLE I. This corporation shall be known as the "Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," and its principal office shall be at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Objects. ART. II. Its object shall be the establishment and maintenance or aiding of institutions of

Christian education among both colored and white people in the Southern States, and in such other territory as the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States may from time to time designate.

ART. III. There shall be, under this amended Charter, a Board of Trustees or Managers, consisting of eighteen (18) ministers and twelve (12) laymen, or such other numbers of each as may be deemed necessary by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to be selected quadrennially by the said General Conference, and the terms of service of the members of such Board, and their successors in office, shall begin on the second Wednesday in June next succeeding their selection, and continue during the ensuing four (4) years, and until their successors are elected and qualified. Said Board shall have such powers and prerogatives as are needful for conducting the work of the Society, and shall hold its annual meeting on the third Wednesday of October, or at such other time as the Board may direct. It shall provide for such other meetings as may be necessary.

Any vacancy in the Board of Trustees or Managers, by resignation, death, or otherwise, shall be filled by said Board in the interim of the meetings of the General Conference.

General
Committee.

ART. IV. There shall also be a General Committee, as provided for by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with such powers as are herein recognized, and such relation to the administration of this Society as the said General Conference may from time to time indicate; and the Board of Managers shall provide for proper representation in said General Committee.

Officers.

ART. V. The officers of this Board shall be a President, three Vice-Presidents, one or more Corresponding Secretaries, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Assistant Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected by the Board, at its annual meeting each year, except as hereinafter provided for.

The Corresponding Secretary or Secretaries shall be chosen by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and shall hold their offices for four years. Any vacancy in the Corresponding Secretary's office, by death, resignation, or otherwise, shall be filled by the Board until the Bishops of said Church shall, by appointment, provide a successor.

One or more Assistant Corresponding Secretaries or Field Agents may be appointed, from time to time, by the General Committee, and they shall receive such salary, and render such

services, as the Board of Trustees or Managers shall determine.

ART. VI. The Board of Trustees or Managers shall make an annual report to the General Committee, a quadrennial report to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and shall publish quarterly, or oftener, full information of the work of the corporation. Reports.

ART. VII. This corporation shall have power to sue and be sued, to have a common seal, and the same to change at pleasure. It shall also have power to contract and be contracted with, purchase, acquire, hold, and sell and convey, both in law and equity, any estate or interest therein, in any kind of property, personal, real, or mixed, as may be necessary or convenient for conducting the affairs of the Society, and to take and hold such property, or any of it, by gift, grant, devise, or otherwise, and to sell and convey the same, as well as to accept, take, and hold annuities and trusts for the uses of the Society, and to administer the same. Powers.

ART. VIII. The Board of Trustees or Managers shall enact such by-laws, and provide for the amendment of the same, as may be necessary to carry forward the work of the corporation, provided they are in harmony with the provisions of this Charter. By-laws.

Signed: R. S. Rust, A. Shinkle, W. L. Hypes, Alexander Martin, W. P. Stowe, Thomas H. Pearne, W. H. Hickman, David H. Moore, B. R. Cowen, William Runyan, I. D. Jones, John Pearson, M. B. Hagans, Earl Cranston, M. D. Carrel, Archer Brown, W. F. Boyd, J. C. Hartzell, Henry Liebhart, Joseph Courtney, James M. Shumpert, Daniel W. Hays, T. C. Carter, J. D. Walsh, J. W. Hamilton, J. F. Marlay, George B. Johnson, P. M. Bigney, Charles A. Ault, Albert J. Nast, Amon Boreing, M. S. Johnson.

THE STATE OF OHIO, }
HAMILTON COUNTY. } *To-wit:*

We, Amos Shinkle, President, and Thomas H. Pearne, Secretary of "The Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," do hereby certify that at the annual meeting of all the members of said Society, on the nineteenth and twentieth of October, 1892, held at the Methodist Book Concern, 190 West Fourth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, the foregoing amendments of the Act of Incorporation of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society were duly adopted by said Society, and that the copy thereof which appears above is a true copy of the original.

Witness our hands, and the seal of the corporation, this twentieth day of October, A. D. 1892.

A. SHINKLE, *President.*

THOMAS H. PEARNE, *Secretary.*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
STATE OF OHIO. } ss:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

I, C. L. Poorman, Secretary of State of the State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the annexed instrument is an exemplified copy, carefully compared by me with the original record now in my official custody as Secretary of State, and found to be true and correct, of the Certificate of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of "The Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," filed in this office on the 31st day of October, A. D. 1892, and recorded in Volume 54, page 561, of the Records of Incorporations.

Witness my hand and official seal, at Columbus, Ohio, this 31st day of October, A. D., 1892.

[SEAL]

C. L. POORMAN,

Secretary of State.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE EPWORTH LEAGUE.

CHICAGO, ILL., March 18, 1902.

Messrs. R. T. Miller and W. F. Whitlock:

Yours of February 19th reached the office in due time, and awaited my return.

The Epworth League was organized at Cleveland, Ohio, May 15, 1889, by delegates from the five Young People's Societies of our Church. The first general Constitution was adopted by the Board of Control at its first meeting in Chicago, February 6, 1890. A transcript may be found on page 64 of the book, "Four Wonderful Years," published by the Book Concern. This Constitution, with various changes and additions, was adopted by the General Conference at Omaha. It appears in paragraph 325 of the Discipline of 1892. Other slight changes were made by the General Conferences at Cleveland and Chicago, and may be found in paragraph 339 of the Disciplines for 1896 and 1900 respectively. Yours cordially,

J. F. BERRY, Gen'l Secy.

For the purpose of promoting intelligent and vital piety among the young people of our Churches and congregations, and of training them in works of mercy and help, there shall be an organization under the authority of the Gen-

eral Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and governed by the following Constitution:

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

The title of this organization shall be "The Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church."

ARTICLE II.

OBJECT.

The object of the League is to promote intelligent and vital piety in the young members and friends of the Church, to aid them in the attainment of purity of heart and constant growth in grace, and to train them in works of mercy and help.

ARTICLE III.

ORGANIZATION.

With a view to carry out the objects of the League, the Chapters and such other Young People's Societies as may be approved by the Quarterly Conferences shall be organized into presiding elders' District Leagues, and may also be formed into General Conference District Leagues. Other groupings may be arranged for the advantage of the work, such as Annual Conference

Leagues, State Leagues, City Leagues, etc. The Chapter shall be under the control of the Quarterly Conference and pastor. Any young people's society may become an affiliated Chapter of the Epworth League; *provided*, it adopt the aims of the League, that its President and officers and general plans of work be approved by the pastor and Official Board or Quarterly Conference, and that it be enrolled at the Central Office.*

ARTICLE IV.

GOVERNMENT.

The management of the League shall be vested in the Board of Control, to consist (1) of fifteen members appointed by the Bishops, one of whom shall be a Bishop, who shall be President of the Epworth League and of the Board of Control; (2) and of one member from each General Conference District to be chosen, at the General Conference, by the delegates of the Annual and Electoral Conferences comprised in the several General Conference Districts respectively. The Board of Control shall meet twice in each quadrennium.

* It is not hereby intended to disturb the present status of other Young People's Societies now organized in the Methodist Episcopal Church which are under the control of the Pastor and Quarterly Conference.

ARTICLE V.

OFFICERS.

The officers of the League shall be a President, four Vice-Presidents—two of whom at least shall be laymen—a General Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall constitute the General League Cabinet, of which also the German Assistant Secretary shall be a member *ex-officio*. The President shall be chosen as hereinbefore provided. The Vice-Presidents shall be chosen by the Board of Control from its own members. The editor of the *Epworth Herald* shall be the General Secretary, and shall be the executive officer of the League. He shall have charge of all correspondence, and shall keep the records of the League. He shall also be Editor of Epworth League publications. The Treasurer shall be elected by the Board of Control. The Editor of the *Epworth Herald* shall be elected by the General Conference. All these officers shall be elected quadrennially, and shall hold office until their successors are chosen. The duties of the General Secretary and Editor of the *Epworth Herald* shall be performed under the direction of the Board of Control; and the Cabinet shall act for the Board of Control *ad interim*. Vacancies in any of the above named positions, except the Presidency and the Editorship of the

Herald, shall be filled by the Cabinet, subject to the approval of the Board of Control.

ARTICLE VI.

GERMAN ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

The Editor of the *Haus und Herd* is constituted the German Assistant Secretary of the Epworth League, and thereby a member of the General League Cabinet.

ARTICLE VII.

FINANCES.

The salary of the Editor of the *Epworth Herald* shall be fixed by the Book Committee. All other expenses of the Board of Control shall be met through means which it shall devise. No collection shall be taken by the Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church except for League purposes.

ARTICLE VIII.

CENTRAL OFFICE.

The Central Office of the Epworth League shall be in Chicago, Ill.

ARTICLE IX.

LOCAL CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution for Local Chapters shall be in charge of the Board of Control; *provided*, how-

ever, that no enactment shall be made which shall in any manner conflict with this General Constitution.

ARTICLE X.

BY-LAWS.

The Board of Control shall have power to enact such By-laws for its own government as will not conflict with this Constitution.

ARTICLE XI.

AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution shall be altered or amended only by the General Conference.

NOTE.—The editor of the *Epworth Herald* was by the General Conference of 1900 made also editor of the Epworth League publications.

CHURCH INSURANCE.

ACTION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1896 RELATIVE TO CHURCH INSURANCE.

Resolved, First. That this General Conference approves of the insurance plan of the West Wisconsin Conference with which the Wisconsin Conference has successfully co-operated; and,

Second. That this General Conference shall provide for the organization of a Mutual Church Insurance Company for the benefit of the Church in the United States, on a similar plan, for such of our Churches and pastors as desire to avail themselves of it, as follows:

Third. The General Conference shall elect a Board of Insurance to serve for four years, consisting of one from each General Conference District to be nominated by the delegates of each district represented, and five to be nominated by the bishops.

Fourth. Such Board shall have general supervision of the matter of fire, lightning, and tornado insurance; it shall as speedily as practicable be incorporated according to law, with such

powers and prerogatives as may be needful to the organization and operation of a Mutual Insurance Company; such organization to be subject to the control of the General Conference.

Fifth. The time of service of said Board shall begin on the second Wednesday in June following their election, and continue until their successors shall be duly chosen and have entered upon their duties.

Sixth. The Board may fill vacancies occurring among its members.

Seventh. The officers of the Board, who shall also be officers of the organization as incorporated, shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an attorney, who, together with two others, shall constitute the Executive Committee, all of whom shall be elected by the Board at the first regular meeting of each quadrennium, and shall hold office for four years, or until their successors are elected and qualify. The Executive Committee shall have control of the business, subject to the Board. The Board shall have power to employ a manager and such other employees as may be found necessary.

Eighth. The annual meeting of the Board, or of the Executive Committee, shall be held on the second Tuesday in February, each year, at

such place as may have been selected at the previous meeting, except the first meeting, which shall be held in Chicago, Ill. Special meetings may be called by the President or any five directors. At all regular meetings of the Board seven shall constitute a quorum. Any annual meeting of the Board, except the first meeting after each General Conference, may be substituted by a meeting of the Executive Committee, should a majority of the Board so elect, unless, in the option of the President, the full Board should meet. Not later than January 5th of each year the Secretary shall send to each member of the Board a copy of the Annual Statement, promptly upon the receipt of which it shall be the duty of each member of the Board to express to the President in writing his opinion as to whether the full Board or only the Executive Committee should attend the annual meeting. Thereupon, but not later than January 20th, the President shall send out notices for the annual meeting.

Ninth. The Board shall have power to make by-laws not in conflict with the action of the General Conference.

Tenth. The Board shall submit to each General Conference a report of its proceedings for the preceding four years.

Eleventh. The necessary expenses incurred by members of the Board in attending its meetings, and all expenses incurred in the transaction of its business, shall be paid out of the funds of the Insurance Company.—Journal, 1896, p. 408.

CHARTER OF THE NATIONAL MUTUAL
CHURCH INSURANCE COMPANY
OF CHICAGO.

ARTICLE I. The name of this Company shall be the National Mutual Church Insurance Company. Its principal office shall be located in the city of Chicago, County of Cook, and State of Illinois.

ART. II. The object of this Company shall be to make insurance upon churches, dwellings, schools and other property on the mutual plan against loss or damage by fire, lightning or tornadoes, or any or all of said causes, under and in accordance with the provisions of the insurance laws of the State of Illinois.

ART. III. The corporate powers of the Company shall be exercised by a Board of Fifteen Directors, a majority of whom shall be citizens of this State. The first Board shall be elected at a meeting of the members of the Company, to be called by the incorporators as soon as prac-

licable after a permit is issued to it to commence business. They shall be elected by a majority vote of such members who may vote in person or by proxy. As soon as the Directors are elected they shall meet and divide themselves into three classes, so that five shall serve for one year, five for two years, and five for three years from the date of the first annual meeting following such election, and thereafter at each annual meeting of the members five directors shall be elected for a term of three years. The by-laws of the Company shall fix the date of the annual meeting.

The Board of Directors shall elect a President, Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, and such other officers as they may deem necessary, who shall hold their offices for one year, or until their successors are elected and have qualified.

They shall adopt by-laws for their own government and the government of the officers of the Company, not inconsistent with this Charter and the Act under which the Company is incorporated and all amendments thereto, and subject to such Charter, By-laws, and Act of Incorporation, shall have the control, direction, and management of the affairs of the Company. They shall cause careful books of account and of record to be kept, showing all of the business

of the Company, and shall at least annually make a report of the business transacted and the condition of the Company to the members thereof. They shall meet regularly at times to be fixed by the by-laws, and at such meetings shall receive reports from the officers and give such directions as to them shall seem to be for the best interests of the company. They shall require all of the officers and agents of the Company who have control of, or handle any of its funds, to give bonds with such securities and conditions as they shall deem proper; and may remove any officer when the interests of the Company shall require.

ART. IV. This Company shall not commence business until at least \$200,000 of insurance, in not less than one hundred separate risks, no one of which, for the purposes of organization, shall exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or be less than five hundred dollars (\$500), shall have been subscribed, and the premium thereon for one year paid in cash, aggregating not less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in cash.

ART. V. The fiscal year of this Company shall commence on the first day of January, and terminate upon the thirty-first day of December, in each year. The duration of this company shall be thirty years.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH.

The following is taken from a very valuable contribution to the constitutional history of the Methodist Episcopal Churches, edited by Wilbur Fisk Barclay, Secretary of the Constitutional Commission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, with an Introduction by Rev. J. J. Tigert, LL. D., and published by Barbee & Smith, Agents, Nashville, Tenn., 1902:

“OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

“*Ques.* Who shall compose the General Conference, and what are the regulations and powers belonging to it? *

“*Ans.* 1. The General Conference shall be composed of *one* clerical member for every *forty-eight* members of each Annual Conference, and an equal number of lay members. Of the lay members from an Annual Conference, one may be a local preacher.

“2. The clerical representatives shall be elected by the clerical members of the Annual Conference;

* This question was not in the Report of the Committee of Fourteen, 1808. Its first member was in the Discipline from 1792, and its second, “What are the regulations,” etc., was supplied by the editor of the Discipline of 1808.

provided, that such representatives shall have been traveling preachers at least four calendar years next preceding their election, and are in full connection with an Annual Conference when elected, and also at the time of holding the General Conference. The lay representatives shall be elected by the lay members of the Annual Conference; *provided*, that such representatives be twenty-five years of age, and shall have been members of our Church for at least six calendar years next preceding the time of their election, and also at the time of holding the General Conference.

"3. An Annual Conference, entitled under the second Restrictive Rule to one ministerial delegate, shall not be denied the privilege of one lay delegate, and he may be a local preacher.

"4. The ministers and laymen shall deliberate in one body; but upon a call of one-fifth of the members of the Conference, the lay and clerical members shall vote separately, and no measure shall be passed without the concurrence of a majority of both classes of representatives.

"5. The General Conference shall meet on the first day of May, in the year of our Lord 1812, in the city of New York, and thenceforward on the first day of May once in four years perpetually, in such place or places as shall be fixed on by the General Conference from time to time; but the General Superintendents, with or by the advice of all the Annual Conferences—or, if there be no General Superintendent, all the Annual Conferences respectively—shall have the power to call a General Conference, if they judge it necessary, at any time.

"6. At all times when the General Conference is met, it shall take a majority of the representatives of

all the Annual Conferences to make a quorum for transacting business.

“7. One of the General Superintendents shall preside in the General Conference; but in case no General Superintendent be present, the General Conference shall choose a President *pro tempore*.

“8. The General Conference shall have full powers to make rules and regulations for our Church, under the following limitations and restrictions—viz.:

“(1) The General Conference shall not revoke, alter, or change our Articles of Religion, nor establish any new standards or rules of doctrine contrary to our present existing and established standards of doctrine.

“(2) They shall not allow of more than one representative for every eighteen members of the Annual Conference, nor allow of a less number than one for every sixty; *provided, nevertheless*, that when there shall be in any Annual Conference a fraction of two-thirds the number which shall be fixed for the ratio of representation, such Annual Conference shall be entitled to an additional delegate for such fraction; and *provided*, also, that no Conference shall be denied the privilege of two delegates, one clerical and one lay.

“(3) They shall not change or alter any part or rule of our government, so as to do away episcopacy or destroy the plan of our itinerant general superintendency.

“(4) They shall not revoke or change the General Rules of the United Societies.

“(5) They shall not do away the privileges of our ministers or preachers of trial by a committee, and of an appeal; neither shall they do away the privileges of our members of trial before the society or by a committee, and of an appeal.

“(6) They shall not appropriate the produce of the Book Concern, or of the Charter Fund, to any purpose other than for the benefit of the traveling, supernumerary, superannuated, and worn-out preachers, their wives, widows, and children.

“*Provided, nevertheless,* that upon the concurrent recommendation of three-fourths of all the members of the several Annual Conferences who shall be present and vote on such a recommendation, then a majority of two-thirds of the General Conference succeeding shall suffice to alter any of the above restrictions, excepting the First Article; and also whenever such alteration or alterations shall have been first recommended by two-thirds of the General Conference, so soon as three-fourths of the members of all the Annual Conferences shall have concurred as aforesaid, such alteration or alterations shall take effect.

“*Provided,* that when any rule or regulation is adopted by the General Conference, which, in the opinion of the bishops, is unconstitutional, the bishops may present to the Conference which passed said rule or regulation their objections thereto, with their reasons, in writing; and if then the General Conference shall, by a two-thirds vote, adhere to its action on said rule or regulation, it shall then take the course prescribed for altering a restrictive rule; and if thus passed upon affirmatively, the bishops shall announce that such rule or regulation takes effect from that time.

“OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

“*Ques.* Who shall compose the Annual Conferences?

“*Ans.* [*Such preachers as may be prescribed by*

law *] and four lay representatives, one of whom may be a local preacher, from each presiding elder's district, to be chosen annually by the district stewards, or in such other manner as the Annual Conference may direct, who shall participate in all the business of the Conference, except such as involves ministerial character and relations; provided, that no one shall be a representative who is not twenty-five years of age, and who has not been for six years, next preceding his election, a member of the Church."

*The words in italics are supplied by the writer. For explanation, see page 51.

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