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AN ERRATIC, RECKLESS MAN

WHOSE GREATEST SUCCESS IN EARLY LIFE WAS AS A DEBT MAKER.

His Work in Africa, How He Came to Be Elected Missionary Bishop, and His Present Status.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.
CLEVELAND, O., May 9.—The committee on the episcopacy is wrestling with one of the most difficult problems now before the General Conference of the Methodist Church. It was difficult at first to determine to what standing committee the question of missionary bishops should be referred, as it touched both the episcopacy and the missionary work, and papers were indiscriminately referred to either as the immediate object seemed to bear most on this or that branch of the general question. It was finally resolved to put the whole matter into the hands of the episcopal committee, where it is now in the hands of an able subcommittee of seven. Though they have barely had time to look at the subject, the committee have already encountered a difficulty, which, in fact, does not legitimately belong to the abstract question.

The personality of Bishop Taylor, the bishop of Africa, has much to do with this embarrassment. He is a character. There is much in his life to admire, while his eccentricities, to give them no harsher name, and his repeated failures along his own chosen lines make it difficult to deal with him or with anything he handles. He is the Lorenzo Dow of this period, erratic, insubordinate and reckless, yet so pleasing at times as to command a large following. In the early fifties he incontinently abandoned his work as a pastor in the State and turned up in San Francisco as a street preacher. He was eloquent and impassioned and many were led to a better life through his preaching. But his work was purely personal. He published popular works which had a large sale and he reaped great profits, and he borrowed money and met expenses, but he created debts that were never paid, and though the whole affair was purely a personal venture, the result was a scandal, under which the Methodist Church in San Francisco staggered for a quarter of a century or more and even yet its greatest relief comes from that merciful provision—forgetfulness. A race has arisen that is not familiar with his blunders.

After this Taylor turned up in South America as the founder of a self-supporting mission. Here, too, like his prototype, Lorenzo Dow, he ignored all ecclesiastical authority and proposed to be an unmethodical as possible, though a Methodist local preacher. This venture as a religious movement was a lamentable failure and he abandoned South America, leaving, as in the California experiment, a legacy of debts and the like, which for many years greatly hindered the work which was under the management of the Missionary Society. No one familiar with the profits and losses of that venture can hesitate a moment in determining on which side of the ledger is the greatest amount to be found.

IN INDIA AND AFRICA.

Taylor next turned up in India, still the champion of a system of missionary work which should be self-supporting. For a while it seemed that he had organized a success. Among the English-speaking Eurasians he worked in his peculiar way and word came back to America that he was literally taking the country, whereas not a native in India had been reached. Leaving India as he had left San Francisco and South America, with the additional legacy of no little discord among the Wesleyan missionaries, he turned up on the Congo in Africa sixteen or twenty years ago, still in pursuit of a system of self-supporting missions. He went in on the tide which resulted in the organization of the Congo Free State and he easily attracted a following of adventurers, good men and women in their way, who were ready to go on a self-supporting mission while their expenses were paid, for it must be remembered that the word self-support in this connection merely means support by funds contributed for this special purpose, otherwise than through the machinery of the Missionary Society. Those who went were not all preachers or teachers, but mostly tradesmen of one class or another. Mr. Taylor himself was a local preacher not amenable to any church authority, except as to his moral character. He was easily recognized as the leader of these adventures and money flowed into his lap like water from England and America and Holland. There was scarcely a commercial enterprise that he was afraid to venture upon. He collected money to build a steamboat on the upper Congo, carrying the machinery around the falls on the shoulders of natives, and he did many other equally marvelous things in a commercial way to the admiration of the world.

When the General Conference of 1884 met Taylor's self-supporting mission was the one marvel of the day. He had under his control nearly 100 missionaries engaged in almost every branch of commercial enterprise, and he was himself a lay delegate to the General Conference from India, his latest local habitation. It did not require unusual tact to work up a demand for a missionary bishop for Africa under the rule adopted at Indianapolis in 1856 for the special benefit of Africa, and layman William Taylor, a local preacher, was easily elected to the office. That was twelve years ago. His personality cropped out at the beginning. Though his mission had posed as a self-supporting work, it had absorbed more money than any other mission among Methodists, the difference being that it went through Mr. Taylor's hands exclusively rather than through the Missionary Society, but it had no connection whatever with the Methodist Episcopal Church, all its property being held by an independent corporation.

THE BISHOP'S SALARY.

The election of Mr. Taylor, however, served as a spur of unbridled cord to unite the two, and the missionary board appropriated a salary for the bishop out of the missionary funds, leaving him still responsible for the salary of his subordinates out of the funds collected in Europe and America for the self-supporting mission. But he refused to accept it, because it came from the missionary funds, instead of the episcopal fund. He must be recognized as a bishop or he would have nothing to do with it. In hopes that something might come of the so-called mission of the General Conference, he honored his whim and ordered it so paid, though it was ultimately reimbursed from the mission fund.

He has now been bishop twelve years. That he has exhibited wonderful powers of

endurance and wonderful heroism is not to be denied, and that good will come of his labors is beyond doubt, but the work in Africa is a failure compared with the work of Bishop Thoburn in India, whose success is the basis of a demand for missionary bishops in China and Japan, if, indeed, a general superintendent should be elected in these and other points in Europe and Asia, while no one advocates any more self-supporting missions in the sense that the African mission has been self-supporting.

It was thus that Bishop Taylor became a bishop. It was a mistake, and one of the wisest of the members to me to-day. That is putting it mildly enough. How he came to remain a bishop is another mistake. Though only a local bishop, it has been that being a bishop at all he is a bishop for life, and now the question is how to get rid of him. It is no secret that the suggestion to abolish the office of missionary bishop finds its chief suggestion in the desire to introduce a new method in Africa. No such a thought is entertained in relation to the work in India. Still Bishop Taylor is a grand old man. He has been abundant in labors, but if he could have worked in harmony with others the results would have been better. His heroism has endeared him to his brethren, and if the office of missionary bishop shall be abolished all general superintendents will be elected. It is more than probable that he would be one of them, though he is in his seventy-sixth year and by no means unusually vigorous. That Bishop Thoburn would be admitted is no doubt.

At the meeting of the episcopal committee yesterday a formal petition was presented, signed by the colored brethren, to elect a bishop of African descent, alleging that they have a man every year qualified. Though it is hardly probable that at this time, with so many candidates before them, this man can command the requisite two-thirds vote, there is little doubt that their man will command a larger vote than some white men now in the field. T. A. G.

SATURDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Many Resolutions on Important Subjects Presented to the Conference.

CLEVELAND, O., May 8.—To-day's proceedings of the Methodist Episcopal General Conference developed no sensations. There was a brief reference to the proposed federation of the Churches, North and South, and a resolution was introduced asking for equal representation for the laymen. At the meeting of the committee on education, following the adjournment of the conference, consternation was caused by the reading of a report to the effect that funds to the amount of more than six hundred thousand dollars had been loaned to students during the past twenty-two years and that only about fifty thousand dollars of that sum had been repaid. The report precipitated a lively discussion and a subcommittee was appointed to investigate the matter fully.

When Bishop Nindo called the conference to order to-day but few delegates were in their seats. In fact, since the conference settled the woman question delegates generally have been tardy.

G. Louther, of the Southwest Kansas Conference, when the roll of conferences was called, introduced a resolution denouncing the use of tobacco in the presence of the members to assemble at Sunday school superintendents and Epworth League meetings. The resolution was referred to the committee on state of the church.

A resolution was introduced which created a deal of laughter. It said that Bishop Hurst, in his speech last night, said that the first duty given the American people was by a colored man, and therefore the resolution provided that the colored race should always be represented by a colored man.

A resolution was introduced by Merritt Hubbard, of the Wilmington Conference, recommending that the Senate and the House of Representatives amend the Constitution that it might recognize the duty and in the preamble insert the words "Trusting in God." It was placed on its passage, but finally referred to the committee on the state of the church.

A resolution in favor of taking better care of superannuated preachers was referred to the proper committee.

Secretary Monroe read a communication from the secretary of the Methodist Episcopal Conference South, which met in May, 1895. It spoke of the matter of federation of the two bodies, and recommended that the conferences of the churches and missions of Great Britain and Ireland, of the United States, of Australia and its branches and of Canada and its missions be brought into a closer federation. The resolution asked if such a conference was not possible, and if so, that a committee be appointed by all the various conferences to consist of three bishops, three ministers and laymen. It announced to the committee by appointment by the M. E. Church South. The matter was taken up by a resolution from an Ohio member, but it was decided that no action should be taken by the conference until official notification was served. The movement is important, as it may result in the consolidation of two of the great Methodist bodies of the country.

Dr. Broadbeck asked leave in behalf of the committee on missions to submit his report out of its order. The request was granted, and the report was read. It related to the reception of pastors from other denominations into the Methodist Church. While the resolution was general, it was explained that it referred to a special case in Germany, where the German Wesleyans desired to incorporate with the Methodist Episcopal Church. The resolution provided that the Wesleyans had property worth \$20,000 which would be brought into the Methodist Church. They would sacrifice their life-long connection with the English Wesleyan Society, which they regarded as quite a sacrifice. The speaker therefore asked that the conference take such action as would open the doors of the Methodist Church to the Wesleyan brothers, and if so, the union would be consummated next year. The resolution was unanimously adopted by a rising vote. A cablegram was sent to the Wesleyan Synod, now in session, informing it of the action.

A resolution was introduced which provided that changes in the constitution could be made without the present two-thirds vote of the conference and the three-quarter vote of the annual conference. It looked like storm for a moment, but it was side-tracked to the committee room.

Ex-Senator Marlan under the order of miscellaneous business, introduced the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the second restrictive rule be so changed as to admit of equal representation by the ministry and laity in the General Conference."

The resolution was signed by James Hartman, Christian Howell and J. H. H. It looked as if the old fight would be opened and the lines more clearly drawn than they have been heretofore, but the resolution was finally referred to the committee on lay representation.

Dr. Stevenson, of Kentucky, introduced a resolution of sympathy for Cuba, which was adopted.

The conference, before adjourning, passed a resolution commending a recent enactment of the Florida Legislature whereby it was made illegal in that State for colored children and white children to receive instruction in the same school.

Since 1874 the board of education of the Methodist Church has been loaning to indigent, deserving students money with which to complete the studies necessary to make them Methodist ministers or missionaries. The loans were for long time and on easy payments. Two days ago Rev. Dr. Charles H. Payne, of New York city, the corresponding secretary of the board, presented in pamphlet form a report on these loans, embracing the entire twenty-two years during which they have been given. This report showed that \$95,000 had been paid to students and that only the sum of \$50,000 had been returned. At the meeting of the conference committee on education to-day this matter came up in the form of a motion for a subcommittee to look into this apparently extraordinary state of affairs.

Gen. James L. Rusling, of New Jersey, declared that the loan system was evidently turning Methodist divinity students into paupers, and that it impaired their usefulness and was a bad thing in all ways.

Rev. J. H. Clendinning, of Fort Smith, Ark., said he could scarcely believe his senses when the figures were placed before him. The effect of the system on the students could not, he said, be other than disastrous. Men who would not pay their debts, he declared, were not fit to be Methodist ministers.

Said Chancellor Day, of Syracuse University: "If the repayments do not come

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Col. Nelson, Attorney Hays, of Green-castle, and Lockhart Will Also Speak—Fight for the Reward.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

NEWPORT, Ky., May 9.—The great legal battle in which the life of Scott Jackson is at stake is about to close. To-day was the beginning of the end, as hundreds packed the Campbell county courthouse to hear the final efforts of the attorneys to impress the jury of the guilt or innocence of the human being whose life hangs in the balance. But they were all disappointed, as the lawyers got into a dispute over the court's instructions, and the entire day was frittered away. The instructions will not now be delivered until Monday, after which the attorneys will make their arguments.

Up to the very hour of opening of court it was impossible to learn how the arguments were to be made. It was first rumored that Colonel Crawford would make the opening prosecution, Commonwealth Attorney Lockhart making the closing; but it was rumored that this programme had been changed and that Colonel Crawford would simply make the opening for the defense, while Colonel Lockhart the closing for the State, but Colonel Lockhart, the only man who is an authority on the matter, declined to give out any information about the arrangement.

Strong influence was brought to bear on Commonwealth's Attorney Lockhart Friday night to get him to let Colonel Nelson make an argument for the State. A delegation of citizens, with Mr. and Mrs. Bryan, appealed to him to make arrangements for Colonel Nelson to address the jury, and it is more than probable that the silver-tongued Colonel will be heard in behalf of the prosecution. Colonel Crawford stated that he would make no objection to such an arrangement, and it is generally understood that Judge Helm will allow almost unlimited speech-making. It is believed to-night that the probable order of arguments will be Lockhart first, Hays second for the prosecution, Colonel Crawford for the defense, Colonel Nelson closing for the prosecution. Crawford will be given as much time as that of the three speeches of the prosecution.

The court room doors were thrown open shortly before 9 o'clock, and the court room filled quickly. Among the first to arrive were Mr. and Mrs. Bryan, parents of the murdered girl, and her two brothers, Messrs. Fred and Frank Bryan. They had hardly taken their seats when Mrs. Jackson, very pale and leaning heavily on the arm of her daughter, Mrs. Dr. Edwin Paul, slowly entered the court room and took their seats adjoining the empty chair of the prisoner. They were accompanied by Mrs. Dr. Lewis and Professor Post joined them a few minutes later.

THE CROWD IMPATIENT.

There was a long delay in beginning the proceedings, and the big crowd in the court room began to grow impatient. At 9:30 Colonel Crawford entered, and after another long wait Colonel Nelson and Colonel Lockhart came in.

It was just 10 o'clock when Judge Helm entered and court was called to order. Jackson was brought in and took his seat next to his mother. Judge Helm then called for arguments. If there were any, on the court's instructions to the jury, Colonel Crawford announced that he would first read the instructions, but Judge Helm stopped him. Then a half-hour's conference with the Judge further delayed proceedings. Jackson during this time amused himself by reading the newspapers and chatting with his mother.

Attorney Crawford went up to Judge Helm, and with the typewritten instructions between them, Jackson's lawyer argued earnestly in a low tone. His face was worried, as if he thought that some of the instructions were damaging to his client. As Lawyer Crawford returned to the law book at his table for a moment the prisoner leaned forward and pressed an eager question as to the cause of the delay.

Attorney Crawford snatched his investigations at 10:50 o'clock and addressed the court. "As the jury believe from all the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, that the defendant, Scott Jackson, willfully, feloniously and with malice aforethought, killed the girl, I pray the court to find the defendant guilty of murder."

Colonel Nelson objected to such instructions and argued some time. Without deciding the point, Judge Helm adjourned court until 2 o'clock.

Another big crowd flowed its way into the court room when the doors were opened for the afternoon session, and by 3 o'clock was called to order there were few, if any, vacant seats in the room. Judge Helm handed the attorneys for the defense and prosecution the instructions he had prepared for the jury. There was another long delay while the attorneys read the instructions. The following are the instructions in full:

THE INSTRUCTIONS.

"First—If the jury believe from all the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, that the defendant, Scott Jackson, in this county and State, before the 14th day of February, 1895, did willfully, feloniously and with malice aforethought, with a knife or other sharp instrument, cut the throat of Pearl Bryas so that she died then and there, and because thereof, die, they will find the said Scott Jackson guilty of murder."

"Second—If the jury believe from all the evidence that one Alonzo Walling in this county and State before the 14th day of February, 1894, with a knife or other sharp instrument, cut the throat of Pearl Bryas, so that she died then and there and because thereof, die, and also believe from all the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant, Scott Jackson, was then and there present and willfully, feloniously and with malice aforethought, aided or abetted said Alonzo Walling in cutting her throat, intending that she should die, and because thereof, die, they will find the said Scott Jackson guilty of murder."

"Third—If the jury believe from all the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant, Scott Jackson, feloniously and with malice aforethought, himself attempted, or aided, or abetted, or counseled, or procured another to attempt to kill Pearl Bryas, but that she was not thereby killed, and that said Scott Jackson in this county and State before the 14th day of February, 1896, believing said Pearl Bryas had been killed, for whatever purpose cut her throat with a knife or other sharp instrument so that she died then and there and because thereof, die, they will find the said Scott Jackson guilty of murder."

"Fourth—If the jury believe from all the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant, Scott Jackson, feloniously and with malice aforethought, himself attempted, or aided, or abetted, or counseled, or procured another to attempt to kill Pearl Bryas, but that she was not thereby killed, and that one Alonzo Walling, in this county and State, before the 14th day of February,