

UNIQUE AFFAIR

Is Episcopacy in Methodist Church.
Grown With the Times.

MAY BE COMPLETE REVOLUTION

In the Laws of the Church—Bishop
Merrill Will be Remembered for
His Resolutions Praying for Mar-
tial Law.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

CHICAGO, May 5.—Episcopacy in the Methodist sense is an entirely unique affair. Like most other features in the denominational polity, it seems to have been an evolution. It is not an imitation of any office existing in other churches. It has grown out of the exigencies of the case. In colonial days in America the need of a superintending officer, who should travel at large among the scattered societies, meet and "confer" with the preachers and arrange their work, was apparent. Mr. Wesley, as the recognized head of Methodism in the new world, delegated his authority to his associate in England, Thomas Coke, L. L. D., who appeared at the first general conference (commonly known as the "Christmas conference") at Baltimore, December 24, 1784. Dr. Coke was recognized and approved as a general superintendent and had associated with him in his novel office Francis Asbury, by election and consecration of the conference. This is the rise of the Methodist Episcopacy. A technical definition of it seems to have been studiously avoided. The church was intent upon having an efficient officer rather than that the office itself should be put in alignment with any existing prelacy. Thus the church does not affirm that its Episcopacy is a superior order in the clergy, though it has conserved its dignity by making it a life tenure and by an impressive ritual for induction into it.

May Narrow to a Diocese.

As the church has never crystallized its theory of the Episcopacy in any formal manner, it is still free under constitutional process to make any alterations which the conditions now existing may seem to demand. Thus it may change the life tenure and make the office elective for a term of years with or without eligibility for re-election. It may narrow the present world-wide superintendency to a diocese. These changes will undoubtedly be made if ever the case seems to demand them. The law of the church bearing upon changes in the Episcopacy is found in what is known as the "third restrictive rule." "The general conference shall not change nor alter any part or rule of our government so as to do away with the Episcopacy nor destroy the plan of our itinerant superintendency." But this restrictive rule can be set aside by a three-fourth vote of the members of the annual conference. Under such a process the Episcopacy could be altered in any way thought desirable or it could be actually abolished.

General Average for Bishops.

To this unique office forty-four men have been promoted including Dr. Coke. Of this number fifteen are still effective and two are honorably retired on account of age. The average age of the bishops on consecration to office has been 50.3 years. Bishops Coke and James were the youngest, viz.: 37; Bishop Whitcomb the oldest, 64; of the twelve bishops elected in the first fifty-eight years of Methodist Episcopacy only two exceeded the average age of all at consecration. During the last fifty-eight years, of the thirty-two elected eighteen have exceeded the average. The average age of the active bishop is 56 years.

Tr freedom of the church in dealing with the Episcopacy is illustrated by the creation of the missionary Episcopacy by the general conference of 1855. Until the present the missionary Episcopacy have been limited to Africa and India. Four have been elected to the former, one to the latter. Missionary bishoprics may be created for other continents of the missionary Episcopacy or may be set aside entirely at the discretion of the body now in session.

Bishop Merrill and Martial Law.

When Bishop Merrill was in the second year of his pastorate at Greenup Street church, in 1862, Covington, in those days of the civil war was trying to preserve the alignment of neutrality, but many of its resident citizens and families were sympathizers with the south. In this feeling of uncertainty Confederate scouts appeared in considerable numbers on the heights overlooking the city. They belonged to Kirby Smith's army, then making a demonstration against Cincinnati. A panic ensued. People were anxious to get away from Cincinnati. Excited parsons besieged the bishop, who firmly replied: "I cannot advise you in this emergency; but for myself I certainly shall remain in Covington." The danger of sack for the city was imminent. There were no federal troops, and the municipal authorities were in sympathy with the confederacy. In this emergency a citizen's meeting was called.

Should Not Shed Each Other's Blood.

One of the clergymen present made a specific address, saying: "We be brethren and should not shed each other's blood." This advice was not taken kindly. Whereupon Bishop Merrill took from his pocket a common passbook, and putting it against brick wall wrote across the page the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, Public safety is menaced, as well as property and life, by the near approach of confederate forces; therefore

Resolved, That we, the citizens of Covington, in mass meeting assembled, earnestly petition the federal commander of the military department to place our city under martial law and furnish us with troops adequate for our protection.

The resolution was adopted with a whirl and immediately telegraphed to the federal commander at Louisville, and within an hour Covington was under martial law. Men in shoulder straps turned the mayor and sheriff out of doors, and bluecoats patrolled



What Is Colery King?

It is an herb drink, and is a positive cure for constipation, headache, nervous disorder, rheumatism, kidney disease, and the various troubles arising from a disordered stomach and torpid liver. It is a most agreeable medicine and is recommended by physicians generally. Remember, it cures constipation.

Colery King is sold in 5c and 10c packages by druggists and dealers.

the streets and restored order and peace to the city.

When the patriotic services of the bishops of the Methodist Episcopal church are recorded this which Bishop Merrill did is worthy of mention.

John L. the Idol.

New champions may come and go, new stars rise in the pugilistic firmament, and sit in the corner saloon, but the popular idol remains the same old comest—John L. Sullivan. Not all the excesses of which human nature is capable can rob him of his ring-ring glory. He has paid \$800 for a new liquor license, and may continue to sell rum at the same old stand on Broadway, in friendly rivalry with Corbett, his master, and with the gingerbread Walcott. He does not do his own "licking," in his own saloon, but in a small place, not far away, "Doesn't he carry a tag magnificently," exclaimed a worshipper on Monday, when John was telling two friends all about a chap what cuffed him on the ear, see, and was on the point of being murdered by a left duke when the crowd interfered to save him. Those who listened—and had they been on the opposite side of the street they could have heard—drank in the great man's recitation through open mouths along with the fumes of his liquor. Sullivan is one of the few truly great men of all time. In his particular line he was supreme.

Houses in the Streets.

From the Burlington (Iowa) Hawk-eye: The town of Deloit, which was platted in 1885, was re-surveyed recently and it was discovered that many of the lot lines were wrong. As a result a number of houses are standing where the streets should be.

HALE RATES TO CINCINNATI, O.

Via Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

On May 7 and 8 the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets to Cincinnati, Ohio, at rate of fare for the round trip, account People's Party national convention. Tickets will be good for return until May 12, 1900.

For further information call on or address T. C. Burke, Passenger and Ticket Agent.

EXCURSION RATES TO CHICAGO

Account Methodist Episcopal Church General Conference, Chicago, May 2-31, 1900—Very Low Rates via the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

On May 1, 2, 7, 14 and 21, the Baltimore & Ohio railroad will sell tickets from points beyond a distance of 200 miles from Chicago, at one first-class limited fare plus \$2.00 for the round trip; tickets can be limited for return, leaving Chicago not later than June 1.

For further information call on or address nearest Baltimore & Ohio ticket agent, or B. N. Austin, General Passenger Agent, Chicago, Ill.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

The Features of the Money and Stock Markets.

NEW YORK, May 5.—Whatever deductions are drawn from the stock market must be wholly negative, for the market continues near the level of stagnation. A slight flurry was given to the opening by the higher level of prices in London, and the room traders closed their contracts before the day's end, and brought the level of prices back near to last night's close. Sugar moved quite easily at a higher range than yesterday, and exactly recovered yesterday's loss as a net result. Long Island was quite active, and moved up to 89, but closed unchanged. The bonds of the company continued in active demand at advancing prices. The statement that Pennsylvania has acquired control found credence, but a working agreement with the New York Central is believed to be involved in the deal. The story of a steamship service to run from the Long Island coast was revived in the stock market. The reports of the mercantile agencies served to confirm the impression of the reactionary course of prices of commodities and of trade activity. The current stagnation in Wall street is the logical outcome of these conditions. Buyers are out of the market. But holders of securities are not yet sure that the ultimate health of the business. It is perceived that the recent high level of prices was such as not only to unduly stimulate production, but also to decrease the consumptive demand. Securities are obviously being firmly held until the problem of the level of prices and the volume of consumption shall adjust itself, to afford a basis for estimating future returns.

The export demand for manufactures continues, and exchange bills against manufactures are in quite abundant supply. The loan item of the bank statement demonstrated that these bills are not being drawn, but are being used as collateral for loans, which is an incident of the process of placing loans with foreign borrowers. The excess over the preliminary estimates of the bank's gain in cash was due to the extra day's operation of the sub-treasury, which yielded to the banks over \$1,800,000, or as much as the rest of the week.

The stock market has given evidence during the week of having reached an adjustment to the new conditions presented by the unexpected developments in the iron and steel trade of three weeks ago. The liquidation induced by that development over-ran its limit, as is the invariable rule with speculative movements, but the bears last week had to bid up prices to get back stocks which had been sold short.

The bond market has been quiet, and has moved in sympathy with stocks.

United States old 4s advanced 1/8 per cent, refunding 2s, when issued, 1/8 per cent, new 4s and 5s 1/2 per cent, and 2s 1/2 per cent in the bid price.

U. S. Bonds.

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