Aldrich Chas, Curator,
Historical Dept.

# THE DENISON REVIEW.

SIXTEEN PAGES A WEEK—SEMI-WEEKLY. DENISON, IOWA, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1899. VOLUME XXXIV NO. 74

# DES MOINES CONFERENCE MEETS.

## The Great Methodist Gathering and Amount of Work Done.

## BISHOP J. W. JOYCE PRESIDES

### Complete Account of the Proceedings, Presiding Elders Reports, Addresses, Delegates Selected, Continued in Tuesday Issue.

The much-looked for session of the Des Moines Conference began in the M. E. Church last Monday night. During the day the undergraduates and the examiners had been coming in and by the time announced for the first service on the program there was a large audience assembled to hear the speaker. At the hour announced the meeting began and after the opening services the Rev. Mr. Ilgenfritz introduced the speaker of the evening, the Rev. C. J. English of Colfax. His theme was "Eternal Life." He made four points in his discourse, namely, that eternal life is: 1st, freedom from suffering; 2d, a perfected social relation; 3d, completed aspirations, and, 4th, the fulfillment of human affection. The speaker used elegant language, spoke extemporaneously and put much earnestness in his subject. Tuesday was consumed in examining the young men who have not been admitted to the Conference in full connection. The questions were presented by the examiners in writing and the young preachers were compelled to grind out the answers on paper and present them to the committees by Tuesday night. All young men are compelled to pass this four years' course of examination and many have to be allowed more than one year to become proficient enough to pass each year's work

The anniversary of the Epworth League was held Tuesday evening. The main speaker was Dr. E. A. Schell of Chicago, and the president of the evening was Rev. C. L. Nye of Creston, Ia. Rev. M. C. Waddell of Council Bluffs opened the meeting with prayer. Dr. Schell's theme was "The Aristocracy of Youth." The lecture was exceedingly well received and being filled with solid truth, interspersed with many witticisms, it was both pleasing and instructive.

Wednesday morning the Conference proper began. The secretary of the former Conference announced the sickness of Bishop McCabe, and Dr. Emory Miller of Indianola was elected temporary chairman until the arrival of Bishop I. W. Joyce, who was to preside. The sacramental services were conducted by the Presiding Elders. At the close of the communion Bishop I. W. Joyce arrived. After a brief address and prayer the secretary called the roll of the former Conference. William Stevenson was elected secretary, with George W. Hughes, J. S. Young and M. G. Rambo as assistant. W. G. Riheldaffer was elected statistical secretary. He appointed T. S. Molesworth, J. E. Nicol, J. W. McCurdy, C. Fiescher and F. S. Bunting as assistants. David Shinton was made Conference treasurer; his assistants were T. S. Molesworth and F. T. Stevenson.

Dr. T. McK. Stewart introduced the following resolution, which was adopted:

With profound sorrow we have learned of the sickness of our beloved brother, Bishop C. C. McCabe. His association with us in former years in his representation of the great connectional benevolence of our church and in his generous and efficient aid in many of our local church enterprises, his hopeful spirit, his genuine enthusiasm for Christ and the church have endeared him to us, and caused us to look forward to this session of our conference and his first presiding in it with great pleasure. We devoutly pray that a kind Providence may sanctify the medical skill and the gentle and endearing ministrations of his home to his speedy restoration to health and his place of usefulness in the church.

While we bow in submission to the wise Providence that permits the affliction of our brother and denies us his presence, we rejoice in the flexibility of our economy which so promptly sends us Bishop Joyce, whose former administrations in our Conference has won high appreciation.

T. McK. STEWART,
W. E. HOOKER.

The transfer of T. A. Farley from the St. Louis Conference was announced. Among the visiting brethren present who were introduced to the Conference were M. B. C. Mason and W. H. W. Rees of Cincinnati, representing the Freedman Aid and S. E. society; Frank L. Hart, of the National Church Insurance company; E. A. Schell, of Chicago; W. W. Shank, of Omaha Christian Advocate, and L. K. Billingsley, of Kansas Conference.

On motion of B. F. W. Cozier a committee, consisting of T. McK. Stewart, Emory Miller and B. F. W. Cozier, were elected to express our opinion to President McKinley on the question of expansion and our foreign policy. There was also a committee on the Mormon question and the twentieth century movement. The committees were regarded as very important and some of the strongest men of the Conference were elected to draft the reports.

The time for electing the ministerial business sessions of the Conference was made 8:30 and 12 a. m. and the main audience room was made the business bar of the session.

The time for electing the ministerial delegates was put for 10 a. m. Friday.

The Bishop called for the reports of the Presiding Elders and the following reports were read:

#### PRESIDING ELDER'S REPORT OF ATLANTIC DISTRICT.

**Dr. W. W. Ramsey, Atlantic, Presiding Elder.**

The year closing has been one of hard work by the pastors and Presiding Elder. Two District Conferences have been held. The first in November at De Sota; the second at Shelby in June. Both sessions were well attended and full of interest. A goodly number of laymen were in attendance at both sessions. At our fall session a benevolent campaign was planned for the month of March. Five conventions were held in the District, followed by an exchange of pastors.

Our District League Convention was held at Anita in June. Members from all parts of the District, with the delegates from many Chapters, made the attendance large and enthusiastic. Plans were devised to make this part of the Church work more effective.

Revival services were held in all the Charges. The pastors, as faithful shepherds, were diligent in looking after the spiritual interests of their flocks and seeking the lost. The extreme cold weather, and the great amount of sickness that prevailed among the people in every Charge, made the work very difficult; and yet a goodly harvest of precious souls was gathered.

During the year the work on a number of the Charges was interfered with by the sickness of the pastors. In the month of March, Bro. I. H. Elliott, who was serving the VanMeter Charge, gave up his work on account of failing health; also in May, Bro. J. W. Neely, pastor of Anita, being in poor health, gave up his work. We appointed C. R. Bair, a local preacher, to fill out the year on the Van Meter circuit; and Bro. W. H. Cable, a member of Conference, has completed the year at Anita.

Sunday, March 13, while the pastor and family were at church, the parsonage at Van Meter was badly damaged by fire. Bro. Elliott's library and household furniture were consumed by the flames. Fortunately they were covered by insurance. The parsonage has been enlarged and put in good repair.

The 1st of November a nice little church was dedicated at Greely Center, on the North Branch circuit. In the same month the new church at Hamlin was dedicated. These churches cost about $1,000 each, and will meet the needs of the classes worshiping in them. Both were dedicated by Bro. C. E. English.

About the middle of October Bro. Dudley moved into the new parsonage in Atlantic. This is a splendid home for the pastor, and is entirely free from indebtedness.

On September 3, 1899, a new church was dedicated at Wichita by Bro. J. F. St. Clair. This is quite a neat building, costing about $1,400. A five-room parsonage, costing $600, has also been built; so we have a new church and parsonage on the Wichita circuit.

A good substantial brick church will soon be completed at Carson. This building, when completed and furnished, will cost about $5,000. The change from the dingy hall, where they have been compelled to worship for almost two years, to this beautiful church home, will be greatly appreciated by the congregation.

At Harlan, the old church has been sold, a much better location secured and the contract for a new church building let. The new building is to be brick, faced with pressed brick, and will cost, when completed and furnished, all of $11,000. The building is to be completed by January 1, 1900. This will make Harlan a very desirable charge.

An old debt on the church lot at Adair, and a balance on the lot for the new parsonage at Guthrie Center have been paid.

A burdensome debt on the church at Lewis has been provided for; most all paid and the balance secured by good subscription.

Repairs have been made on the following churches and parsonages: The church at Atlantic has been nicely frescoed; the churches at Adair, Adel, Audubon circuit, Casey, De Sota, Dexter, Earlham, Hancock, Marne, North Branch, Linden, Van Meter and Walnut have been repaired.

At Redfield a new bell rings out from the church tower calling the people to worship.

A splendid new organ has been put in the church at Griswold, and one at Walnut Valley; and both have been paid for.

In the Quarterly Conferences, I have called the attention of the brethren to the importance of the prayer and class meetings and Sunday schools, and the necessity of having the children attend the preaching service.

I have tried to impress the pastors and parents with the importance of having the children present at the preaching of the Word.

My relations with the pastors and people have been most pleasant.

Respectfully submitted,
W. W. RAMSEY

#### BOONE DISTRICT.

**E. M. Holmes, Boone, Ia., Presiding Elder.**

It is my privilege to present the record of Boone District to this session of the annual Conference with evidences of spiritual and material growth, and with assurances of faithful, even arduous toil on the part of pastors and churches. There has been such mingling of opportunity and embarrassment as to call for special vigilance, and for tactful and laborious effort of the brethren that man the Charges. There are rewards of this fidelity, some of which are indicated in the increase of members, and of values in church property.

**Material Improvement.**

At the close of the last Conference session two church buildings were unfinished. The one at Cambridge was dedicated October 30. The cost of this structure was $3,300. The one at Madrid was dedicated November 20. The amount expended upon it was $2,300. L. B. Wickersham successfully managed the finances of both these churches at the time of dedication. The society at Center school house, on the Woodward Charge, has erected a church and bestowed upon it the name of Robbin's chapel. It was dedicated July 30 by Dr. T. McK. Stewart. A new edifice is a necessity at Carroll, where quiet endeavors have been put forth to create a fund to launch the enterprise. The Ladies' Aid Society and the Epworth League have been the principal agents thus far and the success of their work gives promise of a creditable structure in the near future. At Colo a new parsonage of commodious proportions has been built. The old parsonage property was disposed of and the proceeds were applied on the new possessions. The value of this property is now $1,200. Likewise, the church at Dedham have recently completed a large nine-room, two-story building. This enterprise was carried through from inception to completion by the persistent effort of the pastor. It is one of the best residences of the community. The value of the parsonage property at this place is now held to be approximately $2,000. Church and parsonage property at Rippey and the church at Berkeley have been freshened by paint and papered. Three hundred and twenty dollars have been expended at Kirkman on a vestibule and a new furnace. One hundred dollars have been paid on repairs of parsonage at Scranton and $125 on the painting of the Ames parsonage, together with some minor work on the church. At Dana the papering of the church and the erection of sheds cost $100. The Ogden parsonage has received repairs, including a slight modification of the interior, at an expense of $70. Pleasant Hill church, on Cooper Charge, has been freshened at an outlay of $95. Improvements of different kinds have been made on the churches of Boone, Nevada, Grand Junction, Pilot Mound and Peoples of Ogden circuit, and Bethlehem, on Boone circuit, under Maxwell Charge, aggregating $660 in value; and on the parsonages of Minburne, Glidden and Cooper amounting to $100. The conveniences and value of the parsonage properties have been enhanced by the addition of good barns at Perry, Charidon, Madrid and Cooper, involving an expenditure of $475.

**Church and Parsonage Debts.**

The entire debt on church and parsonage at Nevada, amounting to $1,600, has been cancelled during the year. The church debt at Boone has been reduced by $1,000. Over $800 have been paid at Perry on improvements previously made in the basement of the church. The Ladies' Aid society at Glidden have paid $225 on parsonage debt.

**The Benevolences.**

The District entered upon the Conference year with plans for disseminating information and stimulating interest in the benevolence causes of the church. With the exception of two or three places where circumstances prevented, a convention was held on each pastor's territory. Dr. I. H. Correll, recently of Japan, bestowed helpful service at several of the meetings, and a few of the more experienced pastors rendered similar assistance at other places. At the time arranged for the taking of the collections the conditions proved to be very unfavorable and so continued till the days lengthened into weeks. It became necessary for the pastors to adopt methods other than those that contemplated auspicious weather and large congregations. The results are varied. Some Charges have kept well to thefront, have held their own against odds and will return as good report as last year. Other charges have presented a wavering line, have faltered and fallen back; while others still as if challenged by the greater difficulty, have gathered strength and swept on, and now rejoice over splendid gains. There has been enough vigor in their efforts to carry the entire District line to advanced ground.

**Revivals.**

The warfare spiritual has abounded in notes of victory. A seven weeks' meeting at First church, Boone, developed a revival of marked character. Upward of 300 persons were brought into our church fold, and the larger part of another hundred found fellowship in other organizations. Faithful labors of the pastor, prompt co-operation of the people and the efficient services of the evangelist, Hugh Smith, were the chief human factors visible in the results. Successful union meetings at Nevada have resulted in the addition to our church of 58 new members. Rippey has enjoyed a special awakening, greatly stimulating the church and adding to its number some 40 persons. On the Maxwell Charge the pastor, aided by Evangelist Wycoff, conducted a successful meeting at Collins and 24 were added to this society. Ogden circuit has had spiritual edification, evidenced in the ingathering of 27 new members, and culminating in the united efforts at church building. Dallas Center has felt the quickening impulse of the gospel and rejoice in the accession of 17 new members. Worrell's Grove, on the Ames Charge, was visited by a long-wished for revival, under the labors of the pastor, and 27 new members were the result. Other pastors have waged faithfully the battle against sin with encouraging gains.

**Miscellaneous.**

Early in the month of June J. E. Bryan, pastor of Woodward charge, felt impelled to remove to Colorado in search of improved health for Mrs. Bryan. He arranged with Alfred Knoll to complete his pastoral duties.

Two District Conferences and an Epworth League convention, the best in a series of good conventions, contributed their incitement to earnest endeavor throughout the District.

Here the record of the Conference year is closed. With prayer and faith, amid hopes and anxieties, now in the flush of conscious success, and again in the dismay of disorganized plans the work has been wrought. But whether the one or the other, and throughout it all the strengthening, comforting grace of God has been specially gracious. The work is His; and the empowering for such results as have been achieved is from Him. To Him we ascribe grateful praise.

E. M. HOLMES.

#### COUNCIL BLUFFS DISTRICT.

**Rev. D. C. Franklin, Council Bluffs, Presiding Elder.**

The genius of human wisdom is not equal to the task of correctly estimating the results of a year of toil in a field of such varied interests and possibilities as belongs to the territory of the Council Bluffs District. Thirty-five pastors appointed by Bishop Vincent have wrought diligently from the beginning to the close of the year, and they are here today to give account of their ministry. Faith, hope and hard work have conspired to meet the demands of each charge, and the difficulties peculiar to each local field have been overcome by the tactful zeal of devoted servants of our King. The membership of the churches have not been remiss in duty, but have followed the discreet leadership of pastors, and thus made possible the triumphs of the year. Carefully wrought plans for systematic co-operative work were made early in the year, but owing to the severe storms of the winter and spring, and prevailing sickness among our people, we were hindered in carrying out the order, and found it necessary to wait for opportune days and the substitution of personal work for the general plan. Much of the fruit of this year, both in soul saving and financial matters, is the result of individual effort and careful gleaning. Special meetings of great promise were abandoned again and again on account of continued storms and impassable roads; but, amid all of the discouragements, pastors with hopeful spirit labored on as best they could, and the helpers, with faith and courage undaunted, sustained them, thus making it possible for us to joyfully sing:

"But out of all the Lord
Hath brought us by His love,
And still He doth His help afford,
And hides our life above."

Special attention has been given to the circulation of our church papers. The canvass was thorough and the merit and claim of our own publications emphasized, stress being laid upon the fact that Methodists ought to read Methodist literature, and thus become well informed regarding the work of our worldwide Methodism. As a result of the effort made pastors report 679 copies of our Advocates and 773 copies of our wideawake Epworth Herald. The call of the church for money to carry forward the work of God in all lands was heard by ears intent to hear and heed every call to duty. Pastors without exception received the apportionment without protest, and at once began to plan to raise every dollar required. Our campaign, which contemplated reaching every appointment in the District, was literally buried out of sight by the snows of many storms. But with undaunted spirit this noble brotherhood would, out of the wreck and disorder, construct again, and go at it with a more determined spirit. I am sure I do not overstate the facts when I say that more sermons have been preached, more prayers offered, more hand-to-hand personal work performed in the interest of our benevolences than at any time during the past three years. I want to say here and now, that in all of my association with pastors I have not at any time heard a word disloyal to the benevolent work of the church, but, to the contrary, they have with deep solicitude counselled how best to raise every dollar possible. The report will show that, in most instances they have succeeded in plucking victory out of seeming defeat. The exceptional cases, which note a decrease compared with last year, have perhaps won a greater triumph (all things considered) than those who have succeeded in bringing a larger amount to the treasury of our Lord. We have, in some cases, to deal with Christian Science, a soured type of so-called holiness, Darwinism, Mormonism. A spirit of indifference and open hostility to the aggressive spirit of the church, thus making the victory achieved all the greater, when studied in the light of potent facts. But, all things considered, our people have done well, and these enthusiastic pastors bring today their joyful offering and lay it down at the Master's feet. For missions, $5,067; for church extension, $400; for Freedman's Aid & Southern Education, $406; for Conference claimants, $572, or a total for all benevolences of $6,855. We have endeavored to emulate that terse motto of Bishop Gilbert Haven: "When you do a good thing, and people criticise you and find fault, don't stop to argue or defend, but do it again." And in so doing we have found the joyful reward of perseverance and toil.

**Material Improvement.**

A beautiful church has been built at Wesley, on the Hastings Charge, at a cost of $6,000. It is a model in every particular. Bro. Varley is deserving of great credit in the management of this enterprise. It was dedicated to the service of God June 4 by the Presiding Elder. Bro. C. D. Fawcett has wisely directed in the work of building a cozy parsonage at Silver City at a cost of $948, all of which has been paid. Epworth church, Council Bluffs, has been painted and papered, costing $60. Fifth Avenue church, Council Bluffs, has been frescoed, and the determined spirit of the pastor has succeeded in placing fine oak pews and gasoline lamps at a cost of $275, which has been paid. Trinity church, Council Bluffs, has succeeded in replacing the chairs with good, substantial pews at a cost of $185. Paint and paper have beautified the churches on Defiance Charge, costing $80. Denison has expended $1,300 in beautifying the interior of the church. You have but to look about you for evidence of the good faith of Denison, when asking for this session. Right well has she kept her promise to provide for your comfort and pleasure. Dunlap has fitted up the basement of the church for League and prayer meeting purposes; reshingled the old parsonage and with other minor improvements expended $100. Hastings has placed new stained glass windows and otherwise improved the property at a cost of $240. Little Sioux has expended $185 in a gas lighting plant, papered and painted the church. Northboro churches have been beautified by paint and paper at a cost of $105. Pacific Junction has papered church, expending $60. Persia church has been papered and painted at a cost of $40. Farmer City church, on Randolph Charge, has been reroofed, painted and papered, fence about church at Randolph and parsonage improved, cost $125. Shenandoah has papered the parsonage and otherwise improved it at a cost of $75.

The following amounts have been paid in improving parsonages: Blanchard, $25; Coin, $18; Fifth Avenue, Council Bluffs, $60; Defiance, $20; Dow City, $200; Essex, $20; Hillsdale, $50; Hastings, $53; Northboro, $60; Glenwood, $10; Little Sioux, $15; Manilla, $20; Modale, $10; Sidney, $20; Woodbine, $60; Weston, $65; total expenditure on church and parsonage improvement, $4,364.

Debts have been paid as follows: Coin, $400; Denison, $1,000; Broadway, ——; Faragut, $172; Glenwood, $85; Manilla, $575; Missouri Valley, ——; Randolph, $70; Sidney, $78; Woodbine, $140; Weston, $175. One of the notable victories of the year is the payment of $736.67 on Trinity Church, Council Bluffs, due the Church Extension society. Bro. Brown (the pastor) has, with tireless energy, devoted himself to the raising of this money and, in the face of manifold discouragements, has succeeded. We now have one Methodist Episcopal Church at Council Bluffs free from debt. Trinity may now "Sound the loud tymbrill, for Jehovah has triumphed—His people are free." Broadway is maintaining her heroic struggle with the incubus of debt; $2,300 has been paid during the year and the helpful service given by Bishop McCabe September 10 provides for about $1,200 of the claim for the ensuing year. No more heroic people can anywhere be found; you ought to help them. A total for payment of debts and improvement of church and parsonage property of $10,145.

**New Enterprises.**

The old church at Logan has been sold, parsonage moved to the east side of the lot, and contractors are now busy erecting a new, modern church, estimated to cost when completed about $7,500. The pastor is, by wise methods, directing this enterprise and success is assured; $6,000 good subscriptions in hand. The old church at Riverton has been torn down and a new church is well under way, estimated to cost between $3,000 and $4,000. They are building in town this time and the possibilities of one church work will thereby be greatly improved. Glenwood and Hamburg are talking new church, and we hope in the not far-away future to report the purpose realized. Two profitable and helpful District Conferences have been held during the year. The attendance was good and the work thorough. The District League Convention held at Dunlap in June was largely attended and very helpful to our young people. The League and Sunday School work is prosperous and the fruit thereof is abundant. We have 51 League Chapters, well officered and doing efficient work. The revival has not been as widespread as desired. Souls have, however, been saved; the Church has been edified and more compactly built in faith and practice. Our Quarterly Meetings have been seasons of great spiritual power and blessing. The Quarterly Conferences have been well attended and a growing interest in Christ's kingdom is marked. God has been very gracious and good to us, as a District. The health of our pastors and their families has been preserved. Death has entered but one parsonage home. The little babe of Bro. and Sister Voorhees was taken to the heavenly home Sunday evening, September 3. The comforts of God's sustaining grace abound in the stricken home. The year has been one of incessant toil. I have been absent from the District but one Sabbath. I have given all of my time, thought and energy to the work. I am not conscious of having neglected a single duty, however irksome or unpleasant. I have not pleased everybody—an archangel could not do that and be true to the duties and requirements of the office. I have zealously guarded the interests of the church of God, and have endeavored to look after the comfort of the parsonage home. I have insisted upon the payment of the allowance made at the beginning of the year, and the deficit on the District will be small. I am deeply conscious of my failure to accomplish all that I have purposed in my heart, but I yield the palm to no one, in my estimate of the work and high calling of a Methodist preacher, and my deep solicitude for the richest measure of God's grace upon all of our official members, and the Church at large. The success of the pastor and his people is my joy; their disappointment and loss is mine, also. Standing in this presence, I can truly say, I have done my very best for every interest of the cause we all so dearly love.

But our best service is far below the standard, and for it we claim only the merit of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

"The hour draws near, howe'er delayed and late,
When at the Eternal Gate
We learn the words and works we call our own,
And lift void hands alone
For love to fill. Our nakedness of soul
Brings to that gate no toll;
Giftless we come to Him who all things gives
And live because he lives."

Respectfully submitted,
D. W. C. FRANKLIN.

#### ADDRESSES THE CONFERENCE.

Frank L. Hart addressed the Conference in behalf of the Church National Insurance company. Dr. Schell made a few hopeful remarks for the League and Dr. M. B. C. Mason presented the interests of his cause. He spoke of the educational institutions of the south owned by the M. E. Church for the poor whites and blacks, and gave a very optimistic view of the work among the colored race. He referred with pride to the fact that of the thousands of young men educated in our schools not one had committed any grievous crime.

The announcements of the committees were made and the Bishop pronounced the benediction.

The Cabinet, which consists of the Bishop And Presiding Elders, meets every afternoon from 3 to 5 p. m. and each night from 7 to 9 p. m. While these men are making the appointments for the ensuing year the regular literary program of the Conference is being carried on and the many committees are at work in their various places of meeting. The ministers come in and seem ready for a good rest until they are placed on some important committee, then they become as busy as bees, and with the committee meetings, the talking over likely candidates for General Conference, the visiting with old friends and the settling of the annual accounts with the book concern, the Methodist church is the most businesslike place in our city. This Conference seems to be filled with unusual interest, owing to the fact that there are to be ten delegates to be elected to the General Conference of the M. E. Church, which is to meet in Chicago in May, 1900. Five of these will be ministers and five will be laymen. It is interesting to watch the groups of men chatting over the good traits of their peculiar favorites, either in the ministry or the pew. Among the ministers the Presiding Elders always stand a good chance of being elected to General Conference; besides these there are two or three prominent men from each District. From Des Moines, A. E. Griffith and T. McK. Stewart are mentioned. Emory Miller of Indianalo has a large following; Dr. Hamilton of Simpson College has his especial friends; Chariton District has H. P. Dudley of Mt. Ayr and William Stevenson of Osceola. Besides these, M. C. Waddell of Council Bluffs, L. B. Wickersham of Boone and C. L. Nye of Creston, are mentioned. Among the laymen the names of many of Iowa's prominent citizens appear: Gov. L. M. Shaw of Denison, Dr. Kennedy of State Board of Health, Hon. John Gibson of Creston, Hon. A. E. Rhea of Corydon, W. E. Weeks of Guthrie Center, E. T. Roberts of Audubon, M. L. Dudley of Des Moines, and many others.

The time of reading the appointments has been placed for Monday morning.

Wednesday afternoon the Preachers' Aid society held their anniversary. Rev. Fred Harris of Missouri Valley and Rev. L. B. Wickersham made addresses.

The Des Moines Conference, at its last session in Creston, Ia., voted to request Dr. T. McK. Stewart to present a paper on "Destructive Higher Criticism, or the Authenticity of the Bible." The address will be found in full in another issue.

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Wednesday evening was the anniversary of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Educational Society. W. H. W. Rees and M. B. C. Mason of Cincinnati addressed the audiences. Rev. W. H. W. Rees, the assistant Corresponding Secretary of the society spoke in part as follows:

Two civilizations in this country were planted about the same time, one by the Pilgrim Fathers at "Plymouth Rock", the other at Jamestown, Va. The one stood for the common school, the academy, the college and the university. A cultured ministry, a christian home, a broad brotherhood, a free press and a New England of to day. The other civilization meant colleges for the rich, ignorance for the masses, poverty for the poor, and slavery for the black man. Result, 6,000,000 people in the south to-day over six years of age who cannot read. One third of the population of the south unable to read intelligently the Lord's prayer. The Freedmen's Aid and Southern Educational Society has undertaken to lift the dark pall of ignorance off the mind of the south. Bancroft has said. "You cannot disassociate a nation's greatness from its religious teachers." Guizot said, "Luther made Germany." Choate said, "The Swiss republic could never have been what it was had it not been for Calvin." All the springs of English literature are found in King James' translation of the Bible.

Wake up a man's taste and he paints you a picture, wake up a man's reason and he writes you a book. Wake up his conscience and he works reform in himself. Wake up his justice and he cleanses a city from its impurities. Law, liberty, literature, as well as all the forces of nature are marshalled and hurled by the mind of man. The criminal negro of the south is not the educated negro. Education does not make criminals. We are letting in the light on darkest Africa in America. As Bishop Taylor says, "the greatest Mission field of the world."

Here on this platform to-night is one. Our beloved Dr. Mason, a product of this society, a sample of the work done by our schools. He will speak to you, much to your edification and delight. We must educate the black man of the south and give him by the ministry of the church and the school a fair chance. Then there shall be a changed condition of the south. The anvil will be warmer under the hammer, the plow brighter in the furrow, the temple aglow with a holier fire and the whole south under a sense of greater security to capital will soon be the regenerated and sacred south. * * *

The second speaker of the evening was Dr. M. B. C. Mason, a colored man, the corresponding secretary of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Educational Society, of Cincinnati, Ohio. He is a perfect scholar, a polished gentleman and great orator. His address, which follows, perfectly captured the audience and owing to the applause he was stopped many times in his address. He said:

The Methodist Episcopal church from the very beginning of her history was cosmopolitan in her membership and has since grown to be world wide in its jurisdiction. In the field of ecclesiacticism she has never been a negative but always a positive factor. She has never been so much a protest against other forms of church organization as rather a positive declaration for a christianity that was essentially Christ's in life and spirit. Her going into the south therefore at the close of the war was but the legitimate outcome of her history, the natural result of the position which for more than three-fourths of a century she had maintained as the most conspicuous leader in every religious and moral reform. Standing here as we do to-night to review with you some of the results of this movement, the facts in the case warrant me in the assertion that notwithstanding the difficulties with which we have had to contend, the obstacles which we have overcome and the victories which we have won, stand without a parallel in the history of christian missions in this or or any other age. Continuing Dr. Mason said: The success which we have won on the building of churches and in the conversion of the people and thus leading them to higher and purer lives is the foundation for our work of christian education.

In all these schools industrial trades are taught. At Claflin University at Orangeburg, South Carolina, we teach as many as thirty-two different trades, carpentry, boot and shoemaking, masonry, wood and iron working, painting, printing, etc. At Clark university at Atlanta, Ga., is another great industrial center and in many of our schools no pupil can graduate until he has in addition to regular studies, learned a trade. In speaking of the great work of educating christian teachers for the highways and neglected country places in the south, the Dr. said, our Freedmen's Aid Society has educated 18,219 young colored men and women and nearly 3,000 from among the poorer class of white people in the south. All these have been sent forth as christian teachers and are helping to make peace and prosperity. In conclusion Dr. Mason said: No greater work has the society done than in the preparation of christian missionaries for Africa. Seventeen young colored men and women have already gone and more are to follow and in a few years there shall be on the continent of Africa one thousand young colored men and women, who shall bring the light of the Gospel to benighted Africa.

Thursday's Proceedings on Page 4.

Ladies' New
Embroidered Neckwear
Just Received At
PRICES ALWAYS THE LOWEST. J. P. Miller & Co.