RESTING HISTORIC STORY
LEXINGTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

BY W. G. MUSGROVE.

ficial board of the Christian this city, realizing that the istory is rapidly being lost, ning its interest and impor- pointed a committee consisting Musgrove, Elder E. J. Fens- r, Mrs. Geo. M. Catron and P. McCausland, to collect all obtainable, and put them in spread upon the church The committee made report tober meeting of the official nd as the report showed lack ation from 1844 to 1888, the e was continued, with instruc- make an effort to secure the nformation.

ommittee, in giving out this publication, does so with the t those who have items of connected with the history, them out, and hand them to ber of the committee.

port, as read to the official been corrected and extended, follows:

eeting of the official board of stian church at Lexington, he first Lord's day in August, committee of four was ap- collect all the facts obtain- ing to the history of the nd to put such information in be spread upon the minutes rch.

our committee, respectfully following report:

that much of the early his- church has been utterly lost. here seems to have been no erk, and no records were e find that Bro. John E. wrote a short history of the hich was read to the church ni-centennial, in April, 1886 incorporated in this article all mation we could secure, in- much which was in Bro. letter.

st record we have of the in the handwriting of Wm. who joined by letter in May, here is nothing to show that en record was kept previous ut he wrote such facts as he ain from the older members. urch was organized on the of April, 1836, at the resi- o Levi Van Camp, two miles his city. The first record we e following:

hose names are hereunto sub- aving first given ourselves to by obeying the Gospel, being zens with the saints, and of hold of God, built upon the of the apostles and Jesus Christ Himself being corner stone, now agree to her as a church of Christ; to Word of the Lord as the only r faith and practice." The reement was signed by 20 follows:

h Mosby,
Porter,
R. Benton,
nton,
Porter,
n Camp,
Van Camp,
Van Camp,
Van Camp,
an Camp,
Van Camp,
Tharp,
Marquis,
W. Marquis,
tone,
Stone,
ls Bounds,
Bounds,
Littlejohn,
A. Marquis.

fall of 1836 Ellen Waddell, W. Waddell, Patsy Waddell, Burden) John J. Waddell ah Waddell were added by m Mayslick, Ky. In October, . Whittlesey, Saluda Whit- William I. Stone and Dorcas ere received by letter, and in 1837, Carr B. Waddell and addell. In August, 1838, lournoy and M. W. Flournoy ived by immersion. This is ecord of baptism. At the same Mrs. Elizabeth Waddell was by letter. June 16, 1839. O. ne was received by letter, and n Camp was received by im- December 15, 1839, Hiram e and wife were received by m Paris, Ky. Bro. Levi Van o had taken an active part in the church, was the first Geo. W. Marquis the first When Bro. Van Camp came ri, in 1835, he found Bro. ng "laboring in word and This is the first record of hing. He says "Bro. Young is the only public teacher of note in four counties."

The little band of disciples grew slowly, but steadily, there being scant record of dates given. Among the members were many colored men and women, and the older members will yet remember "Simon, servant of J. T. Waddell," who so long acted as janitor. His name is recorded as the 52d member.

July 19 1839, Levi Van Camp, J. T. Waddell, P. R. Whittlesey, C. B. Waddell and Dr. M. W. Flournoy were appointed by the church as a building committee, and J. T. Waddell, Levi Van Camp and P. R. Whittlesey were selected as trustees "in order to receive the deed in behalf and for the benefit of the Christian church, for land on which to build a meeting house."

On the 15th of December, 1839, Bro. Thomas N. Gaines was ordained as an evangelist by fasting, prayer and the imposition of the hands of the eldership. This is probably the first and the last evangelist ever ordained by this church, though it is possible that Elder Hiram M. Bledsoe was also ordained as evangelist, though there is no record of it. On the day that Brother Gaines was ordained as an evangelist, Brother Hiram M. Bledsoe became a member by presenting his letter from the church at Paris, Ky. Soon afterward he was chosen as an elder. We have no record of his first election, but we find that on the 7th of January, 1843, the church met to elect two bishops, or elders, the former elders, Levi Van Camp and Hiram M. Bledsoe having resigned their offices on the preceding Lord's day. On the first ballot Bro. Bledsoe received a majority of all the votes cast, and was declared duly elected. After some unsuccessful ballotings, no one receiving a majority vote, it was ordered that the election of another elder be postponed for the present. Brother Bledsoe and Brother Gaines at once took prominence in church work. They were known and loved in all the regions round about, and by their work and example many souls werd added unto the church.

In June, 1840, there had been 63 names on the church roll, several of whom had moved away; but at this date quite a number of new names were added, among them Samuel Hudson Pency B. Hudson, Martha G. Grant, Ann Rayburn, Lewis Rayburn, Wm Nichols, Cynthia Nichols, George E. Taylor, Mary (Mosby) Flournoy, Benedict Thomas, Nancy Thomas and Mary Buchanan. At the same time there were nine names of colored people added to the roll. From June, 1840, till May, 1841, there seems to have been no additions. On May 2, 1841, William Musgrove and Ann B. Musgrove were received by letter from Mayslick, Ky.; on June 16, 1841, Alfred Jones and Sarah Jones came in by letter from Lexington, Ky. June 20, 1841, Henry Fisher was received by letter from Liberty, Mo., and Mary Catron was received by immersion. July 24, 1841, William Gordon was received by immersion. April 15, 1842, Sarah Dowden and John Flournoy were received by immersion, and Martha Gordon's name was also added, but we are not told whether by letter or immersion.

June 11, 1843, Sarah G. (Mosby) Rogers was received by immersion. July 16, 1843, Anna Barnes, Acry Barnes and Thomas Waller Barnes presented letters from Bethel, Ky., and F. Mortimore Barnes presented his letter from Mayslick, Ky. September 17, 1843, Dr. Joseph G. Chinn, Barbary Chinn, Joseph G. Chinn, John P. Bowman and E. M. Bowman were received on the presentation of their letters from the church at Lexington, Ky. On the 7th of April, 1844, James S. Muse, Jane Muse, Martin Slaughter and Margaret Slaughter were received by letter from Dry Run, Ky.

On the 7th day of January, 1843, the following order was entered of record:

"Ordered—That the Saturday preceding the 3d Lord's day in this month, and the Saturday preceding the 3d Lord's day in every month hereafter, till otherwise ordered by the church, be set apart for the transaction of church business."

August 6, 1843, it is ordered that W. Musgrove, A. Jones and W. Wilmot be appointed to settle with the building committee. On the 16th of September following the committee reported, and the report was accepted by the church. The building committee had been appointed in July, 1839, and four years and one month later the matter seems to have been amicably settled. At that time the church on the corner of Main and Eleventh streets was considered a very pretentious structure, and was probably the best church building in the city. Brother Bascom says: "This old building, which in its youth was regarded as a marvel of church architecture and large dimensions in those primitive times, has now sadly dwindled in its age. Time was when its audience room rang with eloquent sermon, convincing logic and powerful exhortation of such men as Alexander Campbell, John Smith, Jacob Creath, John T. Johnson, T. M. Allen, Moses E. Lard, Benjamin Franklin, Allen Wright and a host of others whose voices are now hushed in death." We would also add the name of Bro. William Henry Robinson, "the blind preacher," to the above list of illustrious names. As an orator he had few superiors, and as a logician he had few equals.

John T. Johnson, one of the leading men in the reformation, arrived in Lexington on the 23d day of November, 1856. He began a meeting the next night in the old church, and the audiences were always large. He preached powerful sermons, and 24 additions were made to the church, when he was stricken with pneumonia and died December 18, 1856. He had preached fifteen sermons, and after announcing his text for the following night, retired to the residence of Bro. Thomas C. Bledsoe. He was taken sick immediately, and died early the next day Bro. Johnson had been a lawyer; had joined the Baptist church; and at the solicitation of Alexander Campbell he quit the bar and began preaching, and joined the reformation. When a young man he was a volunteer aid on the staff of Wm. Henry Harrison in the war with England in 1812, and was a distinguished soldier. In 1820 he was elected to congress to succeed his brother, and in 1822 he was re-elected.

September, 1843, Alfred Jones, Benedict Thomas and Wm. S. Van Camp were appointed to solicit subscriptions to aid in paying the church debt, and also to aid in completing the house. At the same meeting Levi Van Camp and William Musgrove were appointed to write a letter to the annual meeting to be held at Mount Gilead, in Clay county, on Friday before the first Lord's day in October.

October 14, 1843, the following is of record: "*Church met for business.* It is agreed to finish the meeting house. Ordered that the gallery be taken down and a part o the lumber sold. Hiram M. Bledsoe, Alfred Jones and Wm Musgrove appointed to superintend the furnishing of the house. W. D. and Hannah Wainright received by letter from Paris, Ky."

In December, 1843, an effort was made to secure the services of Bro. T. N. Gaines a portion of his time. The effort was successful, and one-fourth of his time was secured for the year. At this meeting, after deliberate consideration, it was agreed "that the deacons, by virtue of their office, have the care of the meeting house, and are therefore authorized to appoint a suitable person for sexton, and to pay him out of the funds of the church." At this meeting Dr. J. G. Chinn proposed "that an ad valorem tax be laid on the property of the members, which will be sufficient to cover the expenses of the church" The motion was discussed by Dr. Chinn and Alfred Jones in the affirmative, and by Levi Van Camp in the negative. The matter was dropped for awhile, but was again brought before the church on the 20th of January, 1844. Dr. Chinn submitted in writing the following questions: First—"Do the scriptures teach that it is our duty to support those who preach the gospel?" This was settled by a unanimous vote in the affirmative. Second—"For the purpose of raising money for said support, do the scriptures teach that all should give agreeable to their ability?" This question was also settled by a unanimous vote in the affirmative. Two days later, on Monday, January 22, 1844, the following proposition was submitted and unanimously agreed to: "It is agreed that for the support of the Lord's house, including the Lord's table, care of meeting house, sweeping, fuel, lights, &c., quarterly collections (in advance) be made, each member, regardless of circumstances, paying an equal amount."

It is probable that the church took this unscriptural ground as a peace-offering to those who had opposed the ad valorem tax. But the tax leaven had been hidden in the meal, and as a test of the sentiment, Bro. Levi Van Camp, who had opposed the measure, submitted in writing the following proposition: "Whereas, it has been agreed by this church that "they who preach the gospel should live of the gospel," and that their support should be made up by members of the church in proportion to their ability to contribute, therefore it is agreed that a committee be appointed, whose duty it shall be to estimate, as near as may be, the ability of each member to pay, and then to present a subscription to each member; and if any member fail to contribute his proportion, according to their estimation, that they should inform him the principles upon which the estimation was made, and if he consider the estimate fairly made, they then exhort him to the discharge of his duty." This proposition was adopted with but one dissenting vote, which was probably given by Bro. Van Camp. In carrying out the above action of the church the following members were chosen by the church as a committee to apportion the sums agreed to be raised, among the several members: Hiram M. Bledsoe, Samuel Hudson, Levi Van Camp, Alfred Jones and Wm. Musgrove.

At the time of the above mentioned meeting, in January, 1844, about 136 names had been placed on the church roll, but there is no means of knowing how many were in the communion. Some had been excluded; others had been granted letters, and some had "fallen asleep," but there were probably about 100 members. At this meeting the treasurer submitted a report for the preceding nine months, which shows that the brethren were not seriously robbing themselves to support the church. The total contribution for nine months was $62.25, and the total expenditures were $73.86, leaving a deficit of $11.61. Of the amount paid out $32.93 had been "paid to preachers."

April 20, 1844, the church resolved to unite its efforts with the churches at Dover and Republican, and employ two evangelists, and this church agreed to raise $400, and also agreed to the employment of Henry Thomas as an evangelist, to work with Thomas N. Gaines, who had already been employed.

On June 9th, 1844, Brother Hiram M. Bledsoe, sole elder of the church, complained of the burden upon him, and requested the church to elect an additional number of elders, to divide with him the labor and responsibility that rested on him alone. The request was agreed to and the 2d Lord's day in July was appointed for the election of an additional number of elders. On the 13th of July, 1844, that being the 2nd Lord's day, the church proceeded to the election. Elder Hiram M Bledsoe was chairman of the meeting On motion of Bro. P. R. Whittlesey it was ordered "that the church now proceed to the election of two elders." After the ballot was taken Bro. Bledsoe reported to the church that "Bros. J G. Chinn and Henry Fisher had received the highest number of votes given, and were duly elected elders of the Christian church."

At this same meeting, July 13, 1844, William Musgrove tendered his resignation as clerk of the Christian church, and Bro. John P. Bowman was elected to the position.

From this date your committee has no written record up to 1888.

In 1847 there arose a personal quarrel among some of the members of the church, which, from our standpoint, should not have been allowed to be considered. But it was considered, and the members took sides this way and that way until there was a split. Those who withdrew from the main body organized themselves and built another meeting house, near the corner of Eleventh and South streets. Bro. Gaines went with the seceders, and was their first pastor. Bro. Alex. Proctor was also, at one time engaged by this branch of the church. The two organizations were maintained for about three years, and then all the differences were quietly dropped and the two bodies united. There were a few of the seceders who never came back. During the time of the division there was much hard feeling between the two factions, and there were long intervals when neither faction had any preaching service. But it can be said to the credit of both factions that they had men in the eldership who were well qualified to teach and to interest the congregations. Among the brethren were Levi Van Camp, James S. Muse, Dr. J. G Chinn, H. M. Bledsoe, Geo. W. Marquis, Henry Fisher, Martin Slaughter and many others. Brother Fisher was for many years a cripple from rheumatism, nearly every joint in his body being drawn, but he was a faithful attendant at church, hoobling in on his two crutches, and often taking charge of the service. To hear him was like listening to a voice from the grave, and every body loved him because of his patient suffering as well as for his noble christian character.

An article in the Millenial Harbinger, written by S. S. Church, an evangelist who had just held a meeting at this place, in speaking of the condition of the two Christian churches at Lexington at that time says that the old church has about 140 members, and the new church has about 160. This was in 1849.

(To be concluded next week.)

DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

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Two of 'Em.

Major A. M. Edwards, of the Fargo, North Dakota, Forum, tells the following story:

"Soon after the civil war we were going over the Missouri Pacific on a 'comp' from General Superintendent Moore—for whom we worked before the war—when the conductor said: 'Sir! I know Major Edwards, Joe Shelby's adjutant general, and you can't travel on his pass or under his name!' and we had to get out at 2 o'clock in the morning at Sedalia and explain to Wardo Cummings, division superintendent of the Missouri Pacific—whom we had worked with before the war—how it was. When Wardo told the conductor there were two Majors Edwards—one federal and one confed—he knew 'em both—we passed on."

Kansas Won.

There was a most interesting game of foot ball on the academy campus Monday afternoon between a team of Kansas cadets and one of Missourians, embryotic representatives of the Jayhawks and Tigers. Kansas, with slightly the heaviest team, won by a score of ten to nothing. From start to finish interest of the spectators was intense. Kansas made two touch downs but failed to kick goal in each instance.

The INTELLIGENCER trusts that the result of this game is not a forerunner of what will happen to the Tigers at Kansas City next Thursday.

August Limberg shipped a car load of mules to St. Louis Monday afternoon.