TROY CONFERENCE.

DOINGS OF THE METHODIST MINISTERS AT JOHNSTOWN.

Interesting Reports and Remarks by Prominent Divines—A Majority Against the Admission of Women as Delegates—The Next Conference at Plattsburgh.

[Reported for the Free Press.]

JOHNSTOWN, N. Y., April 23.—The 59th session of the Troy conference began its work yesterday morning with sacramental service at which some 200 ministers and ministers' wives were present. The sessions are held in the large and beautiful new brick church which stands as a monument of the untiring zeal of the Rev. J. H. Brown who closes a very successful pastorate of five years at this session. Rev. John F. Hurst, D. D., LL. D., of Washington, D. C., is the presiding bishop.

The first service was held last evening, it being the anniversary of the Epworth league societies of the Methodist church.

This meeting was addressed by Rev. C. V. Gridley of Troy conference, Rev. D. Haven of Boston and Bishop Hurst. There was a large attendance.

After the communion service yesterday morning, Rev. J. H. Coleman of Troy was re-elected secretary, and a roll call of the conference list nearly 200 ministers answered to their names. Several distinguished guests were introduced and addressed the conference in the interests of the causes they represent. Among them were the Rev. Dr. J. M. Buckley, Dr. Bronson Eaton, and Dr. J. S. Lonsbury, superintendent of the Brooklyn Methodist hospital. The bishop announced the transfer of Rev. George E. Lofstrom to the West Virginia conference and Rev. J. Z. Armstrong of New Hampshire conference.

Before an adjournment was taken, the hour of voting on the question of admission of women to the general conference was set for 10 a. m., Friday. The vote will be taken without debate.

The annual missionary meeting took place this afternoon. On the project pattern were Rev. Dr. Spencer, secretary of the Church extension board; Rev. J. W. Bannister, Troy Conference; Rev. R. Hawley of Brandon; Rev. E. E. Chase of Cambridge. There was much enthusiasm in the Hawley report and a very fine address by Mr. Bennett and addresses following by Mr. Spencer on "The Wilderness."

The church today was opened with a sermon by Rev. Aaron Lindsay. The Rev. Elijah Kelly read the annual report of the Indian mission. The question of the forty rule in the conference and the question of making women eligible to delegates to the general conference were discussed. Rev. Dr. Hurst spoke strongly against the proposition. Presiding Elder Wood read the report of the Burlington district. New churches have been located at Shushan and Ferrisburgh.

Rev. T. B. Walker of Pittsford, who is ill, on motion of the conference transferred to superannuated list, as was Robert L. Fisher of Cross Center.

The report of the Plattsburgh district was made by Presiding Elder Beach. The reader closes his term of office. During the six years 600 sermons were built and three churches.

JOHNSTOWN, N. Y., April 24.—The total value of the communion tokens in the Troy Conference.

The church yesterday the anniversary of the Church Extension society was held. The sermon was preached by Bishop Foss, following by addresses of Dr. Spencer, secretary of the society. The choir of the church furnished most excellent music for the occasion.

In view of the approaching transfer of Rev. J. A. Hedgecock, who has served for two years Southern Saratoga, and of Rev. J. W. Dow, who has served Troy conference for the past two years, and of Rev. Mr. Fisher, who has served 28 years, a resolution was called for by Rev. Dr. Hurst, and Rev. Dr. Spencer, Rev. Dr. Buckley, Rev. Dr. Eaton, Rev. Dr. Lonsbury, Rev. Mr. Fisher, Rev. Mr. Hedgecock, Rev. Mr. Dow, Rev. Mr. Bennett and others responded. The effective relation of Rev. Mr. Fisher was ended.

The 50th anniversary of the Troy conference academy was celebrated yesterday morning. Rev. Dr. Hurst presided. A memorial service of Bishop Simpson was conducted by Rev. Dr. Buckley. Rev. Dr. Hurst delivered an address on First Aid to the Academy, which was followed by addresses by Rev. Dr. Eaton, Rev. Dr. Spencer, Rev. Dr. Lonsbury, Rev. Mr. Fisher and others. The academy was represented by Prof. Wright, who read the report of the Troy Conference academy association. The exercises were very interesting.