JOURNALS OF LIBERIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1844 - 1847

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MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE OF

Conference assembled according to adjournment notice in the M.
E. Church, Monrovia, February 1, 1844. Opened with reading of the
Scriptures, singing and Prayer by the President. There were present:

Rev. John Seys, Supt.     Rev. C. Simpson,     Rev. B. R. Wilson,
Rev. James Dennis,       Rev. A. Herring,     Rev. J. H. Stephens,
Rev. W. J. Roberts,      Rev. J. S. Payne,     Rev. E. Johnson,
Rev. D. Ware,            Rev. Thomas Jackson,  Rev. F. Burns,
Rev. H. B. Mathews,      Rev. W. P. Kennedy,  Rev. A. D. Williams,

Resolved: That F. Burns be the Secretary.
That J. S. Payne be the assistant Secretary.
The President presented to the Conference his credentials as
Superintendent of the Liberia Mission of the Methodist
Episcopal Church.

That his credentials be received.
The President remarked that he has in this Conference in
his possession the report of the committee on African Af-
fairs, which no doubt would be very interesting to every
member of the Conference.
That the report be read.
That there be a committee to respond to that report, that
the Committee should consist of three persons elected by
the Conference whereupon F. Burns, B. R. Wilson and J. W.
Roberts were accordingly elected.
That the Conference do its business with open doors.
That we should have one session per diem from, 9 A.M. to
1 P.M.
That all persons making resolutions shall make themselves
known to the Conference by standing.
That the President of the Conference and the preachers in
charge of the Monrovia Station be requested to regulate
the religious services during the session of the Conference.
That there be an estimation committee considering the af-
fairs, and that four persons elected by the Conference to
be associated with the President whereon, A. D. Williams, A.
Herring, E. Johnson and John Roberts were elected.
That there be a committee of five elected to investigate
the State of Discipline throughout the bounds of the Con-
ference. Whereupon A. D. Williams, J. S. Payne, B. R. Wil-
son, A. Herring and D. Ware were elected.
That there be a committee of five elected by the Conference
on Education. Whereupon F. Burns, J. S. Payne, A. F. Russell
and A. Herring and A. D. Williams were elected.

That the investigation of the State of our Sabbath Schools
be incorporated with the other duties of the Committee on
Education.

Ques: 1. Who are admitted on trial?
Resolved: That there be a committee of five elected by the Conference to report on the temperance question of the Mission. The following persons were appointed; J. S. Payne, B. R. Wilson, J. M. Roberts, A. Herring and D. Ware were accordingly appointed. The President observed that he had other things interesting then, he inquired at what time they would be ready to hear him?

Resolved: That tomorrow morning at 9 A.M be the time at which the Conference will assemble for that purpose. The President now named those he choose to associate with himself in stationing the Preachers. A. D. Williams, B. R. Wilson and A. Herring.

Resolved: That the report of the Committee on African Affairs be entered on the Conference Journal. The Committee on African Affairs reported to the Board the following items of the instructions to the Superintendent of the African Mission, for their adoption, and should they occur to the Bishop having the charge of Foreign Missions for his sanction. 1st. Inasmuch as the spiritual and intellectual improvement of the African Race is the great object of our Missions in Africa, it is expected that our missionaries in that field will give themselves wholly to the great elevating work of that character; and of saving souls of those over whom they may be appointed to exercise the pastoral care. It is consequently expected that they will wholly abstain from all such engagements as will conflict with this object and would do all that is necessary for the Mission. 2nd. So on entrance into the interior of Africa, and the religious instruction of the natives, had ever been a leading object of the Missions, and as the cherishing intelligence have been encouraging, it is expected that the Superintendent will make all possible exertions to ascertain the points where missionary work may be advantageous by locating in the native towns; and that he give the earliest information of the same to the Board, and should he be able in such plans with missionaries, it is expected that he will not gail to do so, with little delay, if there by any. 3rd. It is expected that no personal or political interference will be permitted into the Seminary, and disturb the peace of those sheep in the wilderness committed to their charge. 4th. As the safety of the persons of our missionaries, and the security of our property in Africa depend under God, upon the Power and efficiency of the Colonial Government, and especially as we are required by our holy religion to submit ourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, it is expected that all of our missionaries in Africa will submit to the laws of the Colony in which they may be appointed to labor, and that they will, both by present and example, teach the people to their charge to demean themselves as peaceable citizens under the existing constitution and laws. And if in the administer
tion of the Colonial Government there should occur any interference with personal rights, or the right of conscience, such missionaries as are citizens will be expected to seek constitutional remedies, and as such not to make their representation to the Missionary Board; and if the evils can neither be borne nor redressed, to leave the colony. 5th. Inasmuch as the American and Maryland Colonization Societies hold a parental relation to the respective colonies, and the public fame and influence, as well as the efficient action of the associations are important to the interests of the colored race, both in this country and of Africa, it is expected that everything either in words or deeds which is calculated to desparage the character of those associations or to injure their influence, either in this Country, or in Africa, will be carefully avoided. 6th. For asmuch as our success in the Missionary work materially depends upon labors, the vigilance, the firmness and the perseverance of our missionaries, our Superintendents and our trustworthy missionaries employed to labor under these conditions, and are most earnestly and affectionately exhorted to give themselves anew to God and his work, to pray most fervently for the awful responsibilities which rest upon them. 7th. With these items of instruction we most devoutly commend the superintendent of the African Mission, and the Missionaries employed to labor under his direction, and also the precious souls committed to their charge to God, and also to the word of His grace ardently praying that the great Head of the Church may conduct the Superintendent across the mighty Ocean; may give him security, quietness and successful thoughts, in his benevolent labor, and that converts upon the benighted continent of Africa may be multiplied as the drops of the morning.

New York, 200 Mulberry Street,
November 20th, 1843.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd) George Peck
CHAIRMAN

I concur and agree with the above instructions of the Board of Missions to the Superintendent of the Liberia Mission.

November 23, 1843.

(Sgd) Elijah Hedding.

Extracts from the Journal of the Board, November 22nd, 1843.
Dr. Peak of the African Committee made a report including instructions to the Superintendent.
The report was adopted and Dr. Peck was instructed to send a copy of the same to Bishop Hedding.

On motion resolved that the Superintendent of the Mission (Africa) be instructed to read the report made by Dr. Peck this evening, before the Liberia Conference, and that a copy of the same be entered on the Journal of that body.

(Sgd) Francis Hall,
SECRETARY

I fully approve of the above resolutions, Nov. 23rd, 1843.
(Sgd) Elijah Hedding.
Conference assembled according to adjournment. Opened with reading of the Scriptures, Singing, and Prayer by the Rev. Amos Herring.

The Conference was addressed by the President and followed with Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Herring. There were present:

Rev. John Seys, Supt. Rev. B. R. Wilson, Rev. A. D. Williams,
Rev. B. R. Wilson, Rev. H. B. Mathews, Rev. G. Simpson,
Rev. E. Johnson, Rev. J. H. Stephens, Rev. A. F. Russell,
Rev. Amos Herring, Rev. Daniel Ware, Rev. J. W. Roberts,

The following are probationers:— Thomas Jackson, James Dennis, and, W. P. Kennedy.

Ques: 2. Who remained on Trial?
Thos. Jackson, character passed
James B. Dennis,    
Stephens A. Benson,    
W. P. Kennedy,

Ques: 3. Who are received into full connexion?
Ans: None. Here the President introduced to the Conference the Rev. James Edion of the Presbyterian Church in this town.

Ques: 4. Who are the Deacons?
Ans: James H. Stephens. Some objections were brought against Bro. Stephens, because he had not taught a school. Bro. Stephens apologised for not strictly carrying out his duties. Much discussion took place, and after sometimes,

Resolved: That the character of Brother James H. Stephens be passed.
The following preamble and resolutions had been upon the table and it was now:
Resolved: That the question be taken up.

"WHEREAS as the people called Methodist are and ought to be one throughout the world of spirit and practices being identical in every place as far as circumstances will permit, and WHEREAS the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America commences its next Session in the City of New York, on the first day of the ensuing May, at which time important business will be entered upon effecting the operations and interests of the entire body or connection in the review of our ecclesiastical administration as a Church in the charges that will probably be our Book of Discipline, and in those provisional arrangements which may be thought requisite to meet the exigency of our conditions, be it therefore RESOLVED that we, a branch of the great Wesleyan's family, deeply interested in the state of all the other branches of the fraternity, and particularly in those doings of our Father's will as a people unite in observing the last Friday in April as a day of humiliation and prayer before God for his bles-
General Conference assembled. That under the influence of his spirit, who leadeth into all truth they may be led in all things according to His will!.

Resolved: That the above resolution be published in "Africa's Luminary.

Resolved: That Francis Burns and Amos Herring be associated with the President to publish extracts from the minutes of the Conference in the Luminary.


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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY
3RD. 1 8 4 4

Conference assembled according to previous adjournment at 9 A.M. opened with reading of the Scriptures, singing and prayer by Francis Burns. The roll of the Conference was called.

There were present:-

Rev. John Seys, Supt. Rev. B. R. Wilson, Rev. A. D. Williams
Rev. F. Burns, Rev. G. Simpson, Rev. G. Simpson,
Rev. Elijah Johnson, Rev. J. W. Roberts, Rev. D. Ware,
Rev. H. B. Mathews, Rev. James S. Payne, Rev. H. Mumford,
Rev. A. F. Russell, Rev. Amos Herring, Rev. J. Stephens,
James H. Eden. ............(Visitor)

The following persons are probationers: James Dennis, Thomas Jackson, and W. P. Kennedy.

Resolved: That the minutes of the preceding day be read and adopted.

The President here called the attention of the fact that the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church had passed a resolution that the report of the Committee on African Affairs should be entered at length, on the Journal of the Conference, that as yet it had not been done. Whereas it was:

Resolved: That said report be entered upon the Journal. At this stage the Conference received several communications from the Rev. Moore, Preacher in charge of the Bassa Cove Station and S. A. Benson assistant Preacher in Charge of the Edina Station. In the communication of the letter he Stephens Allen Benson requested of the Conference a Local relation. Upon which it was:

Resolved: That Stephens A. Benson be discontinued at his own request.

Ques: 4. Who are the Deacons?
Ans: H. B. Mathews character passed and received at his own request a supernummary relation. J. S. Payne's character passed and elected to Elder's Orders. A. F. Russell's character passed and he also was elected to Elder's Orders. Much discussion here arose on the subject of trading or
bartering by the Conference members. Francis Burns here brought in a resolution on that subject.

Resolved: That a Committee of five be appointed to take into consideration and report on the said resolution. A. D. Williams, G. Simpson, Amos Herring and J. W. Roberts, B. R. Wilson, were appointed.

Ques: 5. Who have been elected to the Elder's Orders this year?  
Ans: James S. Payne and Alfred F. Russell.

Ques: 6. Who have been located this year?  
Ans: None.

Ques: 7. Who are the Supernumerary?  
Ans: None.

Ques: 8. Who have been expelled from the connexion this year?  
Ans: None.

Ques: 9. Who have withdrawn from the connexion this year?  
Ans: None.

Ques: 10. Are all the Preachers blameless in life and conversation?  
This was strictly attended to by calling over the roll. H. B. Mathews: Brother H. Mumford was objecting to his character on the grounds that he had not been faithful as he ought, as indolentious and faithful a man he is. After much discussion, it was:

Resolved: That he be located.

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MONDAY MORNING  
FEBRUARY 5TH, 1844
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Conference assembled according to previous adjournment at the hour of 9 A.M., opened with reading of the Scriptures, and as usual, singing, and Prayer by the Rev. J. W. Roberts.

Roll call of the Conference:

Rev. John Seys, Supt.  
Rev. B. R. Wilson,  
Rev. D. Ware,  
Rev. A. Herring,  
Rev. H. B. Mathews,  
Rev. A. D. Williams,  
Rev. G. Simpson,  
Rev. J. H. Stephens,  
Rev. J. W. Roberts,  
Rev. James S. Payne.  
Rev. J. H. Stephenson,  
Rev. F. Burns,  
Rev. A. F. Russell,  
Rev. E. Johnson,

The Minutes of Saturday were read, amended and adopted.

Ques: 11. Are all the Preachers blameless in life and conversation?  
Ans: Daniel Ware, in the examination of his character, it appeared that Brother Ware had not done so fully well his duty towards the natives within his reach, as it was
thought he ought to have done. Brother Ware, however, assured the Conference for the ensuing year he would endeavour to do better, and to be more faithful in this particular field.

Resolved: That his character passed. G. Simpson, F. Burns, character passed. Whereas the work is spreading and the service of ordained ministers are much wanted, therefore:

Resolved: That F. Burns be sent by this Conference to either of the Bishops for ordination and that he leave for the United States by the first chance. John W. Roberts' character passed. James Moore's character passed. Elijah Johnson's character passed. Amos Herring: it was in the examination of Brother Amos Herring, it was conceived by the Conference that he entertained erroneous views in reference to the preexistence and divinity of Christ and with a view to some further understanding upon the vital subject. It was on motion:

Resolved: That his case lay over until tomorrow. B. R. Wilson, a memorial was here presented by J. S. Payne against Brother Wilson, praying for redress of grievances which being nearly expired it was on motion:

Resolved: That it lay on the table until tomorrow. On Motion, the Conference adjourn until tomorrow 9 A.M. Prayer by Bro. Daniel Ware.

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TUESDAY MORNING
6TH OF FEBRUARY, 1844

Conference assembled at the appointed hour. Opened by the President with reading of the Scriptures, singing and Prayer by Brother J. H. Stephens. There were present:-

Rev. John Seya, Supt., Rev. A. D. Williams, Rev. J. W. Roberts,
Rev. B. R. Wilson, Rev. A. Herring, Rev. G. Simpson,
Rev. Elijah Johnson, Rev. Daniel Ware, Rev. H. B. Mathews,
Rev. J. H. Stephens, Rev. F. Burns, Rev. J. S. Payne,
Bro. Thomas Jackson, Rev. A. F. Russell.
Bro. James Dennis, Prob.

The Minutes of the preceding day were read, amended and adopted. Ques: 11 resumed. Are all the Preachers blameless in life and conversation? The case of Rev. Amos Herring resumed.

Resolved: That the President of the Conference ask Brother Herring such question (as to his doctrine in reference to those points in which he had been thought to be unsound) as he might deem it necessary, which was accordingly done in the hearing of the Conference. And his answers being perfectly satisfactory answered, it was:

Resolved: That his character be passed. The case of B. R. Wilson
was resumed. (Another charge) As it had been thought improper on the day before, for a lay member to bring charges directly against a member of the Annual Conference, Therefore James S. Payne, a brother of the aggrieved, took the responsibility of conducting the case on the part of the complaint.

Charge: Maladministration. In unjustly holding from W. H. Payne his certificate after he applied to Bro. B. R. Wilson for it, having left it with him. B. R. Wilson denied the charge, saying that W. H. Payne carried no certificate with him to Millsburg when he first went there, and he did not put it before him, and therefore feels it isn't his duty to give him another. F. Burns, being a witness was called up. F. Burns, at the time alluded to above, was assistant Preacher on the Monrovia Station, to which W. H. Payne belonged, before going to the Missio- nary service in Millsburg, the witness stated that upon W. H. Payne's application to him for a certificate he send him over. W. H. Payne was called over to answer same, 1st question, Are you a member of the Church at Millsburg? Yes. 2nd. Are you an Official member? Yes. 3rd. Were any Charges preferred against you either before, or at the time you requested your certificate? None. 4th. Did you request your certificate of the Rev. B. R. Wilson? Yes. 5th. Did you receive it? No, I didn't.

James S. Payne entered now into pleadings: The Brother responded that he admitted that thought W. H. Payne carried no certificate to his station with him, that he afterward received one from F. Burns of the Monrovia Station, and sent it to him by a native boy which at the time he did not think it proper to receive, as he questioned its validity. But as he subsequently, inquired of F. Burns in reference to it, his questioning were received, and he received W. H. Payne into his church at Millsburg, upon it he admitted that W. H. Payne had written to him for a certificate, and that he had never given him any, as there were some things in W. H. Payne's life that he did not like, and he thought it unbecoming a Christian. He had not thought proper to do this, because he did not want for him to have any trial, for he wished for it to be settled in some other way. He had brought W. H. Payne's case before the Society at Millsburg upon his application to him for a certificate, and the members were unwilling to give him one, without Payne coming up to verify the situation. As W. H. Payne was received into the church at Millsburg as an official member on the account that he procured a good conduct at the end of the month, a copy of his license from the Quarterly Conference records, on the Monrovia Station showing him to have received from, as an exhorter, this he failed to do, as proved by William Kennedy. He had requested Brother Roberts, Preacher in Charge of the Monrovia Station to see Brother James S. Payne officially for him and to assure him that if he would come up, he (Wilson) would call the society together, and have the matter settled, this Brother Roberts stated that J. S. Payne said that the official standing of W. H. Payne had not been contended right for, but simply his membership in full stand- ing which Brother Wilson had admitted. Therefore with holding his certificate under the circumstances, and without bringing him to trial was doing him palpable injustice. Brother Elijah Johnson said that he had something against Brother Wilson which he felt it his duty to mention before the passage of his character. Brother Wilson was again called up. Elijah Johnson proceeded as follows:
Resolved: That Stephens had prolonged an half hour discussion. Again, that the session be prolonged fifteen minutes. That Brother Wilson be considered guilty of Mal-Administration in the case of W. H. Payne. The following resolution was then brought in upon his case:

WHEREAS in the opinion of this Conference, that Brother B. R. Wilson, Preacher in Charge of the White Plains and Millburg Station, has Mal-Administration in the case of W. H. Payne in three particulars: 1st. In not presenting charge against him when he was satisfied that he was not consistent in his conduct. 2nd. In not giving him his certificate, when he asked him for it, while he (Wilson) did not think proper to bring him to trial. 3rd. Thus materially injuring him in keeping him back as a licensed exhorter in the M. E. Church/Therefore:

Resolved: That this Conference require of the Brother, Rev. Wilson, an expression of his regret for Mal-Administration in the above case, and also an assurance to this Conference that circumstances similar should not occur again!

Resolved: That a copy of the above resolution be furnished to Bro. Beverly R. Wilson as soon as possible.

Notices given out. The Conference adjourn at 1:15 P.M. Prayer by Brother Thomas Jackson.

WEDNESDAY MORNING 7TH OF JANUARY, 1844

Conference met according to previous adjournment at 9 A.M., opened with reading of the Scriptures, Singing and Prayer by the Rev. B. R. Wilson. There were present:

Rev. John Seys, Supt., Rev. A. D. Williams, Rev. H. B. Mathews,
Rev. E. Johnson, Rev. Daniel Ware, Rev. G. Simpso,
Rev. J. H. Stephens, Rev. A. F. Russell, Rev. Amos Herring,
Rev. Francis Burns, Rev. J. W. Roberts, Rev. J. S. Payne,

Brother Thomas Jackson and Brother J. B. Dennis on probation.

The Minutes of the preceding day were read, amended and adopted.

Resolved: That the resolution in reference to B. R. Wilson be read. Brother Wilson was now called upon by the President to state what he would do, whether he would conform to the wishes of the Conference as expressions would permit. Brother Wilson said that he felt that he had done wrong in not presenting the Charges against W. H. Payne in the circumstances. This he was forced to acknowledge. The President inquired whether his conception was satisfactory to the Conference or not, which being in the negative, was:
Resolved: That for the sake of greater brevity and perception, the President put four questions to Brother Wilson on the charges against him in the resolution as might elicit his views respecting them.

Ques: 1. Do you feel yourself to be guilty of official administration, in not bringing to Trial W. H. Payne when there were reports respecting his impropriety of conduct of a Christian.
Ans: "Yes, I do"

Ques: 2. Do you think yourself guilty of failure in ministerial duty in not giving him his certificate, while at the same time you withheld the charges?
Ans: "I do. This follows of course by my admitting the former."

Ques: 3. Would you do the same again, circumstances being similar, and do you regret having done so in this instance?
Ans: "I do regret having done one or the other, and were it to be done again, I would certainly take another course."

After some discussion and resolutions and questions, it was:

Resolved: That the concession of B. R. Wilson be received. Here the President made some remarks on the propriety of part of the administration in some circumstances that had been alluded to in the last trial. A. D. Williams' character passed.

Rev. John Seys stated to the Conference the manner in which his time had been spent, and with what feelings he had now returned to Africa. Calling A. D. Williams to the Chair be then withdrew.

Resolved: That his character pass, and also that a committee of three be appointed to bring forward a resolution responsive to his expressions of regards. F. Burns, A. Herring and J. S. Payne were accordingly appointed.

The Committee on Education reported, which report being read, was:

Resolved: That it be adopted.

The Committee on Temperance reported, which being read, it was:
Resolved: That it be adopted.

Notices given out, adjourned. Prayer by Brother E. Johnson.

THURSDAY MORNING, 8TH OF FEBRUARY, 1844

Conference met according to previous adjournment. Opened with reading of the Scriptures, singing and Prayer by Brother Williams. There were present:-

Rev. John Seys, Supt. Rev. A. D. Williams, Rev. J. W. Roberts,
Rev. Amos Herring, Rev. F. Burns, Rev. J. S. Payne,
Rev. G. Simpson, Rev. J. H. Stephens, Rev. B. R. Wilson,
Rev. Daniel Ware, Rev. H. B. Mathews;

Brother J. H. Stephens and J. B. Dennis are on probation.
The Journal of the preceding session was read and adopted. The Conference appointed by the usual manner the committee to express its regards for their President report as follows:

WHEREAS, in the Providence of God, it has pleased Him to return to our Society and Superintendence, the Rev. John Seys, after an interruption for some years; and WHEREAS from long acquaintance with him we are assured of his qualifications, both intellectual and moral, for the great charge committed to him as Superintendent of this Mission; and WHEREAS, we have every reason to believe, that his heart is devoted to, and also fixed upon the various trust under his care, that God may be glorified, and man also be saved; Therefore:

Resolved: That the members of this Conference as his fellow laborers in the Vineyard of the Lord heartily unite him in a faithful discharge of his work appointed them in making the "wilderness and solitary places glad for them, and the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose".

Resolved: That this Conference unite in a vote of thanks to the Bishop and "Board of Managers" of the Mission Society of the M. E. Church, for returning to us one so highly esteemed for his work's sake.

(Sgd) F. Bums, A. Herring, J. S. Payne.

Resolved: That report be adopted. The Committee on Liquor traffic then reported. Here a very protracted discussion took place on the merits of the reports. After various explanations, it was adopted.

Ques: 12. Who have died this year? None.

Ques: 13. What numbers are in Society?


Ques: 14. What has been collected for Missionary purposes this year? Ans:......Cape Palmas.............. $34.35
Millsburg.................. 19.00
Anniversary at Monrovia 232.00
Total...................... $292.35

Amount collected on the Millsburg Station for Sabbath Schools Books........ $4.00

Ques: 15. Where are the Preachers stationed this year?


Ques: 16. What numbers of pupils are in the day and sabbath schools?

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Ques: 17. Where and when shall our next Conference be held?
Ans: At Edina, Thursday the 9th of January, 1845.
Here a memorial was presented to the Conference from Caldwell in behalf of Henry Mumford, Whereupon it was:

Resolved: That it lay on the table. Then there was introduced the following preamble and resolution, WHEREAS the Rev. B. R. Wilson had complied with the resolution of the Conference therefore:

Resolved: That his character pass, and he be fully restored to the Conference. The President appointed as the Committee of Examination, F. Burns, J. S. Payne, and J. W. Roberts.

Resolved: That the thanks of the Conference be returned to the President and Secretaries for the ability with which they have performed the duties assigned them.

Resolved: That the Conference be adjourned, sine die singing, prayer and Benediction by the Rev. John Seys, President.

John Seys,
President,

F. Burns,
Conference Secretary.
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL
CONFERENCE OF 1845, JANUARY
9TH AT 10 A. M.

Thursday Morning, January the 9th, 1845, Conference assembled
in the Methodist Episcopal Church in the town of "Edina". Opened
with reading of the Scriptures, singing and Prayer by the Superinten-
dent. There were present:-

Rev. John Seys, Supt.  Rev. A. D. Williams,  Rev. B. R. Wilson,
Rev. J. W. Roberts,  Rev. E. Johnson;  Rev. J. S. Payne,
Rev. J. H. Stephens,  Rev. G. Simpson,  Rev. F. Burns,

Brother H. W. Erskine, probationer.

Resolved: J. W. Roberts be the assistant Secretary.

" That the Conference do its business with open doors.
" That we have but one session per diem. To open at 9 A.M.
" and close at 1:00 P.M.
" That there be preaching twice in each day at "Edina" at
" 3 P.M., and at 7 P.M.
" That there be prayer meeting every morning (Sabbath ex-
cepted) in Edina beginning at 6 A.M., and closing at
" 7 A.M.
" That James S. Payne and J. Moore be a committee with the
President of the Conference to regulate the religious
exercises during the session of the Conference.
" That there be an Estimating Committee to assist the
Superintendent and to estimate the expenses for the Mis-
" sion consisting of five persons: B. R. Wilson, F. Burns,
" A. D. Williams, E. Johnson and J. W. Roberts were ap-
" pointed.

That there be a committee on Discipline.

That the Committee on Discipline consist of three persons,
J. S. Payne, G. Simpson and F. Burns were duly elected.

That there be a committee on education consisting of three
persons: J. S. Payne, B. R. Wilson and F. Burns were

That there be a Committee on Temperance consisting of
three persons: A. F. Russell, A. D. Williams, and D.
Ware were duly elected.

That there be a committee on the Cause of Mission, con-
sisting of five persons, upon which, B. R. Wilson, E.
Johnson and A. F. Russell, A. D. Williams and Joseph
Stephens were duly elected.

That there be a committee to report on the propriety
and expediency of the continuation of "Africa's Luminous".

That said committee consist of three, upon which J. W.
Roberts, F. Burns and J. S. Payne were elected.

That the there be a committee of one to report of the
death of Rev. S. Chase and that F. Burns be that Com-
mittee.

Ques: 1. Who are admitted on trial?

Ans: None.
   
   " 3. Who are admitted into full connexion?
Ans: Thomas Jackson's case under consideration. The hour for
adjournment having arrived, it was:

Resolved: That the Conference adjourn. Notices given out. Prayer
by the Rev. A. D. Williams.

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FRIDAY MORNING, 10TH
OF JANUARY, 1845

Conference assembled according to adjournment. Opened with
Reading of the Scriptures, and singing. Prayer by the Rev. B. R.
Wilson. The roll of the Conference was called. There were present:

Rev. John Seys, Supt.  Rev. B. R. Wilson,  Rev. J. W. Roberts,
Rev. James Moore,     Rev. A. F. Russell,  Rev. A. Williams,
Rev. G. Simpson,      Rev. R. Burns,      Rev. J. H. Stephens,
Brother H. W. Erskine, probationer.

The Journal of the preceding day was read, corrected and adopted.

Who remained on trial?    W. P. Kennedy.
Who are admitted into full connexion?  None.

     Brother Stephens at the request of the Conference gave
     some account of the state of his Station, after which
     his character was passed.

Resolved: That the Brother Stephens be left without an appoint-
ment at his own request.

Ques: 5. Who have located this year?  None.
Ques: 6. Who are the Supernumeraries?  None.
Ques: 7. Who have been expelled from the connexion this year?
     Ans:  None.
Ques: 8. Who have withdrawn from the connexion this year?  None.
Ques: 9. Are all the preachers blameless in life and conversation?
     Ans:  This was strictly attended to by the calling over of
     their names, as follows:

     J. S. Payne,  character pass.    A. F. Russell,  pass.
     James Moore,   " "    Daniel Ware,  "
     G. Simpson,    " "    J. W. Roberts,  "
     F. Burns,      " "    Elijah Johnson,  "
     B. R. Wilson,  " "    A. D. Williams,  "

Amos Herring's case was under consideration when the hour ar-
rived for adjournment. Prayer by Brother Elijah Johnson.

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SATURDAY MORNING, 9 A.M.
11TH OF JANUARY,
1845

Conference assembled at the usual hour pursuant to adjournment.
Opened by the President with Reading of the Scriptures, and Singing.
Prayer by the Rev. F. Burns.
There were present:
The Secretary informed the Conference through in adventure, as on the previous day he was indisposed, and being obliged to leave the Conference before the hour for adjournment arrived, he had not seen the minutes of the Conference to have them ready in time for presentation to the Conference. He apologised, and asked the indulgence of another day when they should be all completed.

Resolved: That the apology of the Secretary of the Conference be received, and his request for a longer time be granted.

Resolved: That the ordinary business of the Conference be arrested, and the Committee on the death of the Rev. Squire Chase read its report, and that it be received.

Resolved: That the report be adopted.

Resolved: That the report be inserted in the Journal.

Resolved: That the report of the Committee on the Propriety and Expediency of the Conference relative to the publication of "Africa's Luminary" be read and received.

Resolved: That the report, be appended for the following resolution.

Resolved: That we pledge ourselves to raise and pay upon our station, the sum of $20.00 each if practicable, and if on some stations, more than that amount be raised, (which, no doubt will be done in the end of the year) a committee of this Conference shall be appointed to equalize the burden, so that each brother bear only in proportion to the circumstances in which he had already been placed.

Resolved: That the entire report, with the appended resolution be adopted.

Resolved: That the publishing Committee for "Africa's Luminary" be received.

Resolved: That said Committee of five persons: B. R. Wilson, J. W. Roberts, A. D. Williams, J. S. Payne, and Elijah Johnson were elected.

Resolved: That the name of the publishing committee be inserted on the first page of the paper. Amos Herring's case now resumed. Here a protracted discussion ensued, and which was:

Resolved: THAT WHEREAS the reports unfavorable to the reputation of Bro. A. Herring have reached us sufficient to deter this Conference from passing his character, therefore:

Resolved: That the Conference request the probationers (in view of his early departure for the United States of America) to appoint a committee according to the discipline to repair to Cape Palmas, in order to investigate the truth of falsity of the reports, with full power to act in the case as circumstances shall justify reports, when such investigation shall have been made.

Prayer by the Rev. G. Simpson.

The report on the death of the Rev. Squire Chase was now presented.
"WHEREAS in the year 1843, this Conference was most unexpectedly and suddenly deprived by death of our late lamented Superintendent of the Mission the REV. SQUIRE CHASE while in the United States of America, for the purpose of visiting his family; and WHEREAS at the Session of the Conference in 1844 in the hurry of business, we committed the oversight of neglecting to notice his death in the usual and proper manner, and WHEREAS our high esteem of service to, and for us leads us both to regret and apologise for such an oversight. Cheerfully as we should have borne our united testimony to, and approve of the course he pursued while among us, lead us as our Superintendent to our entire confidence, in his judgment and opinions to our conditions, in his deep-piety and devotedness among us as a Christian Minister and a Missionary of the Cross of Christ. And WHEREAS even at this late hour we take the pleasure in presenting the tribute to his virtues and usefulness as are placed over us in the Lord, THEREFORE RESOLVED That we do deeply regret our failure to express suitable and public notice of him, and here unite in our expressions of our sorrows. That branch of the Church of which he was a Minister, has been Providentially of one, so competent to elucidate and defend its doctrine, administer it Discipline, and have the Pastoral oversight of its members."

Resolved: We express our feelings of condolence with the bereaved widow and orphan children, in the great loss which they have sustained; and most fervently pray that the consoling promises in God's holy-word made to the widow and orphan, may in their experience, be abundantly fulfilled unto them.

Resolved: That as the best tribute, which we as a Conference can to his memory we will unite in an endeavor to copy his Christian example, emulate his ministerial usefulness and virtues, and listen to his parting advice.

(Signed) F. Burns,
FOR THE COMMITTEE

MONDAY MORNING, 13TH OF JANUARY 1845

Conference met at the usual hour and was opened by the President with Reading of the Scriptures and Singing. Prayer was offered by the Rev. James S. Payne. There were present:

Rev. John Seys, Supt. Rev. B. R. Wilson, Rev. A. D. Williams
Rev. J. E. Payne, Rev. James Moore, Rev. J. H. Stephens,
Rev. G. Simpson, Rev. E. Johnson, Rev. D. Ware,

The Journal of Friday was read, also Saturday; same was adopted.

Ques: 1 resumed. Who are admitted on trial?
Ans: James Byrd recommended from the Greenville and Since River Circuit. Here the Rev. Ivory Clarke, Baptist Missionary came in and was introduced to the Conference. The reception of the reports of the Committee resumed. Report on the State of Discipline within the bounds of the Conference was read and received.
Resolved: That for the present, the report on Discipline lay on the table. The President here introduced to the Conference Dr. W. Luganbeel, Local Preacher among us, from the Monrovia Station. Report on the Missionary cause among us read and received.

Resolved: That the clause referring to the employment of a special Missionary Agency be stricken out.

Resolved: That the report be adopted. The report on Temperance was read.

Resolved: That the word "all" in the report be stricken out, and the word "among us" be substituted in its stead.

Resolved: That the report on Temperance be read and received.

Resolved: That the President of the Conference be requested to draft a Constitution for the Total-Astinence Society to be presented at the ensuing session.

Resolved: That the President of this Conference be requested to give his views as to the best manner of bringing to trial a Presiding Elder who may be accused of crime when we have among us but one such officer. The President here named the Committee appointed by himself to repair as soon as possible or convenient to Cape Palmas to investigate the State of Rev. Amos Herring's case. Rev. B. B. Wilson, Rev. Elijah Johnson and J. W. Roberts were appointed to that service.

Ques: 12. Who have died this year? None.
Ques: 13. What numbers are in Society? See following:—

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATIONS</th>
<th>MEMBERS:</th>
<th>DAY SCHOOLS:</th>
<th>PUPILS:</th>
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<td>SAB. SCHOOL.</td>
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<td>Monrovia</td>
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<td>St. Paul River</td>
<td>107.</td>
<td>2 1</td>
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<td>Millsburg &amp; W. Plains</td>
<td>64.</td>
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<td>Heddington &amp; Robertsville</td>
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<td>Gerretson Station</td>
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<td>Mt. Andrews</td>
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<td>Edina</td>
<td>82.</td>
<td>1 1</td>
<td>54 20</td>
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<td>Bassa Cove</td>
<td>31.</td>
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<td>67.</td>
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<td>10 48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Palmas</td>
<td>199.</td>
<td>1 1</td>
<td>120 96</td>
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Resolved: That the Conference adjourn.

PRAYER BY REV. M. CLARKE.

TUESDAY MORNING  
JANUARY 14, 1845

Conference assembled according to adjournment, at the usual place and hour, opened by the President with Reading of the
Scriptures and singing. Prayer by Brother Ware. There were present:

Rev. John Seys, Sué. Rev. A. D. Williams, Rev. B. R. Wilson,
Rev. J. W. Roberts, Rev. G. Simpson, Rev. F. Burns,
Rev. E. Johnson, Rev. J. S. Payne, Rev. J. Moore,
Rev. Daniel Ware, Rev. A. P. Russell, Rev. J. H. Stephens;

Brother H. W. Erskine, probationer.

The Journal of the preceding day were read, corrected and adopted. The report of the Committee on Discipline was read and received.

Resolved: That the resolution accompanying the report be amended to it.

Resolved: That the entire report with the appended resolution be adopted.

Resolved: That the President of the Conference present it if it be in readiness the Constitution for a Total Abstinence Society he was requested to prepare against the present session. The President proceeded to read the Constitution. Whereupon it was on motion received.

Resolved: That the Constitution be amended by the following words "by a Physician", where his advice can be obtained. Rev. A. D. Williams in the Chair. President returned.

Resolved: That the President present to the Conference the expression of his views of the Method by which a Preacher or Presiding Elder may be brought to trial when there is but one Presiding Elder among us or in the Conference. The Conference in the preceding day requested him to give it. The President here read the document containing his views of the subject, whereupon it was

Resolved: That the document be received and that it be entered upon the Journal of the Conference and published in "Africa's Luminary", and be the governing principle of the body until otherwise provided for.

Resolved: That the thanks of the Conference be returned to the President for preparing the two-documents: The Constitution of the "Total Abstinence Society", and the one in reference to the "Trial of Preachers in the absence of a Presiding Elder in case of delinquency where there is but one such officer among us.

Ques: 14. What has been contributed for Mission?
Ans: One dollar and fifty cents. Report on Education received and adopted.

Resolved: That the report be adopted.

Resolved: That there be a committee to assist the Editor in publishing. A. D. Williams and J. S. Payne were accordingly elected to assist in the publishing of extracts from the Journal in Africa Luminary.

Resolved: That the thanks of the Conference be returned to the President for his very arduous duties which he has discharged to the entire satisfaction of the Conference.

(Signed) B. R. Wilson.
Resolved: That the thanks of the Conference be returned to the Secretaries for the faith fulness with which they have discharged their duties.

Resolved: That the thanks of the Conference be returned to the inhabitants of Edina and Bassa Cove for the very courteous and pleasant manner in which they have received and entertained us during the Session of our Conference. The Journal of the Conference for today read, corrected and adopted. At this state of the Conference, the Conference session was protracted fifteen minutes.

Ques: 15. Where are the Preachers stationed this year?

Rev. John Seys, Resident Superintendent, about to visit the United States.

Monrovia station & Marshall
Native Chapel, Monrovia
St. Paul River Circuit
Millsburg & W. Plains
Heddington & W. Plains
Garretson Station
Mt. Andrews & Morrisburg
Edina, Bassa Cove & Sexley
Greenville & Sineo Circuit
Cape Palmas & Mt. Emory

B. R. Wilson,
H. B. Mathews,
D. Ware & E. Johnson,
A. D. Williams,
H. W. Erskine,
Elijah Johnson,
A. Russell & W. Kennedy,
J. W. Roberts,
J. S. Payne & J. Byrd,
Amos Herring.

Francis Burns, Principal of the Conference Seminary and Editor of "Africa's Luminary".

Ques: 16. When and where shall our next Conference be held?
Ans: On Thursday the 8th of January, 1846 at Bassa Cove.

Resolved: That the Conference adjourn, singing and Prayer by the President.

Opinion of the President respecting the trial of Preachers and Presiding Elders given at the request of the Conference and entered according to resolution. The President of the Liberia Mission Annual Conference to whom was referred by said Conference for his opinion there on—the in the absence of the or a Presiding Elder, or of a Presiding Elder should any be appointed from among the members of this Conference? Submits the following as the result of his calm, careful and prayerful investigation.

1. It appears evident from the phraseology of the framers of our excellent book of Discipline; that it was contemplated by them, that the time would arrive in the history of Methodism, where there might be a District without a Presiding Elder, or an Annual Conference with one District only.

2. That period having in the organization of the Annual Conference, one isolated from all others in its location, unlike all others and unprecedented in its local relation and connection with the Methodist Episcopal Church, it may not be suppressing of expediency be the only resort of plea for the adoption of such usages, as may be regarded the best to meet cases of emergency, which never being anticipated, were never provided for.
That period in the book of Discipline, it is exacted that in the event of a Elder, Deacon or Preacher being reported of being guilty of some crime, the Presiding Elder shall call together not less than three Travelling Preachers and investigate the case, but should there be no Presiding Elder within the bounds of the Conference district, as has been the case in your history as a Church, and is likely to occur again, what then shall be done? Shall crime go unpunished, and consequently go unpunished in a Methodist Minister because of this?—Presiding Elder but be at hand? We answered.

If the offending Preacher be the colleague of another Preacher having the charge of a Station or Circuit, let that Preacher so having charge act in the place of a Presiding Elder and institute a trial and conduct it in all respect according to the letter of the Discipline of our Church.

If it be objected, that there is no provisions made in the Discipline for an assumption of the Presiding Elders right we answer that reasoning from analogy, we infer it to be the duty of a Preacher having the charge of a Circuit, "To hold Quarterly Meetings in the absence of the Presiding Elders", it is also his duty to institute trial and preside at their investigation in the absence of the Presiding Elder.

But if the offending preacher, be himself the preacher in charge, let the Senior Steward of the Station or Circuit whose business it is in common with other Stewards to tell the Preacher what they think wrong in him, report the case to the Preacher in Charge of the nearest adjoining station or circuit, and let him call another preacher in charge, and they two call a third and let the three elect a fourth, who shall be an Ordained Elder and let him act in the stead of a presiding elder and institute the trial according to the Discipline.

But if the offender be the Presiding Elder himself, what then shall be done? According to the letter of the Discipline, the Preachers are to call in the Presiding Elders of the Neighbouring District, but in the event their being no other District in the neighbourhood nor within the bounds of the Annual Conference, the Conference being itself but one District, what then must be done?

Here too, we must resort to something analogous in the absence of special law in the subject, as in the trial of a Bishop, no other Bishop is presumed to be in the neighbourhood, and yet an offending Bishop may be tried and suspended till the next ensuing General Conference, so an offending Presiding Elder may be tried without another Presiding Elder and if found guilty be suspended until the ensuing Annual Conference.

Let the Preacher in Charge, within whose jurisdiction the Presiding Elder may have committed the crime alleged against him call together three Elders or Elders elect, and the four elect another who shall preside as Chairman and conduct the trial in all respects as provided for in the Discipline.
Provided nevertheless that in all of the above mentioned cases or supposed cases, the entire proceedings be referred to the Annual Conference at its next session for final trial or adjudication.

Edina,
January 14, 1845. Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd) John Seys,
PRESIDENT OF THE LIBERIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE.
MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE
OF 1846

TUESDAY MORNING 8TH
OF JANUARY

Conference met in the Methodist Church in Monróvia at 9 A.M.,
Opened by the Superintendent of the Liberia Mission, and President
of the Conference, with reading of the Scriptures, singing and also
Prayer.
F. Burns Secretary of the Conference was called to his seat.
The roll was called. There were present:-

Rev. J. B. Benhum*, Rev. G. Simpson, Rev. E. Johnson,
Rev. A. D. Williams*, Rev. D. Ware, Rev. H. B. Mathews,
Rev. Francis Burns*,
Rev. J. W. Roberts*;
Rev. W. P. Kennedy*;
Rev. W. B. Hoyt*.

The secretary here read the certificates of transfer as follows:
That of John B. Benhum formerly of the Oneida Conference, transfer-
ning him to this as its President and Superintendent of the
Liberia Mission. That W. B. Hoyt formerly of the New York Con-
ference as a probationer, but transferred to this, after being
ordained Deacon and Elder. Also a copy of the transfer of the
late William, B. Williams, formerly connected with the New York
Conference, as a probationer, had been ordained Deacon and Elder.

Resolved: That the Conference cheerfully acquiesce in the appoint-
ment of the Revs. J. B. Benhum and W. B. Hoyt and will re-
joice to labour with them in their respective capacities con-
templated in their letters of transfer. Some discuss-
ion now took place, as to the relation in which Brother
Hoyt stood before the Conference, whether his being in-
vestigated with ordination with full power of the Ministry
and transferred to this Mission entitled him without any
further examination or action here to a seat as a full
member, or whether he ought not to be subject to an exam-
ination before the Conference and received into full con-
nection but by its vote. The President gave the Discipline
and his views of its meaning and requested the Conference
to settle the principles upon which they would act in the
case.

Resolved: That J. W. Roberts be assistant Secretary.
Resolved: That there be a committee on Temperance consisting of three
persons: B. R. Wilson, Daniel Ware and Henry B. Mathews.
Resolved: That there be a committee to regulate the Religious Ser-
sices during the Session of the Conference. Whereupon
the President of the Conference and the Preacher in Charge
of the Monróvia Station were chosen as that Committee.
Resolved: That there be an Estimating Committee consisting of three
and be elected by ballot. B. R. Wilson, E. John & Roberts.
Resolved: That there be an advisory committee to assist the President in stationing the Preachers. Elijah Johnson, J. W. Roberts and B. R. Wilson were duly elected by ballot.

Resolved: That there be a Committee to memorialize the Board on the subject of sending supplies for the use of those employed in the Mission to consist of three. F. Burns, J. W. Roberts and B. R. Wilson were elected.

Resolved: That there be a committee on Education and Sabbath Schools within the bounds of the Conference. F. Burns, A. F. Russell and J. W. Roberts were duly elected.

Resolved: That a committee be elected to raise the present course of study and that said Committee should consist of two—F. Burns and A. F. Russell were elected.

Resolved: That this Conference do its business with open doors subject to be closed at the discretion of the Conference.

Resolved: That we have one session a day from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Ques: 1. Who are admitted on Trial?
Ans: None.

Ques: 2. Who are admitted into full connexion?
Ans: W. B. Hoyt, W. W. Erskine. In examining the character of Brother Kennedy, Brother Russell made some objections to him on the grounds that he had left his station a large part or portion of the time during the year. Brother Kennedy replied that no opportunities offered for him doing him any good in as much as he had not been permitted to keep boys at his station, on which account the King at Morrisburg had given him little or not countenance. Bro. Kennedy retired, whereupon, it was on motion:

Resolved: That Brother Kennedy be discontinued.

Resolved: That the Superintendent have permission to employ him if he thinks proper to do so. W. W. Erskine’s character passed and was received into full connexion.

Ques: 3. Who are the Deacons?
Ans: H. B. Mathews, character and relation continued. J. H. Stephens, not having arrived his case was laid over until a later period of the Session.

Ques: 4. Who have been elected and Ordained Elders this year?
Ans: None.

At this time the President remarked that he had some few words to present to the members of the Conference, and thought that he would avail himself of the opportunity then presenting itself before the next question referring to location was asked as a suitable time for this purpose. He regretted that he had not enjoyed the privilege of being associated with the Rev. John Seys, our former Superintendent for some months previous to his entering upon the responsibilities of his present charge and that he could not have more time while in New York to converse with him upon matters relating to this Mission; want of acquaintance with many important things for him to know renders his situation embarrassing. He proceeded to say that among the members of the Board and Church also much dissatisfaction had been felt, because of some reasons, the missionaries did not live on their stations. It was important that this evil of course, if it did exist, should be corrected. It was also very essential that the Missionaries, their work and spirit and that
of the world, should be kept distinct and separate. That it was his object in the usual and best manner possible to promote the accomplishment of objects so desirable that those who might feel that they could not conform and could not make the sacrifices requisite in the itinerant service had better retire. Those who felt that they could not trust the Board for support, giving themselves wholly to work had better locate. Provisions had now been made for the widows and orphans of deceased Missionaries. The revised Constitution of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church gave evidence, and besides he had been explicitly told, that if it would be ascertained what was requisite for the support of the Missionaries, if possible, it would be obtained for them. He concluded by saying, nevertheless, if there was any peculiarity in circumstances of any of the brethren belonging to the Conference, he would gladly be willing, if it could be stated either to him or to the advising Committee. Notices given out. Conference adjourned.

Prayer by the Rev. A. D. Williams.

FRIDAY MORNING  
9TH OF JANUARY, 1846

Conference assembled at the usual place and hour. Opened with reading of the scriptures, singing and also Prayer by the Rev. Elijah Johnson. The roll of the Conference was called. There were present:

Rev. J. B. Benham, President,  
Rev. J. W. Roberté,  
Rev. A. D. Williams,  
Rev. B. R. Wilson,  
Rev. G. Simpson,  
Rev. Daniel Ware,  
Rev. James R. Payne,  
Rev. John W. Roberts,  
Rev. Francis Burns,  
Rev. W. B. Hoyt,  
Rev. Elijah Johnson,  
Rev. Henry B. Mathews,  
Rev. Alfred F. Russell,  

The minutes of the preceding day were read, corrected and adopted. The case of Brother Hoyt resumed. When the following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted.

"WHEREAS the Superintendent having decided that the appointment of a probationer in an Annual Conference in America by the Bishop having charge of Foreign Missions to the Liberia Annual Conference does not change the relation notwithstanding his ordination as a Missionary, WHEREAS there was a difference of opinion upon that question, and the said Superintendent submitted it to the Conference for their consideration, and decision, THEREFORE RESOLVED That the appointment of a probationer in an Annual Conference in America by the Bishop having charge of foreign relations in the foreign field or missions to the Liberia Conference does not change his relation to the connection, but he thereby becomes a probationer among us! Here a communication from J. H. Stephens was received. Rev. J. Eden, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church came in and on motion was invited to take a seat within the bar of the Conference after which the communication from Brother Stephens was read. See document A. 1846.
There being report in reference to Brother Stephens which was thought proper to have investigated, it was on motion:

Resolved: That his case lay over until the Superintendent of the Mission could have opportunity to inquire into the truth of such reports.

Ques: 2 resumed. Who remained on trial?

Ans: James Byrd, character passed. W. B. Hoyt and W. H. Erskine were now examined before the Conference in the usual manner, the former being admitted into full connexion, the latter having previously been admitted, was elected to Deacon's Orders.

Resolved: That Brother Hoyt be a Committee on Memoirs.

Resolved: That the name of James S. Payne be inserted on the Committee of Education and Sabbath Schools in place of F. Burns. The President vacated the chair, (which was filled by Brother Wilson) and after while retired. When it was on motion that Brother Benhum's character passed. The President returned and resumed the Chair. A. D. Williams' character passed. B. R. Wilson, character passed. Daniel Ware, character passed. The President at this stage read that portion of the Discipline which referred to the duties of Preachers, Missionary Societies on their Circuit or Stations and inquired whether this rule had been attended to. G. Simpson, character passed. J. W. Roberts, character passed. A. F. Russell, character passed. James S. Payne to give an account of his circuit. After which his character was passed. James Moore, character up for examination. Upon which some discussion took place after which his character passed. At this time the following preamble and resolution were presented and unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS we as members of the Liberia Mission Annual Conference feel that we have been afflicted in the late bereavement with death of our late lamented Brother W. B. Williams, and WHEREAS, but limited success has hitherto attended our success as Preachers of the Gospel, THEREFORE

Resolved: That we appoint tomorrow as a day of fasting and praying, and also humiliation and at the close of tomorrow Session dedicate ourselves anew, and entirely to God and his work. Brother Burns, character passed, under examination, in reference to which Brother Wilson required of Brother Burns to explain to the Conference why he had not in accordance with the views of the Conference attended more regularly to the Seminary. The hour for Adjournment having arrived, the Conference adjourned. Prayer by the Rev. W. B. Hoyt.

SATURDAY MORNING
JANUARY 10, 1846

Conference met according to adjournment. Opened with Singing and Prayer, being given by Rev. A. D. Williams. Roll called. There were present:-

Rev. John B. Benhum, President, Rev. A. D. Williams,
The minutes of the Conference of the preceding day were read and adopted. The Committee on Missions reported. See document "a" on the death of Brother Williams.

Resolved: That the report of the death of Brother Williams be received and that it be published in the "Luminary". Francis Burns' character resumed. Brother Burns made some remarks in reference to his labours, the past year as Editor of Africa's Luminary, which was read, also he presented a report. See document "k". It was

Resolved: That Francis Burns' character passed. That Brother A. D. Williams for the present Conference year sustain a Superannuated relation to the Conference. The President at this stage remarked that he desires the Conference to come to some definite conclusion in reference to "dashes" by Missionaries on charges or Stations among natives. There now being a diversity of opinion on that in the Conference, it was:

Resolved: That the subject respecting "Dashes" among the natives be referred to the estimating Committee. After dedicating ourselves anew to God, His work by prayer, notices were given out and Conference adjourns.

Prayer by Brother Elijah Johnson

MONDAY MORNING 12TH
OF JANUARY, 1846

Conference met according to adjournment. Opened with Singing and Prayer by the Rev. A. F. Williams. The roll was called. There were present:

Rev. J. B. Benham, Rev. A. D. Williams, Rev. E. Johnson;
Rev. G. Simpson, Rev. H. B. Mathews, Rev. W. B. Hoyt,
Rev. J. W. Roberts, Rev. Francis Burns, Rev. D. Ware,
Rev. James S. Payne, Rev. H. W. Erskine,

Brother Burns made some inquiries in regards to the subject traffic. Some discussion ensued, after which it was on motion:

Resolved: That the subject be referred to a Committee. The Committee on Temperance reported. The report adopted. See Document "c". The Committee on Education reported. The report was adopted. See Doc. "d2". The Committee on Revisit of course of Study reported. The report was adopted. See document "e".

The following preamble and resolution was presented and received by the Conference. WHEREAS the valueableness and usefulness of our periodical in useful and cannot be dispensed with without a great sacrifice to the Mission, and almost a total of the original matter so much desired by the friend of the
Resolved: That the Superintendent with the Preachers stationed in Monrovia be a Publishing Committee for the Luminary.

Resolved: That the Luminary be published monthly instead of semi-monthly.

Resolved: That extracts from the minutes of the Conference be published in "Africa Luminary".

Ques: 3. What members are in Society? (See statistics following)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Dy. School</th>
<th>Pupils</th>
<th>S. School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monrovia</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Caldwell-N, Georg.</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millsburg &amp; W.P.</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garretson Station</td>
<td>54</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Heddington</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Andrew</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edina &amp; B. Cove</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenville</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Palmas Circuit</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>807</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total members in Society for the year 1846 are as follows:--

867 Members, 15 Day Schools with 409 Students. 12 Sabbath School with 464 Students.

The Preachers remarked that 24 of these were scattered he knew not where. The Committee on the subject of "Dashes" reported. Report adopted. See Document "F". The Committee on the subject of traffic reported. The report was adopted.

Resolved: That the Conference thankfully received the letter of instructions and that we will adhere to the same to the best of our ability.

Ques: 4. Where and when shall our next Conference be held?

Ans: In Monrovia on the 1st Thursday in January 1847. The Committee on Discipline reported. Report adopted. See Document "G". The President suggested to the Conference the propriety of having the Board of Trustees of the Liberia Mission Annual Conference Seminary Whereupon it was:

Resolved: That there be a committee denominated an advisory committee for the Liberia Mission Annual Conference Seminary consisting of five persons appointed by the President. A. D. Williams, E. Johnson, Daniel Ware, Dixon B. Brown and S. Benedict on the subject of supplies reported.

Resolved: That the report be received.

Resolved: That the report be taken up by sections. That the report as amended be adopted. Document "I".

Resolved: That we have an extra Session at half past 4 o'clock P.M. Here the Rev. Mr. Messenger of the Episcopal Mission was introduced to the Conference. And by resolution was invited to a seat within the bar. The report of the Committee on the distribution of boys and girls from the "Barque Fons" received and laid on the table.
Conference met pursuant to adjournment. Opened with reading of the Scriptures, Singing and also Prayer by the Rev. G. Simpson. The roll of the Conference was called. Therewere present:

Rev. J. B. Benhum, President, Rev. A. D. Williams;
Rev. G. Simpson, Rev. B. R. Wilson;
Rev. J. W. Roberts, Rev. Francis Barnes;
Rev. W. B. Hoyt, Rev. Daniel Ware;
Rev. James S. Payne, Rev. Alfred F. Russell;

The case of Amos Herring resumed upon which the Committee briefly reported. The report adopted and his character passed. See document "J". The report on the subject of distributing the boys and girls from the "Pons", after some remarks, it was:

Resolved: That the subject be referred to the Superintendent.
Resolved: That it shall be the duty of each person, who is allowed to take their names quarterly, and should any of the said boys leave the stations, notice should be given as soon as practicable to the Superintendent.
Resolved: That the thanks of the conference be forwarded to the Board for the able Superintendent sent to them who is so worthy of his Office.
Resolved: That the thanks of this Conference be tendered to the President for the able and faithful manner in which he has performed the duties assigned him.
Resolved: That the thanks of this Conference be returned to the Secretary for services rendered as such. Minutes of the Conference read, corrected and adopted.
Resolved: That this Conference adjourns.

Prayer by Brother James Byrd,
John B. Benhum, President.
J. W. Roberts, Assistant Secretary.

Appointment of the Preachers of the Liberia Annual Conference for 1846

John B. Benhum, Superintendent, Monrovia.
Monrovia Station and Principal of Seminary........V. B. Hoyt.
Native Church and Assistant in Seminary:...........H. W. Erskine.
St. Paul River Circuit and Millsburg...Elijah Johnson & D Ware.
White Plains..........................J. W. Roberts.
Hedington & Robertsville................B. R. Wilson.
Mt. Andrew & Morrisburg..............A. F. Russell. Two to be sent.
Edina Bassa Cove & Bexley............Amos Herring and James Byrd.
Cape Palmas...........................Francis Burns and James Moore.
J. H. Stephens, without an appointment.

Monrovia,
January 12, 1846.

(Sgd) John B. Benham
Superintendent of the Mission

N.B. It will be prefered that the name of A. D. Williams is
omitted, the reason of this, is that so poor had been his
health, for the past year, that the Conference returned him
Superannuated with the understanding that he travel about or
rest in any way he might think proper under such occuninary pro-
visions for him as might be deemed advisable. Ed., "Luminary".
THE MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE
OF 1847

The Liberia Mission Annual Conference met at the M. E. Church
Mission House at 10 o'clock A.M., on Friday the 8th of
January, 1847. The Conference was opened by the reading of
the Holy Writ, singing and also Prayer was followed and of-
fered by the Rev. James Moore. There were present:

Rev. J. B. Benhum, Superintendent, Rev. W. B. Hoyt;
Rev. J. W. Roberts;
Rev. Amos Herring;
Rev. Daniel Ware;
Rev. W. B. Hoyt;
Rev. James Byrd;
Rev. James S. Payne;
Rev. E. Johnson;
Rev. G. Simpson;
Rev. Alfred F. Russell;
Rev. James Moore;
Rev. H. B. Mathews;

Resolved: That James S. Payne be the Secretary to this Conference
for the year 1847. The minutes of the Conference of
1846 were read and adopted.

Resolved: That there be a committee of three elected to associate
with the President and to advise with concerning the
appointments. Amos Herring, Beverly R. Wilson and Alfred
F. Russell were accordingly elected.

Resolved: That A. F. Russell be the Assistant Secretary.

Resolved: That there be a Committee on Memorials to the Board of
Directors of the Methodist Episcopal Society and the
General Conference, consisting of three:—Amos Herring,
W. B. Hoyt and James S. Payne were appointed by the
Conference. Considerable discourse having taken place,
it was therefore:

Resolved: That there be a committee to Memorials consisting of one:
James W. Roberts, a discourse having taken place, it was

Resolved: That no member be permitted to speak on the same subject
more than twice without permission from the President.

Resolved: That there be a committee of two on Discipline. Daniel
Ware and G. Simpson were elected.

Resolved: That there be a committee on Temperance to consist of two
persons, H. B. Mathews and J. W. Roberts were accord-

Resolved: That there be during this Conference one session per
day, commencing at half past 9 A.M. and closing at half
past 1 P.M.

Resolved: That the business of the Conference be transacted with
open doors and to be closed at the discretion of the Con-
ference.

Ques: 1. Who are admitted on trial?
Ans: W. H. Payne being recommended from the Monrovia District
Quarterly Conference was admitted.

Ques: 2. Who remained on Trial?
Ans: James Byrd. As the examination of candidates none had
taken place in the case of Brother James Byrd, laid over until tomorrow.

Ques: 3. Who are admitted into full connexion? This question was on motion laid on table until the next day.

Ques: 4. Who are the Deacons?
Ans: H. B. Mathews, character passed. Further examination of the persons who came under this question was postponed until the next day.

Ques: 5. Who have located this year?
Ans: None.

Ques: 6. Who are the Supernumeraries? This question was also laid over until the next Session of the Conference.

Resolved: That there be preaching in the evening and morning of each day during the session of the Conference with the exception of the Holy Sabbath.


***************

SATURDAY MORNING
9TH OF JANUARY, 1847

Conference assembled according to adjournment at half past 9 A.M., opened with the reading of the Scriptures, singing and prayer by Rev. Amos Herring. There were present:

Rev. J. B. Benhum; President, Rev. Elijah Johnson,
Rev. B. R. Wilson, Rev. J. W. Roberts,
Rev. H. B. Mathews, Rev. J. C. Payne,
Rev. A. D. Williams, Rev. James Moore,
Rev. A. Herring, Rev. Daniel Ward,
Rev. W. B. Hoyt; Rev. A. F. Russell,
Rev. G. Simpson, Rev. H. W. Erskine,
Rev. J. Byrd,

The minutes of the preceding day were read, corrected and adopted.

Ques: 1 resumed. What Preachers are admitted on trial?
Ans: John L. Morris, being recommended by the Quarterly Conference of the Monrovia Station, having brought from the United States Testimonials of his character, piety and gifts, was admitted. The Rev. C. A. Pitman corresponding Secretary of the Methodist Episcopal Church which was read and on motion:

Resolved: That it be thankfully received and that fifty copies be stricken off in a pamphlet form to supply the members of the Conference and other friends.
Resolved: That the address be referred to the Committee on Memorials. The President presented also a circular from the Rev. D. F. Kidder, Corresponding Secretary of the Sunday School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which having been read, it was on motion referred to the Committee on Education and Sabbath Schools.

Ques: 2. was resumed. Who remained on Trial? The case of James Byrd, (the only person on trial and eligible to reception into full connexion) came up. The examining Committee reported that Brother Byrd has had but a very few of the books required to be studied and hence he had no examination, except on Discipline. WHEREUPON IT WAS:

Resolved: That Brother James Byrd be continued on Trial.

Ques: 4. resumed. Who are the Deacons? The case of H. W. Erskine now came up, there were some objections to the passage of his character, whereupon it was:

Resolved: That it be referred to the Committee of five to be appointed by the President. J. W. Stephens was left without an appointment in 1846 in consequence of there being against him at that time the selling as a Commission Merchant, ardent spirits. He had been seen during the year; by the President of the Conference respecting this matter and an explanatory letter was written to the Conference which was read and received. His character passed. The President remarked that he had written to the Corresponding Secretary of the M. E. Society concerning the ordination of some of the members of this Conference, but as yet had received no reply, and thought it would be advisable for the Conference to select two of its members in case it be required. There it was voted: and resolved: That James S. Payne and A. F. Russell be sent to the United States and recommend them to one of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church for Ordination.

Ques: 9. Who are the Superannuated or wornout Preachers? A. D. Williams. He being still unhealthy and having ascertained while in the United States from good physician that his health could not be restored, he left it with the Conference to dispose of his as they thought best, he was willing to conform to their wishes, either to take a station in which he would do what he could or remain superannuated. It was thought by the Conference to give Brother Williams an appointment might be subjecting him to more than he could in his present situation bear up under the conditions now confronting him, and therefore bring his days to a close sooner than it might be. It was:

Resolved: That his character pass and his relation be continued.

Ques: 10. Who have been expelled from the connexion this year? Ans: None.

Ques: 11.
Ques: 12. Are all the preachers blameless in life and conversation? This was attended to by examining the characters of each individual member.

J. B. Benhum, Character passed
W. B. Hoyt, " "
B. R. Wilson, " "
Gloster Simpson, " "
Elijah Johnson, " "
J. W. Roberts, " "
Daniel Ware, " "
James S. Payne, " "
Alfred F. Russell, " "

Notices given our Prayer by the Rev. A. D. Williams. Conference adjourned to meet on Monday at the Methodist Episcopal Church.

***********
MONDAY MORNING, 11TH
OF JANUARY, 1847
***********

Conference met according to adjournment at the Methodist E. Church. Opened with Reading of the Scriptures, Singing and Prayer by Brother J. S. Payne. There were present:

Rev. J. B. Benhum, President.
Rev. B. R. Wilson,
Rev. J. W. Roberts,
Rev. Gloster Simpson,
Rev. A. D. Williams,
Rev. W. B. Hoyt,
Rev. H. W. Erskine,
Rev. M. B. Mathews,
Rev. James S. Payne,
Rev. James Moore,
Rev. James Byrd, (Prob)
Rev. Daniel Ware,
Rev. Alfred F. Russell,
Rev. Elijah Johnson.

The minutes of the preceding session were read, corrected and adopted. Several communications were presented to the Conference from Cape Palmas. One referred to the Stationing Power, and two relating to Brother Burns which was permitted to lay on the table until his character came up for examination. Question 4 resumed. The Committee appointed on the case of H. W. Erskine reported him guilty of the charge, (see document A). As much discussion had taken place on the report and was likely that a great deal more might take place without the least probability of bringing it to a issue, therefore it was:

Resolved: That it is the sense of this Conference that another effort be made to obtain from the girl (the mother of the illegitimate) a positive answer on oath, as to whether Bro. Erskine is or is not its father.

Resolved: That there be a committee of three appointed by the President to repair to Caldwell this afternoon for this purpose. J. W. Roberts, James Moore and Brother G. Simpson were appointed that committee. Brother Roberts stated that as a Committee on Memoirs he was destitute of those statistics that were indispensable to a faithful discharge
of his duty. Therefore it was:

Resolved: That Brother J. W. Roberts, the Committee on Memoirs have time to collect the necessary statistics to enable him to discharge that duty; and that he publish his report as early as possible in the "Africa's Luminary." The examination of characters was resumed.

Resolved: That Brother James Moore's character be passed, and that he sustain a supernumerary relation to the Conference. F. Burns' character passed. Certain petitions being presented to the Conference from Cape Palmas it was:

Resolved: That they be received and referred to the Stationary Committee. The character of Rev. Amos Herring called up. Time arrived for adjournment. Notices given out. Prayer by Brother James Moore.

************

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 1847

Conference met according to adjournment. Opened with reading of the Scriptures, singing and Prayer by the Rev. B. R. Wilson. There were present:

Rev. J. B. Benhum, President, Rev. J. S. Payne
Rev. B. R. Wilson, Rev. H. B. Mathews
Rev. Amos Herring, Rev. James Moore
Rev. J. W. Roberts, Rev. A. F. Russell
Rev. Gloster Simpson, Rev. Daniel Ware
Rev. W. B. Hoyt, Rev. Elijah Johnson
Rev. H. Erskine,

The minutes of yesterday were read, corrected and adopted. The character of Amos Herring, which was called up yesterday at the time of adjournment came up again, and it was:

Resolved: That Amos Herring, character passed. The committee appointed to repair to Caldwell to make another effort on the Case of Brother Erskine reported that Tracy Reeves, or Gordon, exclaimed after much conversation that W. H. Erskine is the father of the child.

Resolved: That the report be received.

Resolved: That the name of W. H. Erskine be erased from the records of the Conference and that he be excluded from the Church. The Committee to whom was referred the subject of Education and Sabbath Schools throughout the bounds of the Conference or its Liberia Mission reported.

Resolved: That the report be received. See document B.

Resolved: That the preamble and 1st Section of that report be adopted.

Resolved: That the Quarterly Meeting Conference of each charge
Resolved: That that part of the second section be submitted to the discretion of the Superintendent.

Resolved: That the School statistics be adopted.

Resolved: That the report on Education and Sabbath Schools be corrected and adopted.

Resolved: That the report be adopted. See document C.

Resolved: That the report be adopted. See document D.

Ques: 4. What members are in Society?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monrovia</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Paul Circuit</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Millsburg &amp; Robertsville</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heddington &amp; W. Plains</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Andrew &amp; Morrisburg</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edina &amp; Bassa Cove</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garretson Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marshall</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenville, Sinoe</td>
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Ques: 17. What has been contributed for the support of the Mission this year?

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<tr>
<td>Caldwell</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinoe</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Palmas</td>
<td>26.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $307.00

Ques: 18. Where and when shall our next Conference be held?
Resolved: That further time be given the Committee for Memorili-
izing the Board and General Conference.

Resolved: That there be a Committee of three acting in behalf
of the Conference to whom the Memorializing Committee
may report.

Resolved: That said Committee consist of the President and two
others to be appointed by him. The preachers in charge
of the St. Paul River Circuit and Monrovia station
were duly appointed.

Resolved: That the Secretary of the Conference be instructed to
correspond with the members of the Quarterly Meeting
Conference at Cape Palms embodying the views of the
Conference with reference to their communications.

Resolved: That the Conference adjourn to meet this evening after
public services are over. Prayer by the Rev. G. Simpson.

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Confidence met in the evening (after services according to
adjournment. There were present:-

 Rev. J. B. Behmum; President. Rev. H. B. Mathews,
 Rev. B. R. Wilson, Rev. J. S. Payne;
 Rev. Gloster Simpson, Rev. Daniel Ware,
 Rev. W. B. Hoyt, Rev. A. F. Russell,
 Rev. Amos Herring,

Prayer having been offered at the opening of the religious
services, it was omitted at the meeting of this evening.

A preamble and first resolution was presented and on motion received.

Resolved: That the preamble and first resolution of Document E be
adopted. That the resolution of Document E be adopted.

Resolved: That the preamble and 2nd resolution of Document E be
adopted.

Resolved: That the thanks of the Conference be returned to the
President for the manner in which he has discharged his
duties during the Session of this Conference.

Resolved: That the Conference regard the labours of the President
as entirely satisfactory and that they highly appreciate the
course pursued by him in the discharge of the duties of his
office during the past year. That the thanks of the Conference
be returned to the people of Monrovia for their entertainment
of the Preachers during the Session of this Conference.

Ques: 18. Where are the Preachers stationed this year?

Signed)— John B. Behmum,
    PRESIDENT.

" James S. Payne,
    Secretary.

MONROVIA
JANUARY 12TH, 1847

Resolved: That this Conference adjourned to meet again January
5, 1848 at or in the City of Monrovia.