MINUTES
OF THE
LIBERIAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE
HELD IN THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.
LOWER BUCHANAN BASSA COUNTY
January 1883.

MONROVIA
T. W. HOWARD, PRINTER.
1888.

Board of Missions & Church Extension
of the Methodist Church,
LIBRARY
150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK
On Motion of W. T. Hagan the hours devoted for the business of the Conference be from 10 O'clock A. M. to 2 P. M.

On Motion of W. T. Hagan the Local Preachers and Ministers of other Christian Churches visiting the Conference be invited to seats within the bar.

The President of the Conference requested the Presiding Elders to be ready to hand in their reports by tomorrow morning.

James H. Deputie was appointed Committee on Devotional exercises by the President of the Conference.

Reports from Standing Committees on examination of candidates on the course of Studies called for, but the Committees were not ready to report.

On motion of J. H. Deputie the hour of half past seven O'clock this evening be fixed on to hear the introductory sermon by Rev. Wm. P. Kennedy, Sr.

The First Question of the General Minutes, namely, "Who are received by transfer and from what Churches?" was taken up. Answer: None.

The Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Questions of the General Minutes were taken up and laid over to await the reports of the Committees on examination.

The Sixth Question of the General Minutes, namely, "Who are Re-admitted?" was taken up. Answer: None.

The Seventh Question, "Who are received in Credentials from the Churches?" was taken up. Answer: None.

The Eighth, Tenth, Twelfth, Thirteenth; and Fourteenth Questions were taken up and laid over.

The Ninth, Eleventh and Fifteenth Questions of the General Minutes were taken up and answered. None ordained in consequence of having no Bishop.

The "Sixth Question of the General Minutes" namely, "What Local Deacons have been elected Elders?" was taken up and laid over.

The Seventeenth Question, namely, "What Local Deacons have been ordained Elders?" was taken up. Answer: None.

The Eighteenth Question, namely, "Who are the Supernumerary Preachers?" was taken up. Answer: None.

The Nineteenth Question, namely, "Who are the Supernumerary Preachers?" was taken up. Answer: None.

The Twentieth Question of the General Minutes, namely, "Was the character of each Preacher examined?" was taken up.

The names of W. P. Kennedy, Sr., W. H. Deputie, W. H. Kennedy, Jr., W. T. Hagan, and C. H. Harmon were called and their characters passed.

The name of G. J. Hargraves was called and as there were some objections to the passage of his character and brother Hargraves could give satisfaction, his character was laid over to be called up at the will of the Conference.

On Motion of J. H. Deputie the appointing of the usual Conference Committees was referred to the President of the Conference, and that he report on the same tomorrow morning after the opening of the Conference.
The Committee on Devotional Exercises made a report which was received and adopted.

Sec. Report A.

Notices were given, and Conference adjourned with singing doxology and benediction by the Rev. Daniel Ware.

Friday January 26th 1883.

Conference met this morning at 10 O'clock. Rev. C. A. Pitman in the chair.

The usual religious services consisting of reading the second chapter of 2nd Timothy, singing the 790th Hymn, and prayer were conducted by Rev. Daniel Ware.

Roll called. The Minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Reports from Committees called for, and the Committee of Examination on the Course of Studies reported progress.

The President of the Conference reported on the usual Conference Committees as follows.

On Estimates. The Presiding Elders and Assistant Secretary.

On Memorials. D. Ware, C. W. Bryant, C. H. Harmon

On Statistics. The Secretaries.


Reports from Presiding Elders called for and the Presiding Elders of the Monrovia and St. Pauls River Districts reported progress.

The Presiding Elder of the Bassa District read his report which was received, adopted and ordered to be printed with the Journal of the Conference.

The Presiding Elder of the Sinoe and Cape Palmas Districts made his report which was received adopted and ordered to be printed with the Journal of the Conference.

Communications from the Calvary Baptist Association, from the Presbytery of West Africa, and from the Providence Baptist Association, bearing fraternal greetings were received and referred to the Committee on Fraternal Delegates.

On Motion of William T. Hagan the rules were suspended, and Conference continued in session.

On Motion of W. T. Hagan the hour of 2 O'clock this afternoon be set apart for the reception of Fraternal Delegates.

On Motion of D. Ware, the character of G. J. Hargraves was again called up; and after considerable argument upon the conduct of brother Hargraves, it was on motion Resolved that his character pass, and that he receive a reprimand from the President of the Conference.

The hour of 2 O'clock having arrived the regular business was suspended, and Rev. W. T. Hagan introduced the Rev. T. I. Tate the Fraternal Delegate from the Calvary Baptist Association.

Brother Tate brought fraternal greetings from the Association of which he was a member, and made some very encouraging remarks of the progress of the Baptist Churches in this land, to which
James D. Drysdale was requested to reply.

No other delegates present, Conference resumed its business.

A. Communication from the Thankful Baptist Church of Lower Buchanan requesting the Conference to supply their pulpit on Sabbath was received and referred to the Committee on Devotional Exercises.

Rev. C. W. Bryant was appointed at the last session of the Conference to preach a sermon on Education at this session of Conference. It was on Motion Resolved That the hour of Seven O'clock this evening be fixed to hear the Sermon on Education.

The examination of the character of effective Elders was resumed and the character of C. W. Bryant examined and passed.

Notices given, Doxology sung and conference adjourned with benediction by Rev. C. H. Harmon.

Saturday January 27th 1869.

Conference met this morning at 10 O'clock Rev. C. A. Fitzsim in the chair.

The usual religious services consisting of reading the fortieth chapter of Isaiah, singing the 811th Hymn and prayer were conducted by Rev. C. H. Harmon.

Roll called. Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

The Presiding Elder of the Monrovia District read his report which was received adopted and ordered to be printed with the journal of the Conference.

The Presiding Elder of the St. Pauls River District read his report which was received, adopted and ordered to be printed with the journal of the Conference, with the exception that the suggestions contained in the report be referred to the Committee on Estimates and not be considered as forming a part of the report.

The Committee of examination made a favorable report on the examination of H. B. Cooper and his character passed.

The Committee of Examination on the Second Years' Course of Studies reported favorable on the examination of T. B. Lane, T. A. Sims, Benjamin K. McKeever and J. W. Cooper.

The report of the Committee was received and the character of T. B. Lane, T. A. Sims, and J. W. Cooper passed, were received into full connection, elected to Deacons' Orders and transferred to the Third Years' Course of Studies.

The character of Benjamin K. McKeever passed, was received into Full connection, and transferred to the Third Years' Course of Studies, he having been before ordained a Deacon.

The President of the Conference addressed the class of young brethren coming into the Conference upon their duties and the necessity of strictly adhering to the Discipline of the Church and not to preach too long.

The Second Question of the General Minutes, namely "Who are admitted on Trial," was taken up.

Recommendations from the Bassa District recommending William H. Thomas, and E. L. Brumakine as suitable persons to be admitted on trial into the Travelling Connection were received and referred to the Committee on Examination.

The Fourth Question of the General Minutes
namely "Who are discontinued"? was taken up. 
Answer None.

The Fifth Question of the General Minutes, namely "Who are admitted into Full Connection"? was taken up. Answer T. B. Lane, T. A. Sims, J. W. Cooper, and Benjamin K. McKeever.

The Tenth Question namely, "What Local Preachers have been elected Deacons?" was taken up.

J. N. Roberts came duly recommended from the District Conference of the Bassa District, and John W. Early came duly recommended from the New Georgia circuit in the Motrovia District as suitable persons to be ordained Deacons, but they were not elected.

The Eighth Question namely "What Travelling Preachers, have been elected Deacons?" was taken up. Answer T. B. Lane, T. A. Sims, J. W. Cooper.

Here the business of the Conference was suspended and Rev. W. T. Hagan introduced Rev. G. W. Titler, Fraternal Delegate from the Providence Baptist Association. Brother Titler made a short address expressing fraternal greetings, to which Brother Ware replied. Conference resumed its business.

A Communication of invitation to luncheon from Mr. and Mrs. Will was received and concurred in by the members of the Conference.

The Committee on Examination of Candidates for admission into the Travelling Connection reported favorably on the examination of W. H. Thomas and E. L. Brumshire and they were admitted on Trial.

On Motion of C. W. Bryant it was Resolved That on Monday after the opening of the Conference the order of the day shall be to consider matters pertaining to the interest of the work in this land, and the perpetuity of the Church, also to make arrangements for the celebration of the Semi Centennial of Methodism in this country.

The journal of the District Conference of the Bassa District was sent up to the Conference as required by Discipline.

Conference adjourned with singing Doxology and Benediction by Rev. W. P. Kennedy, Sr.

Monday January 29th 1883.

Conference met at 10 O'clock, A. M. Rev. C. A. Pitman in the chair.

Rev. W. P. Kennedy Sr. opened the Conference by reading the thirtieth chapter of Ezekiel, singing the 275th Hymn and prayer. Roll called, Minutes of Saturday read and approved.

On Motion of T. A. Sims the character of H. B. Capelhart passed, and he was admitted into Full Connection, and transferred to the Third Years course of Studies.

The vote taken in the case of J. W. Early and I. N. Roberts on Saturday in reference to the passage of their character and election to Orders was on Motion of J. H. Deputis reconsidered.

The passing of character and election to Deacons orders of J. W. Early and I. N. Roberts being again before the Conference for examination caused considerable argument as to the necessity of electing local Preachers to Orders.

After the arguments closed it was on Motion Resolved That the character of J. W. Early, and I. N. Roberts pass, and they were both elected to Local Beacon's Orders.
usi greetings to the Calvary Baptist Association and W. H. Thomas his reserve.

C. M. Harmon, was appointed to preach the Introductory sermon at the opening of the next Conference and C. A. Pitman, his reserve. D. War was appointed to preach the sermon on Education and J. H. Deputie, his reserve. W. T. Hagan, was appointed to preach the sermon on Temperance and T. A. Sims, his reserve. W. P. Kennedy Sr. was appointed to preach the sermon on Missions, and W. P. Kennedy Jr. his reserve. C. W. Bryant was appointed to preach the sermon on Sunday Schools and H. B. Campb, his reserve.

The subject of Printing the minutes of the Conference was discussed, as to how the expense should be met, and it was referred to the Presiding Elders with the understanding that each preacher in charge make up his quota of the expenses, and receive a part of the Minutes in return in proportion to the amount paid, and that the money to be furnished for said printing be paid over to the Presiding Elders within six weeks after the adjournment of the Conference.


Wednesday January 31st, 1889.

Conference met at 10 O'clock, A. M. C. A. Pitman in the chair. The usual religious services consisting of reading the 58th. chapter of Isaiah, singing the 82nd. Hymn, and prayer were conducted by Rev. W. T. Hagan.

Roll called. Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

The Committee on Estimates reported progress.

The Committee on Statistics reported progress.

The Twenty First Question of the General Minutes, namely "Have any Died?" was taken up.

Answer: W. M. Richards.

The business of the Conference was here suspended and the memorial services as per programme were entered upon.

After the memorial services were over, Conference resumed its business.

James H. Deputie presented and read the following resolutions which were adopted by the unanimous vote of the Conference.

1st. Resolved That the thanks of this Conference are tendered to our beloved brother the Rev. O. A. Pitman for the able manner in which he presided over the business this of this Conference session.

2nd. Resolved That the thanks of this Conference are tendered to the Rev. J. J. Clissman for his kindness in providing a vessel to convey the members to and from the seat of Conference on reasonable terms.

Sext. Resolved That the thanks of this Conference are tendered to the Pastor of this Church at b0 his officials also to the dissenters generally for the kind services made to entertain this session of the Conference, and for their kindness and hospitality, as well as for their liberal contributions to assist the members to their homes.

4th. Resolved That this Conference has enjoyed with great satisfaction the visits of our beloved sister Amanda Smith the lady evangelist, we hail her as a messenger of peace, and feel that she has been instrumental in the hands of God in advancing and building up the cause of true holiness wherever she has been in this country, and very successful in the cause of Temperance.
18

5th. Resolved That this Conference has enjoyed with great satisfaction the christian and brotherly intercourse of our brother Rev. T. J. Tate, fraternal delegate from the Calvary Baptist Association, also of Rev. George W. Titus fraternal delegate, from the Providence Baptist Association, their fraternal greetings were highly appreciated, and we pray that God may abundantly bless the labor of their Churches and that these friendly relations may ever be continued.

On motion of D. Ware the thanks of the Conference were tendered to the Secretaries for the able manner in which they have discharged their duties the present session of this Conference.

The President of the Conference called attention to the necessity of making up an amount to meet the expenses of this Conference, such as furnishing stationery, paying runner &c. The members of the Conference paid fifty cents in currency to pay the runner, and promised to pay in available money an amount sufficient to pay for stationery, and postage when the bill was made up.

The rules were suspended and Conference adjourned to meet at 4 O'clock P. M. to hear the report of the Committee on Estimates and on Statistics. Doxology sung and benediction by Rev. H. B. Capehart.

Wednesday Afternoon. Jan'y. 31st 1883


The Committee on Estimates made their report which was received and adopted.

The Committee on Statistics made their report upon which the Twenty Ninth Question namely, "What is the Statistical Report for this Conference year?" was taken up and answered as follows.

(1) Membership.

Number of Members 239

" Full Members 2187

" Local Preachers 66

" Deacons 61

(2) Baptisms

Number of Children Baptized 104

" Adults Baptized 163

(3) Church Property

Number of Churches 27

" Probable Value $24,585.00

Number of Parsonages

" Probable Value

Paid for Building and Improving Churches and Parsonages $890.90

Paid on Old Indebtedness on Church Property $215.26

Present Indebtedness

(4) Sunday Schools.

Number of Schools 82

Number of Officers and Teachers 284

Number of Scholars of all ages 1922

(5) Benevolent Collections

For Missions (a) From Churches 5.45

(b) From Sunday Schools

Fog the Woman's Foreign Mission Society

For the Board of Church Extension

For the Tract Society

For the Sunday School Union.
For the Freedman's Aid Society.
For Education.
For the Am. Bible Society.
Other Collections.

(6) Ministerial Support.
For Pastors, Presiding Elders, $1500.00
For Conference Claimants $0

Conference took recess until half past seven O'clock this evening to hear the sermon from Rev. T. I. Tate, fraternal delegate from the Calvary Baptist Church.

At half past seven O'clock Conference met. Rev. T. I. Tate preached a very interesting sermon from after which the Conference entered upon the closing part of its business.

The President made some appropriate remarks relative to the work, that in consequence of the small amount of means at command the Conference has done the very best it could, thanked the citizens for their kind hospitality to the members of the Conference during the present session, after which the Thirty Third Question of the General Minutes namely "Where are the Preachers Stationed?" was taken up and answered as follows.

Appointments of Preachers, 1883
Monrovia District. C. A. Pitman P. E.
Monrovia ct. including Ammonsville C. A. Pitman and Native towns adjacent. One to be supplied
Robertsport and Talla ct. B. K. KeKeever
New Georgia ct. H. B. Carpenter
New York and Pewkay ct. G. J. Harrar
St. Pauls River District. D. Ware, P. E.
Caldwell ct. T. B. Lane
Virginia and Breezersville. T. A. Sims.
Clay Ashland and Sass Town ct. To be supplied.
Millburg and Robertsville. W. P. Kennedy, Sr.
J. W. Cooper, Assistant.

Bassa District James H. Deputie P. E.
Upper Buchanan ct. E. L. Brumskine
New Series and Bulandtown ct. C. W. Bryant.
Edina Station. To be supplied.
Beale circuit. To be supplied.
Marshall circuit. To be supplied.

J. Harris native assistant.
J. P. Artis supernumerary
Sicore and C. Palmaa District C. H. Harmon, P. E.
Greenville and Lexington ct. W. P. Kennedy, Jr
Louisiana and Blountville. To be supplied.

Mt Scott, Tubmanstown, Greebo tribes C. H. Harmon.

The minutes of this afternoon session were read and approved, and Conference adjourned sine die. The brethren united in singing the 816th Hymn. brother Pitman pronounced the benediction the and brethren separated for another year of labor.

JAS. H. DEPUTIE, C. A. PITMAN,
Secretary L. A. C. President L. A. C.
APPENDIX.

Report of the Committee on Devotional Exercises.

A.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises submit the following:


Friday morning 7 O'clock: J. W. Cooper.

Friday evening 7½, sermon on Education by C. W. Bryant.

Saturday morning 7 Mrs. Amanda Smith.

Saturday evening 7½, H. B. Capers.

Sunday morning 7, Lovefeast conducted by W. T. Hagan.

Sunday morning 11, Mrs. H. R. Harris.

Sunday afternoon 3, Mrs. E. H. Copeheart.

Sunday evening 7½, Rev. E. H. Copeheart.

Sunday evening 11, Rev. E. L. Brustman.

Monday evening 7½, Rev. W. H. Thomas.

Sermon on Temperance by J. H. Deputie.

Tuesday morning 7, T. A. Sims.

Tuesday evening 7½, Rev. H. E. Deputie, Missionary by W. T. Hagan.

Wednesday morning 7, E. L. Brustman.

Wednesday evening 7½, T. I. Tate, delegate from the Calvary Baptist Association.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lower Buchanan, Jan. 26th, 1883.

J. H. DEPUTIE, Committee
B.

Report of the Presiding Elder of the Bassa District:

DEAR FATHERS AND BROTHERS,

I am before you today to give you the Annual report of the state and condition of the work in the Bassa District for the year now coming to a close.

I feel very thankful to God for the many blessings received during the year, and that the “times have fallen to me in pleasant places and mine has been a goodly heritage.”

The work at Mount Olive among the natives is in a very fine condition at present. During the year the Lord has abundantly blessed our labors and over a score of persons have united with the Church. In the month of August while holding our third Quarterly Meeting a revival broke out which continued for over six weeks. Eleven natives were converted and united with the Church, and many others became interested about the salvation of their souls. Since the close of the revival some have come in and united with us; and during our Watch Meeting at the turn of the night two native women came forward and desired the prayers of the Church. Our meetings are well attended, and whatever may be said against the progress of the work among the natives, I feel satisfied that God is well pleased to own his work on this circuit. I have noticed for some time the favorable openings among the natives, for the extension of Missionary work, but in this direction I am doing nothing beyond the limits of the circuit.

I regret exceedingly that I am not able to do more in the regions beyond, but my time has been so employed in the work assigned to me, that I have not been able to do any thing of importance for those suffering for the word of God.

The Mount Olive Mission Station has stood longer than any other organized by the Conference, and thus far it a success. Our Sabbath School is well attended, and over forty scholars are enrolled, and the major part are children of heathen parentage.

The next circuit in the order is Marshall. Rev. Moses N. Williams a Local Elder is in charge of the circuit. I have given considerable attention to the work on this circuit. I am sorry to have to report to this Conference that there is not that harmony among some of the local preachers to insure any great success in the work under existing circumstances. During the year a revival of religion broke out in the settlement of Marshall, the membership were refreshed with spiritual food, and seven persons united with the Church. Nothing has been done toward the building of the new church during the past year, and we have only to hope that this important work will be carried on to completion.

Third in order is the Edina circuit. Rev. C. W. Bryant has sustained the relation of pastor here for five years. Upon careful examination of the condition of this circuit, it becomes my duty to say that this charge is not in as healthy a condition as I desire to report it.

From what I have been able to gather from time to time during the year, I am inclined to the opinion that there is not that harmony existing between the Pastor and a large number of the membership as will insure success in the work of the Church. A change here may be beneficial. No complaints have been made to me officially coming up in due form to require investigation, but from personal observation, I am led to believe that all things are not working together for the good of Zion there. During the year a revival of religion was in progress and continued for a short period, and some precious souls were added to our numbers. While I am of the opinion that the work on the Edina circuit is not as I desire to report it, so far as its oversight is concerned, yet I am encouraged to say that among the membership, are some valiant soldiers standing up for the cause of Christ with increased determination to make the harbor when the journey of life is over.

The Upper Buchanan circuit is still under the pastoral care of Rev. W. Brumskine a Local Elder. Brother Brumskine is the only elder Local or Trav.
elling, between the St John’s River and Sinuc, of the M. E. Church. His labors on this circuit has been abundant and the Lord has greatly revived His work and encouraged the hearts of His followers. In the month of February last a Camp Meeting began near this circuit, held by order of the District Conference, and continued nearly three weeks. This circuit shared largely in the ingathering of precious souls. The work in Upper Buchanan is progressing finely, Spiritually, and it is a source of regret that the church building is in a sad state of decay. Arrangements were made some time ago to obtain bricks for a new house of worship here, but the death of the brickmaker put a stop to this enterprise for the present.

At Paynesbury the work among the Congo brethren is very interesting indeed, and here God is giving evidence that “He is no respecter of persons, and in every place he that feareth God and worketh righteousness is accepted with him.”

The Lower Buchanan circuit after the death of our beloved brother Prosser was supplied by brother William H. Thomas a Local Preacher.

Brother Thomas entered upon this work in the month of February and rendered very efficient service during the Camp Meeting, and this circuit also received large accessions. During the entire year brother Thomas labored hard to keep up the interest of the work under his care, and God has abundantly blessed his labors; and you have the privilege to learn from personal observation that the work here is in a fine condition. In order to maintain the honor of the Church he has been compelled to enforce the Discipline and sever from the communion of the Church some who we thought were well founded in faith. Brother Thomas comes well recommended from the District Conference as a suitable person to be admitted into the travelling connection.

The Bexley Circuit is next and last in number on the District. Rev. N. D. Itus a Local Elder supplies this work as Preacher in Charge and has labor-

ad hard during the year. The work has been revived and some accessions made to the Church. There is but one church building on the circuit and this is situated in Fortville, and the distance to travel from either place, bad roads, and an onlook unless it is very difficult for the major part of the membership to be regular in their attendance upon the means of grace. We are in hopes before another session of Conference there will be one or two more churches on the circuit in which to invite people to the worship of the God of heaven. Brother Itus with the assistance of some of the membership together with other aid from persons belonging to no church are putting forth strenuous efforts to supply this want on the Bexley circuit and we pray for their success.

The Sabbath School interest throughout the entire District is well taken care of and young men and women of our communities are contributing their quota in this direction toward the extension of the Redeemer’s Kingdom in this benighted land.

A question of no small importance arises among us at the present time as to how the Methodist Episcopal Church is to be perpetuated in Liberia. Our laborers are falling at their posts, and upon whose shoulders shall their mantle fall? We have looked in vain for the visitations of a Bishop from abroad and the work is in need of able men.

In conclusion I have only to add that during the year my sojourn among the people of Bassa County has been very pleasant, the official brethren of the Church have rendered me great assistance in keeping up the interest of the work, and I feel thankful to say that in closing up the business of this Conference year that peace and harmony prevails on the Bassa District with the exceptions stated in the foregoing.

The District Conference held its session in Edin in December last, and the business was dispensed with and a copy of its journal is forwarded to this body for examination.

And now Mr. President and brethren before submitting this report, I pray that the blessing of God Father may be with you in your coming
or in this place, that your labor here and elsewhere may be abundantly blessed; and when the cares and toils of this life are over, you shall have an abundance into the Kingdom of God.

January 29th 1853.

Respectfully Submitted,

JAMES H. DELUTIE.
Presiding Elder Bassa District.

C.

Report of the Presiding Elder of the Shame and Cape Palmas District.

Dear Fathers and Brethren of the Liberia Annual Conference:

The time has again arrived when it becomes my duty as Presiding Elder of the Shame and Cape Palmas District to make my Annual Report of the work over which I was placed at the last session of the Conference. In doing so I feel very grateful to Almighty God for the remarkable mercies that He has bestowed upon me, thereby enabling me (although imperfectly) to discharge the duties of the work assigned me. My labors have been equally as hard as heretofore; sunshine and cloud have been alternately along my pathway. I cannot say that the spiritual state of the work at Cape, Palmas has been very good. I have only four times, and especially the latter part of the year, seen some signs of progress. We have had some revival seasons, and accessions to the Church of full members and probationers. It is embarrassing to me to be under the necessity to report to you that the Church at Tubmantown is still unfinished; yet I am glad to say that some extra effort is now being made toward its completion which I believe will prove successful.

Mount Scott Church needs some repairs which I think will be arranged for, and accomplished soon.

The M. E. Seminary building is still rapidly running down. I would advise that it be sold before it becomes a perfect wreck, or specially provide for its repairs.

It is a pity that such a building should be allowed to go down. It is a source of regret that our community should lose the benefit of such a building as an institution of learning while there are so many children growing up without proper school training. There is a screw loose some where in reference to this matter.

I have held regular services at Grayway and Cape Palmas Gbeebo towns, assisted by two of my Local Preachers. These seem the most willing to assist in this work. What I mean as regular services in these places is, as often as we can get around, we have eight towns to visit. I find the people willing and ready to receive the Gospel. At the big town Cape Palmas the chiefs, headmen, and the people generally are very anxious for a Sabbath School. This I have promised them over a year ago, but the want of suitable books has kept us from making a beginning, and the promise alone remains alive.

Our Sabbath School at Mt Scott is in a progressive state. The condition in numbers and otherwise very good. The one at Jacksonville gets along poorly at times.

Books are the chief drawback. I desire to see the day when by some means or other there will be no lack of proper books for our Sunday Schools.

For want of proper conveyance I have only been able to visit Shame once during the year, and at that time in a small boat. The English line of steamers touch so irregularly at Shame that it is only now and then an opportunity offers; and not when duty calls me there. I found during my visit at Shame in September last the Church about the same as before.

Through the untiring efforts of brother Kennedy at Greenville the work has been kept up. At Lexington there is no house of worship and the Sunday School has run down.

I visited Lexington especially for the purpose of examining our site to a little more energy and perseverance and I think that my visit was not in vain. It is true, the people here are generally poor, and need some assistance in erecting a new church.
which they have promised to contribute. The membership is small, but may be increased as there is material on the spot, and by a little effort, some very valuable stones may be had from this quarry for ourester building. A very fine Sunday School could be organized here by a little diligence and proper books.

The future of our Church depends no little upon the efforts we make in the Sunday School line. We plant for our Lord's vineyard.

Louisiana and Blountville are under Brother Murray Bailey (a Local Preacher) as Preacher in Charge.

At the former place I found the Spiritual condition to be very good. The membership do not seem to grow very fast, numerically, yet this little charge holds its own very well, with the exception that I find a disposition manifest by the membership not to pay any thing for the support of their Ministers and yet they say that they love him. In this respect, however, they are not alone. The membership of the Church generally throughout Liberia manifest a great love for their Ministers in the same way if I am correctly informed.

Blountville is a little Settlement seven or eight miles higher up the river. I did not reach this station but I learned that it was doing as well as could be expected under the circumstances.

Satter Cavo Mission was not supplied during the year. I found it impossible to obtain what I considered a proper man to go to that station.

I hope that the Conference is prepared to send such a man as the place requires, and the work required at once. The place demands a man who will understand how to manage work among the natives and the civilized settlers of the place as well. A man temperate in all things, and one who will advance the interest of the Temperance cause, as this is an important trading place, and ardent spirits are much used. This monster has found its way with all other sorts of goods to every town of importance along the coast; and death and devastation has followed, just as in war.

This Station requires a strong man to take a stand against these evils and maintain and dignify the calling. Having briefly made up this report, I submit the same with the hope that it may not be new.

Respectfully,

C. H. HARMON.

President Elder of the

Simco and CajaFaisnas District.

D.

Communication from the Calvary Baptist Association bearing Interim Greetings.

To the Liberia Annual Conference to meet in Grand Bassa County in the month of January 1888.

Dear Fathers and Brethren,

Another year of labor has passed away, and as we look back upon the record our hearts are filled with sorrow and humiliation. Our Churches have lost the good of mourning over departed souls. The young, the middle-aged, and the old soldier of the Cross have fallen upon the battle field and through the mercy of God alone you live, move and have your being.

Our county has passed through her troubles and many of our strong men have fallen.

We mourn with you the losses you have sustained in the ministry.

Brother James R. Moore will not meet with you in your session this time. You will hear his voice no more on earth. No more will he lay upon the decks of vessels, ford ponds and creeks; nor walk the sand beach to do your bidding.

His work on earth is finished, and he now wears the victor's crown. Brother James B. Payne passed away from you early in the past year and who will take his place. He has left the Church militant and gone to join the Church triumphant, where the weary shall rest and sorrowing be done away. We regret that the Rev. W. P. Kennedy Jr. your fraternal delegate was not able to be present at the session of the Association held in Kingville January 1888.
unwithstanding his desire the Rev. C. W. Bryant with us on Sabbath, preached, and attended the closing exercises on Sabbath night.

The Rev. T. I. Tate will convey to your venerable body the fraternal greetings of the Calvary Baptist Association. May you have the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your deliberations, and may the blessings of God be with you in your work.

Very Respectfully Yours
(Signed) E. B. MITCHELL
Corresponding Sec. Calvary Baptist Association.

E.

Communication from the Presbytery of Western Africa bearing fraternal greetings.

Monrovia January 19 1888

To the Bishop and Members of the Liberia Annual Conference of the M. E. Church.

DEAR BRETHREN,

I am directed by the Presbytery of Western Africa to send you Christian greetings, and to express regret in not being able to send a delegate to represent us in your present session, owing to the distance and inconvenience of travel, and the want of necessary pecuniary to meet this expense. We hope however that this apology will be received, and that by proper means you will be able to send a brother to your session. We rejoice with you in the success that attended your labor last year.

May peace and concord, mercy and blessing rest upon you, and pervade your meeting.

In behalf of the Liberia Baptist Providence Association.

I am your Humble Servant,
(Signed) S. L. PAGE Clerk &c.

P.S. Since last that we extended to you fraternal greetings death has entered our Ministerial ranks, and taken away two aged Ministers, namely Rev. T. Richardson and Melford D. Harndon, one died in July last and the other in August. Both died in the full triumph of faith;

"And we are to the margin come
And soon expect to die."

(Signed) S. S. PAGE Clerk &c.
Report of the Presiding Elder of the Monrovia District.

To the Liberia Annual Conference.

Dear Fathers and Brothers:

Through the boundless goodness of our heavenly Father by whom so many members of our little Conference are spared to meet in annual gathering, I have the large privilege of reporting to you the Monrovia District in its condition and operations during the Conference year just closing.

It is with joy unspeakable that I record to the praise and glory of our God and Saviour, that the Monrovia District has been, and thank God in the special object of Divine favor especially in a spiritual point of view. Through the instrumentality of His chosen agents, notably Sister Amanda Smith, the Evangelist the Holy Ghost has come in mighty baptism renewing, quickening, reviving, and sanctifying believers, and converting the unconverted. So that I left that District all aglow. Many people and the number is increasing, are shouting with happy Paul: "I count not to have apprehended, but this one thing I do, forgetting the things that are behind, I press forward to the mark for the prize." Many have sought and found by simple faith a mighty Saviour from all sin.

They have entered into rest, the rest of faith, (the privilege of God's dear people,)—they prove that the blood of Jesus cleanseth from all sin. Join with a brethren in the prayer that the mighty work may spread more and more widely until the spirit of holiness shall pervade the entire Conference boundary.

A brief survey of the District will now end this paper. Monrovia Station. Over this station, the last Conference was pleased to give me pastoral supervision. This Church has been greatly quickened this year and I look forward for glorious fruits from this Church, as results of the manifestations of the spirit, in energy and vitality. Accessions have been made from the ranks of the enemy of such as I trust will be commonly saved: Sev.

...first to do mighty work for Christ's Church in Africa, and then finally housed in heaven's garner.

In connection with Monrovia I beg to notice Bushrod Island, Fish town, and Kroo-town in the immediate vicinity of Monrovia that were associated with the charge. Early after the adjournment of the Conference, I found it imprudent to commence operations at Kroo Town near Monrovia, as that place was being worked by Sister Mary Sharpe Missionary at the W. F. M. Society, and also that Bushrod Island and Fish Town were being visited by a young man of the Baptist Church. I therefore did not make any effort in this direction for fear of creating unnecessary unpleasantness. In the month of March 1892, the Camp meeting which was partly arranged for by the last Conference came off with blessed results. Some souls were the subjects of converting grace on this occasion, united with us on probation, and nearly all of them were received into full membership.

Monrovia as a self-supporting station is holding her own very well. There is room however for improvement. My relation with the dear people of Monrovia for the last eight years as pastor has been up to the time of my leaving for the seat of Conference, of the most pleasant and harmonious character; for which gratifying state of things, I give most hearty thanks to my heavenly Father.

New Georgia and Kpeky Circuit has been for the past year under the pastoral supervision of Rev. H. B. Capeheart, who amid very discouraging circumstances such as inconveniences for travelling, poor pay, and consequently much embarrassment has done well, and has been rewarded in the success that has attended his labors, in the quickened life of the membership. Our last Quarterly meeting here was a season of remarkable good feeling and spiritual profiting.

The New Georgians are very much needing a house of worship, which they are gathering material to build. Payneville. The pastoral care of this very interesting field was intrusted to my care at the last Conference. I have endeavored to do the best of my ability...
to serve this charge. The station however needs the undivided attention of one man. A fine field for native work is here presented. Our Payneville brethren have a nice church building that is nearly ready for dedication. The church here is in a growing state. Some very interesting young men are sitting here. They are men too who express themselves very strongly interested in the elevation of our surrounding heathen neighbors. My next point of attention is the Robertport and Talia circuit in the Grand Cape Mount country. Rev. B. K. McKeeveer has held during the year pastoral supervision. Under the efficient conduct of the pastor and the blessings of our adored Saviour, and head this station has been abundantly blessed, quickened and revived. Great grace rests upon this charge. The people here bided by their devoted pastor are in full and glorious stretch for heart purity or holiness, and we record with gratitude that some have already attained. As might be expected when this holy leaven is felt, new life is developed in the quickened energy and zeal of the people.

The blessed work of Temperance is finding a strong foothold here. This is true also of other parts of the District. Monrovia for instance where a strong band of Temperance workers are found composed of some choice young people of the city as well as older people. Man old in the indulgence of the cup have forsaken and dashed to the earth the maddening bowl and are engaged in the noble work of rescuing others who are perishing from drink. Under God, grand results have been accomplished, through the indefatigable and gory labors of sister Amanda Smith the evangelist.

Sunday School Interests. The Sunday School on the District are all in good condition, except the one at Payneville, and this only requires the presence of a resident pastor to give it the direction and life that it requires. Who can we send to Payneville? Education. This interest is in a very poor condition. There is but one School on the District and that is at Payneville. The Monrovia Seminary is still idle; I mean no as its being used by the parent Society or by the Conference is concerned.

It is at present occupied by Miss Mary A. Sharpe teacher of the W. F. M. Society, M. E. Church. She has here a very interesting school of fine children Kroo in the main, though there are some of the Marbars I think in the number. Sister Sharpe is really doing a great work and richly deserves our thanks as Libearians and our encouraging words; also the hearty support of the home Church.

We are glad to know that there are yet christians in America in whose breasts may be found sympathy for Africa.

The Lord raise up friends and patrons for Sister Sharpe's work.

This Lady has also a fine work at Fishowntown near Monrovia, among the Kroos. In conclusion brethren beloved in the Lord, I return thanks for the good peace, harmony and prosperity which have attended the Monrovia District during the last year.

For God's goodness to us as manifested in the preservation of the lives of so many of the members of this small body and for the general harmony of views that has thus far attended our meeting, I pray that God of peace and love may continue to preserve over our deliberations to His own glory and honor. Amen.

Digression: On the subject of the present state and condition of the M. E. Church in Liberia as she stands related to the M. E. Church in the United States. The church as an organization is unchanged except that I am more and more convinced of the wisdom and necessity of such a measure. I heartily indorse all the utterances on this conference floor on this subject. Respectfully Submitted.

Lower Buchanan C. A. PITMAN
Jan 27th 1889. Presiding Elder Monrovia District
Report of the Presiding Elder of the St. Pauls River District.

DEAR BRETHREN,

Another Conference year is just closing upon us and we are gathered together again from different stations and districts in Conference capacity to pass in review the result of the year's labor and the status of our charges generally, and it affords me mingled pleasure and pain to record: First, that I think the past year unprecedented during my brief tenure of administration as Presiding Elder in so far as relates to my district for the display of divine power.

Truly there have been other years when God brought more universally on the district, and when accessions were more plentiful, but never was the Church so awakened to a higher status of Christian life and power. Never was the Church so really alive to the work of extending the work beyond them. In this Caresburg and Bensonville are in the van and have taken the initiative for a grand work. They have already banded themselves together as a visiting missionary corps of some twenty-five or thirty and as an army terrible with banners raiding through a scope of country ten or more miles in circuit, visiting towns and villages of Golahs and Pessahs striking them with terror and awe.

Already grand results are manifesting themselves for the greengrocers, fruit-growers, men and women, crowning their services and laying down at the disciples feet their greengrocers, fruit-growers; renouncing them with tears, crying out we want these things any more they feel us the joy of life, the joy of living; they gave us the bread of life, the bread of heaven, the bread of life; they gave us the bread of life, the bread of heaven, the bread of life; they gave us the bread of life, the bread of heaven.

We want you to come bring home to us this palaver. We are poor country men, but God don send you now. Now we want you come and learn us this palaver. God done put into your hearts. Any thing we can do we glad to do but we be poor, can do much; but do come.

The foregoing is the invariable tenor of the responses given by these hundreds of poor, blind, but interested heathen men and women who with their horses of dear little ones are waiting a more organized work of the Church. What shall we do? What can we do? The field is vast just here to say nothing of other parts of our general field that may be brought into review by my co-presiding Elders. I repeat what shall we do? What can we do?

Mr. President, to meet these existing emergencies in the way of providing for the pressing wants of this and other fields already ripe for the harvest with the scant supply of material in men and means at your command is your puzzle.

You occupy an enviable situation, and the utmost I can say for your encouragement is let us look the work squarely in the face, and irrespective of past precedents, trust in God and do your duty as far as prudence will allow.

It has already been intimated that a new era is about to dawn upon the Methodist Episcopal Church in this country. To this, I say amen. The Church has been praying for a long time. It seemed that nothing but dark and ominous clouds were given in answer. The Church was saddened and become disheartened. The ministry shrank back appalled and crest fallen, but thanks be to God here and there bright spots in the cloud appear. Our hearts are cheered a little and we now remember to sing:

"Behind a frowning Providence He hides a smiling face."

These two charges under brothers Hagens and Cooper have in real religious power taken advanced grounds. These brethren have worked manfully, and together with a respectable corps of young men on the charge, baptized by the Holy Ghost promise much for the future of this part of our work; O what a power is here. God is preparing these young men for some grand display. They are all poor in this world goods but rich in grace. O I bless God. I never to witness this day. Nine years ago when I took
hold here it was dark and unpromising but I felt and
spoke of it to the little band, that God had a great
blessing in store for them, and that Benomwili was
designed to become the center whence should emanate
a divine power that would shake the tribes around.
Last a fire should be kindle here that
would spread in all directions and set ablaze the
entire surrounding country. And, O! bless God how
it is; and the language of my very heart of hearts is,
ride forth prosperously my Master and King, mighty
King until the whole land shall be filled with the
power of thy glory.

We have had some fine accessions from both heathen
and civilized ranks this year. May God preserve
the lives of our dear brothers Hagan and Clapper
many years for the good of the Church. I have
also organized a theological class made up of the
Local Preachers as well as those aspiring to the local
ranks, now all told eight in number, and the system
takes well. The entire church, and especially the
Quarterly Conference held it a prophetic omen of much
good. God sanctify and bless the effort. I have
also extended the same system throughout my Dis-
trict and it takes generally well. Our Sabbath
School work is on the improve here especially at
Benomwili, but there is much room for improve-
ment and with my faith in God, who fosters even a
burned reed and blows to a flame the smoking flax,
and the earnestness of these brethren in this very
important department of our work, will improve.

Robertsville assigned last Conference to the care
of brother Lane has done nothing during the year,
but hardly holding its own. Shortly after the ad-
journment of the Conference and the brethren had
gone to their respective charges, news reached me
that the membership were in arms and refused to re-
ceive brother Lane. That the small remnant that re-
ained after the withdrawal of the reported fifteen
of last year were on the eve of leaving, too, saying
that if I persisted in forcing the Conference appoint-
ment upon them they would leave the Church. I
repaired without delay to the spot so as to interview
the membership with reference to their objections to

brother Lane and to inspect the work. Accompany-
ing me were two young men of Millsburg charge,
Samuel Gross and W. H. Carter, both servants to the
Ministry. These did me much service in the
adjustment of the stern difficulties that I encountered
there. But with reference to brother Lane they
would not consent to converse with me. They are
mostly Congo brethren and in order to save them I
found that I must bear with them. So I left them
satisfied with brother W. H. Carter quasi charge.
Since then circumstances have made it necessary to
merge this little charge into the Millsburg Ct. under
the supervision of W. P. Kennedy Sr. Brother
Lane's case has been rather a puzzle to me the year
through.

I gave him permission to traverse the country first
in the neighborhood of Princes town, around about
Black Tom's for a place of operation and then again
in the rear of Millsburg, but nothing has effected
him. The means at his command being too
inadequate to warrant any very extensive range.
I am persuaded that brother Lane has a mind to
work, and spirit of obedience but unfortunately he
did not take at Robertsville. I trust that the Con-
ference may be more happy in his case this session.
I think it advisable to regularly embrace Robertsville
in the Millsburg circuit.

Millsburg Circuit is scarcely in any more hopeful
and promising a state now than when last reported.
There is much up hill work ahead for a pastor.

Clay Asland circuit had the misfortune to lose
by death her excellent pastor or dear brother Rich-
ards who after an illness of several mouths breathed
his last in full view of the celestial city. I think I
may safely say it that no man among us ever grew
faster in the confidence and good will of a people
than did brother Richards. He left his weeping
charge in a healthful condition having through the
year some very promising accessions both in Clay
Asland and Sasstown. I don't think there is such
a Sabbath School on the whole district as at Clay
Asland. The membership seem to give this de-
partment of work special attention which augurs
well. I do not say this to the disparagement of others but rather that I may provoke to jealousy and good works.

At Virginia brother Sims has been untiring and resolute. But this is against him. The distance of his home from his field of labor, together with the hard walk and dangerous river along his route, makes his work doubly tedious and arduous. But much to his credit be it said, he has pushed through all and reports a live Church and increased members.

Caldwell circuit under our local brother Lawrence still shows some signs of life and growth. Sabbath Schools on the improving side. I am more than pleased to say in concluding this report that the cause of temperance or total abstinence is gaining power throughout my district through the efforts mainly of our elect sister, the evangelist, Amanda Smith, who has been with us in labor. This promises much to the Church and State. May God forward the cause. And now in conclusion, I pray the blessing of God upon all who are permitted to meet here.

Lower Buchanan, Respectfully submitted, January 30th, 1888. DANIEL WARE. Presiding Elder St. Paula River Dist.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

The Committee on Temperance beg leave to submit the following brief report.

The subject of Temperance has not just begun to engage our attention, but for a long time it has been a question of great importance. From the fact that intemperance has done such great evil in the land, it has gone about like an evil genius, has blotted the fair fruits of industry, has gone into the peaceful homes of Christian families and broken them up; it has destroyed the lives of some of Labora's noble sons, young men of whom great hopes were entertained have been cut down by this awful monster--rum. Like wild fire it has been spreading all over our Republic and has gone through every depart-

It becomes my painful duty in answer to the question, "Who have died?" to record the name of Wesley M. R. Richards, a young man of talent and ability and great promise. But his career has been brief and he has been gathered from the home on earth to the home in heaven. In company with his sainted father our subject came to this country in the year—He was a native of Virginia U. S. A., having been born in the year—His father and mother were slaves consequently he shared the condition of his parents. His new home in Liberia gave him opportunities for developing the man that was in him, and he availed himself largely of them. After going the rounds of the petty common schools next door to him, in which he made but apparent that he was susceptible of very high mental attainments, he was elected to a scholarship in the Caballa Mission School, Cape Palmas, and soon showed himself well worthy of the situation. It was during his scholarship here that the smallpox broke out in the village and soon spread its pestiferous fumes to the Mission Station and our subject became one of its victims. After intense and indescribable suffering and great peril he recovered, and shortly after returned home and began to take steps for settling down in life, which he did and was united in marriage to an excellent young woman, who with five children as the fruit of that happy union survive him.

When brother Richards left Cape Palmas he was a member in the Episcopal Church and a Postulant for the clerical gown, but he soon saw that from the surroundings of his home it would be useful, bring into practical and real effective service his power he must throw himself into a different element. This he soon did by uniting himself with the Methodist Church. Step by step as the Church saw he could bear it he was advanced to her honors until in the year—he was sent forward to the Liberian Annual Conference for Deacon's orders, and admission into the traveling connexion to both of which he was elect-
ed, and received as his first appointment (a striking evidence of the confidence his elderly brethren had in him) Clay Ashland circuit; where he labored with great acceptability and success for about twenty-two months when after an illness of several months but which no one thought serious, he gently passed away, surprising most everybody. Brother Richards was known as a very inoffensive man, unobtrusive, unpretentious, simple. He made but little ado about religion, but the sequel of his life showed that while the surface seemed unruffled there was a great depth of sweet religious experience. Brother Richards was a good expounder of the Scriptures, a man of orthodox doctrines and principles. Industrious he kept his family above want, frugal, he succeeded to preserve enough from his scant earnings during the few years of his married life to build a neat commodious (not finished) brick house. This speaks well for our brother. He leaves a weeping family behind to mourn his loss. May God preserve and keep them. Resolved therefore that in the death of brother Richards the Conference has lost an efficient member, an effective worker; the Methodist Church a faithful and diligent adherent, the Clay Ashland Church a faithful and diligent Pastor.

Resolved That one hour and a half be devoted to memorial services in respect to our dear brother.

Respectfully Submitted,

Committee Rooms: DANIEL WARE.
Lower Buchanan
January 30th 1888
Chairman of the Committee.
PROGRAMME. MEMORIAL SERVICES.

Fourth. Reading Memoirs by Rev. Daniel Ware.
Fifth. Voluntary remarks by three brethren ten minutes each.
Seventh. Doxology and benediction by Rev. C. W. Bryant.

K.

COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES REPORT.

The Committee on Estimates appointed by the Liberian Annual Conference in view of the small amounts appropriated by the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church in America for the work in Liberia recommend that the several charges will use their best endeavors to make up the several amounts estimated for the support of the Gospel within their limits, and that the Estimating Committees appointed by the Quarterly Conferences will favorably consider these suggestions in making up their reports.

Cape Palmar Stations.

Greenville and Lexington.
Bluntsville and Louisiana.
Lower Buchanan et. Bassa Dist.
Upper Buchanan et.
Edin Station.
Baxley Circuit.
Bullen town Circuit.
Marshall Circuit.
Clay Ashland Circuit St. P. River-D.
Caldwell.
Virginia.
Millingsburg and Robertsville.
Careysburg and Bensonville.
Monrovia and Amuonsville, Monrovia.
Robertport and Tallah.
New Georgia et.

$ 200.00
$ 100.00
$ 200.00
$ 400.00
$ 800.00
$ 200.00
$ 100.00

$ 175.00
$ 300.00
$ 175.00
$ 200.00
$ 300.00
$ 700.00
$ 300.00
$ 150.00