

MINUTES  
OF THE  
SYNOD OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HELD AT

NEWBERRY, S. C.

OCTOBER 24-27, 1899.



Published by Order of Synod.



Spartanburg, S. C.:  
W. F. Barnes, Book and Job Printer  
1899

MINUTES  
OF THE  
**Synod of South Carolina**

AT  
NEWBERRY, S. C.

AVELEIGH CHURCH, NEWBERRY, S. C.,

Tuesday, October, 24, 1899, 7:30 p. m.

The Synod was opened with a sermon by the moderator, Rev. A. A. James, from Isaiah 9:2. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

At the conclusion of the sermon the moderator formally called the Synod to order and led in prayer. The following members were

PRESENT.

BETHEL PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS—D. E. Jordan, J. H. Thornwell, J. M. McLain, W. M. McPheeters, (2), Alex Sprunt, W. G. Neville, M. R. Kirkpatrick, J. K. Hall, Jas. Russell, T. C. Ligon, Chalmers Moore, (2) W. A. Haffner, F. W. Gregg, J. T. Dendy, W. B. Arrowood.—15.

ELDERS—I. B. Faries, Bethel Church; R. R. Clinton, Bethesda; P. Garrison, Ebenezer; J. M. Spratt, Fort Mill; J. W. Ashford, Horeb; J. C. Foster, Lancasterville; J. T. Lemmon, (2) Lebanon; W. B. Robinson, Pleasant Grove; J. D. Smith, White Oak; E. A. Crawford, Purity; A. H. White, Rock Hill; D. R. Coleman, Salem; A. S. Douglass, Scion; J. D. Witherspoon, Yorkville.—14.

He was a member of many General Assemblies; and at our first Assembly—in 1861—he took an important part in shaping the policy of our Southern Church. He was for many years an influential member of the Assembly's Committees of Foreign Missions and of Domestic Missions. He was very regular in attending all church courts, until increasing deafness rendered it useless to be present. His counsels were always of the highest value.

As Professor in the Theological Seminary, his teachings were characterized by zeal and earnestness. Perhaps his most important specific work in this office was his exposition and defense of Presbyterian government as divinely ordained—the *jus divinum Presbyteriani*—and his success in leading his students to believe with him.

In all the relations of life Dr. Adger was gentle, kind, affectionate, faithful, of unbending integrity; liberal and generous with his means; given to hospitality; bold, determined, uncompromising, in attacking what he believed to be wrong and defending what he believed to be right; but never with unkindness or malice towards those who opposed.

A pure, upright, godly man, who loved his Lord and Redeemer with all his heart, he devoted all his long life unreservedly to the extension and upbuilding of His kingdom on earth.

For the grace which enabled him to set before us such an example, and for the goodness which spared him to us for so many years, we render to God our most hearty thanks.

JAMES WOODROW, Chairman.

REV. JOHN L. GIRARDEAU, D.D., L.L.D.

James Island near Charleston, S. C., has the distinction of being the birth place of John Lafayette Girardeau.

He was born on November the 14th 1825, and was, as his name indicates, of Huguenot extraction.

In 1844 he graduated from Charleston College, and completed his studies at the Columbia Theological Seminary in 1848.

For a short time after he left the Seminary he served the Wappetaw Church. In 1850 he was ordained and installed pastor of the Wilton Church near Adams Run. In 1854 he was invited to take charge of a colored mission work, which grew into Zion, the great negro church in Charleston,

whose house of worship was built by wealthy Presbyterians for the religious instruction of the slave population. The immense place of worship was thronged at every service, many whites attending regularly, and hundreds were hopefully converted. No congregation in the State enjoyed the ministrations of a more gifted preacher.

This happy and most fruitful postorate was interrupted by the war between the States. Doctor Girardeau was elected Chaplain of the 23d South Carolina regiment, and served in this capacity until the conclusion of hostilities in 1865. He was as brave as the bravest, and discharged with tender and efficient fidelity the part of friend and spiritual teacher of the men of his command.

Upon his return to Charleston he became pastor of Zion Globe Street Church which had under its care for several years his former colored congregation.

Under his able leadership and labors this rapidly grew into one of the strongest churches in the Southern Assembly, in point of members, charitable work and pecuniary offerings.

In 1875 the St. Louis General Assembly unanimously elected him Professor of Systematic Theology in the Columbia Seminary and in 1876 he assumed the duties of that chair.

For eighteen years in this Institution, with an untiring devotion and zeal, he assisted in preparing young men for the Christian Ministry. Because of an age limit in the constitution of the Seminary, he resigned in 1895, and resisted the most earnest appeals to permit his re-election. To him there must have been a premonition of his approaching end, for during the winter following his powers began to fail, and after lingering for more than two years, the Master called him, and he passed to his reward upon the 23d of June 1898.

Of Dr. Girardeau's intellectual gifts there can be but one opinion. He was an incessant and thorough student. He hungered for knowledge. There was nothing superficial in his search for truth. His mind was acutely analytical and logical, and once having assured himself of his premises he pushed them remorselessly to their conclusion. His convictions, therefore were strong and he held to them tenaciously without fear or favor.

In his reading he ranged the fields of history, and poetry, and philosophy and metaphysics, and his memory held for ready service the treasures they had been made to yield.

As a Professor he was unusually attractive and efficient.

Painstaking and thorough he invested with peculiar charm the lesson of every day. No recitation dragged with him. He knew how to excite enthusiasm, to stimulate thought, to encourage investigation, to get at the measure of a student's acquaintance with the subject, and at the end of the hour each one left the class room intellectually richer than when he entered it.

As a Presbyterian he was an example of regular attendance upon our church courts. No one ever saw him unattentive to the proceedings. He was ready for any work that might be assigned him. He held closely to the regular methods of conducting business, was prepared to participate in the discussion of every important question, and was always an alert, vigorous formidable, but courteous antagonist in debate.

As an author, he has left numerous magazine articles upon a variety of topics, "Instrumental Music in the Public Worship of the Church," "Calvinism and Evangelical Arminianism," "The Will in its Theological Relations," and the Manuscripts of "Philosophical Discussions," "Theological Discussions" and "Life Letters, Poems and Sermons." It is to be hoped that these last, in printed form, will soon enrich the literature of our day.

Oglethorpe College conferred upon him the degree of D.D. in 1868, and the South Western Presbyterian University that of L.L.D., in the year—

As a Preacher, though probably his greatest fame was won, and it is as a preacher more than likely that he will be lovingly remembered.

Of him it can be truly said he "magnified his office." The Bible was his Book of books. Its teachings lived in his life. His knowledge of it was profound. He loved his Savior, the Divine Christ, with all of the intense ardor of his being. He believed in his very soul, that men are lost sinners and that their only hope is in the royal gospel of God's free grace. He shunned not to declare therefore, the whole counsel of God, but with the tender pathos of "the beloved disciple," and the logical power of a Paul.

His presence was commanding, his voice clear, musical, far reaching; his imagination chaste and brilliant, his diction oppulent and superb, and his delivery, as a rule unhampered by manuscript, was always graceful, often thrillingly impassioned.

With a master's hand he swept, at will, the entire key board of human feeling.

As a Teacher, Presbyterian, Debater, Author, Preacher, John L. Girardeau easily takes an enduring place among the most distinguished men of the Southern Presbyterian Church.

W. T. THOMPSON, Chairman.

REV. CHARLES EDWARD CHICHESTER.

Charles Edward Chichester, son of Dr. Edward Chichester, was born in Pottsville, Pa., June 12, 1834.

His early life was passed in his native place, where he received such education as the local schools afforded. Military life always had peculiar fascination for him, and he made an effort to enter the West Point Academy; failing in this he turned his attention to journalism and for quite a time held prominent positions as editor.

On the 12th of June, 1855, he was married to Miss Jane E. Chamberlain, of Philadelphia, who now survives him. After this Philadelphia became his home. There he professed conversion and united with the Clinton Avenue Presbyterian Church.

In March, 1860, he accepted a situation as proof reader for Walker & Evans, in Charleston. When the war between the States began, he espoused enthusiastically the cause of the South and raised a company of Zouaves. With this company he assisted in the construction of those gun batteries on Morris Island, served in Fort Sumpter for awhile and had charge of the Bull Run prisoners, confined in Castle Pinckney.

When a call was made for volunteers for the war in the fall of 1861, Capt. Chichester organized a company of heavy artillery, which formed a part of the permanent garrison of battery Wagner. Here he was appointed chief of artillery and with heroic devotion, discharged all the duties of this responsible position to the very last or until nature yielding to the tremendous strain, gave way, and he became for months a physical and nervous wreck. It is admitted that it had not been for him, the island would have been abandoned on the 27th of July, 1863, and Charleston would