

MINUTES
OF THE
SYNOD OF MISSISSIPPI,
FROM
1861 to 1867.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF SYNOD, AT ITS MEETING, 1878.

JACKSON, MISS.:
CLARION STEAM PUBLISHING ESTABLISHMENT.
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TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING.

OAKLAND COLLEGE, MISS., Oct. 23, 1861.

The Synod of Mississippi met according to adjournment, in the Chapel of Oakland College, at 7½ o'clock, P. M., and was opened with a sermon by Rev. M. Peden, Moderator, from 2 Cor., vi., 3, 4.

The roll being called, the following members were present :

Presbytery of Mississippi—Ministers: J. B. Stratton, B. Chase, A. McCallum, R. Price, T. H. Cleland, Wm. Neill, J. Weeks, W. D. Moore, J. H. Smylie, W. L. Breckinridge, H. McDonald, J. H. Calvin.

Elders: J. Spencer, L. Cato, W. L. Baird, J. E. Broughton.

Presbytery of Louisiana—Ministers: J. E. C. Doremus; Elders: J. Carrouth, A. M. Smylie.

Presbytery of Tombeckbee—Ministers: J. A. Lyon, M. Peden, J. Pelan, J. H. Aughey, J. W. Kerr, A. H. Barkley.

Presbytery of Red River—Minister: C. Harrington.

Presbytery of East Mississippi—Minister: A. R. Graves.

Presbytery of Central Mississippi—Ministers: J. H. Alexander, E. H. Rutherford, J. W. Neill, A. Hagaman, R. Bell.

Elder: Sam. Anderson.

Presbytery of New Orleans—Ministers: B. M. Palmer, J. J. Henderson, H. M. Smith, E. B. Cleghorn, P. Calhoun, R. McInnis.

Elder: Dr. T. G. Richardson.

Rev. B. M. Palmer was elected Moderator, Rev. W. D. Moore Temporary Clerk, and Rev. E. H. Rutherford, Engrossing Clerk.

Resolved, That the daily sessions of Synod be from 9 o'clock, A. M., to 3 P. M.

Synod adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Closed with prayer.

Synod has, however, one clear cause for thanksgiving and praise. Among the soldiers placed in the Providence of God within its bounds the preaching of the gospel has been attended with marked interest and success. Large and listening congregations have gathered to hear the word, and many sinners have come to Christ. God's work is clearly revived, and his favor largely shown to his servants who are laboring in this interesting and fruitful field. Commending this work to the labors and prayers of ministers and people, Synod feels that it has great reason to take courage and go forward, believing that God's Spirit will yet make these brave and devoted men valiant in fighting the Lord's spiritual battles, and in this faith prays that the Lord would send forth more laborers into this field now so white to the harvest.

In summing up this report of its religious state, while Synod confesses with sorrow that Israel is greatly troubled, and that the love of many has waxed cold, and must exclaim, ah my leanness! my leanness! it can yet, in gratitude for what has been done, say Ebenezer! for hitherto in our weakness hath the Lord helped us.

Respectfully submitted.

On motion, the Treasurer was instructed to pay to the Stated Clerk fifty dollars salary, and the balance of the contingent fund of Synod in his hands be appropriated to the liquidation of the Synodical debt.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Synod be and are hereby tendered to the inhabitants of this town, for their hospitality to its members during the late session of this body.

The Presbytery of New Orleans was ordered to meet at Pisgah Church, in the town of Summit, on the 2d Monday in April next.

Synod then proceeded to read the minutes, which were approved.

Synod then adjourned to meet at Brandon, on Wednesday before the full moon in October next.

Closed with singing, prayer and Apostolic Benediction.

J. N. CAROTHERS, Moderator.

Attest: R. McINNIS, Stated Clerk.

TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING.

BRANDON, MISS., October 12, 1864.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon from Isaiah, 4th, 5: "And the Lord will create upon

The Committee on Obituaries made their report, which was received and adopted, and is as follows :

OBITUARIES.

Rev. James M. Richardson, was killed July 2, 1864, at Marietta, Ga., by a random shot from the enemy's guns while commanding a company of sharp shooters.

Brother Richardson was born in the State of Louisiana, and reared in the State of Mississippi, in which he passed the most of his life. At the age of 17 he became the subject of renewing grace, and after a profession of faith in the Presbyterian Church, promptly decided to devote himself to the ministry of the word. Having pursued a course of study at Clinton College, of which Dr. Robert McLain was then an honored professor, and a full theological course in the Seminary of New York, he was licensed by 3d Presbytery of New York, and ordained in 1852 by the Presbytery of Newton, with which, until the close of life, he continued his ecclesiastical connection, as preacher and teacher at Marion and Enterprise, Miss., occupying posts of importance and usefulness.

At the call of his country he left those high places of labor, consecrating his life to the service, a life which he was called to offer on her blood stained altar. First as lieutenant and then as captain, he served her with fidelity, and dying fell where soldiers prefer to fall, facing her foes and fighting her battles.

A friend thus writes of him : "Mr. Richardson was endowed by nature with a high order of intellect, which judicious industry and appropriate culture had largely developed. He was a ripe scholar, an able theologian, a ready writer, and a happy pulpit orator. As a christian he was liberal in sentiment, cordial and sincere in feeling, companionable and courteous in social intercourse ; and to him all who enjoyed an intimate acquaintance became greatly and tenderly attached. In the privations, dangers and toils of the camp and battle-field, he was ever cheerful, consistent and devout."

His beloved chaplain thus writes of him : "His was not a narrow, bigotted religion. He was ready to meet God's people of whatever name and extend to them the hand of fellowship. In preaching, in exhortation, in singing and prayer, his voice has often been heard among our soldiers, while he endeavored to point them to God, and to lead the way."

Our brother was cut down in his strength, six and thirty years marking his brief career. A wife and two little ones mourn his early loss ; but they sorrow with hope, and they rest in the promises. The God of the covenant is their God.

Rev. Hervey Woods, of the Presbytery of Newton, was born

and reared in the State of Tennessee. Brought up by Godly parents, and enjoying the instruction of judicious teachers, in early manhood he consecrated himself to Christ. Soon after his union with the Presbyterian Church, he gave himself to the work of the Gospel ministry. After the usual course of study, he was licensed to preach, and a year and a half thereafter was ordained to the full work of the ministry.

For 34 years, uniting the work of a teacher with his ministerial labors, he preached in four States, of the Confederacy, Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky and Mississippi, in the last of which he finished his course. His preaching was characterized by clear and logical statement, by a pure and simple diction, and a calm, quiet, and yet fervent delivery. His piety was deep and evangelical, manifested not in spasmodic impulses, but in the still and glowing fervor of affection, and the firm and unwavering stability of principle. In the highest judicatories of the Church he bore a leading part, discussing with thoroughness and weight the great and exciting questions before those venerable bodies. In the agitations of 1857 he took his position with firmness and force, casting in his lot with the United Synod of the South.

His death was in harmony with his life, calm, peaceful and assured. In his last hours justification by faith was the foundation of his hope, the theme of his song, and the inspiration of his joys. To a weeping daughter he said: "Do not, my daughter, say dark, it is not dark, it does not read so; the passage is often so quoted, but it is not so written." And when the Bible, at his direction, was brought, finding he could not see the words, he requested that his finger should be pointed to the passage, and passing it along the line, pronounced slowly and distinctly, "through the valley of the shadow"—"it is not dark, it is all light, the light of God."

His last words were—"not my will, but thine be done." Thus departed this venerable and beloved minister of the Lord Jesus. Thus he "fell on sleep."

A mother in Israel and six children are left, bereaved and sorrowing. But to them the husband and father has "only gone before"; for all these children, upright, consistent Christians, have followed their father as he followed Christ.

The Committee on the Synodical Depository made their report, which was received and adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee on the Synodical Depository report that in consequence of the war, now existing in this country, we have no means of obtaining information touching this subject. We recommend that the Board of Trustees be re-elected.

The said Trustees were thereupon re-elected, and are as follows : *

The committee on the records of Newton Presbytery reported that said minutes were not present, and the Committee was discharged.

On motion of Rev. T. R. Markham,

Resolved, That Synod desire to express to their friends and brethren of Brandon their grateful sense of the kind and hospitable attentions extended to them during the present sessions, and also to return their thanks to the Southern and Mobile & Ohio Railroads for the free transportation of its members returning from the sessions of this body.

The Treasurer reported the result of the collection ordered by Synod to be \$251.00, and he was ordered to pay over the whole amount to the Stated Clerk to pay his salary and liquidate the claims of the True Witness office against the Synod.

On motion, the Stated Clerk was instructed to prepare an abstract from the minutes relating to the union of the ministers and churches lately under the United Synod of the South with this Synod, and other matters of general interest, and cause the same to be published in three religious newspapers and such secular newspapers as may be willing to publish them.

The minutes were read and approved.

On motion Synod took recess until the hour of closing divine service to-night.

At the close of divine service to-night, the Moderator called Synod to order, and, on motion, Synod adjourned, to meet at Kosciusko, Miss., on Wednesday, the 25th day of October, 1865, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

Synod then closed with singing, prayer and the Apostolic Benediction.

(Signed,)

E. T. BAIRD, Moderator.

A. H. BARKLEY, Clerk.

* Names do not appear in the Record.—PUBLISHERS.

TWENTY-NINTH MEETING.

KOSCIUSKO, MISS., October 25, 1865.

The Synod met according to adjournment and was opened with a sermon by the Moderator, Rev. E. T. Baird, D. D. Acts, 1st ch. : 7th and 8th verses.