

Free Methodist Historical Collection



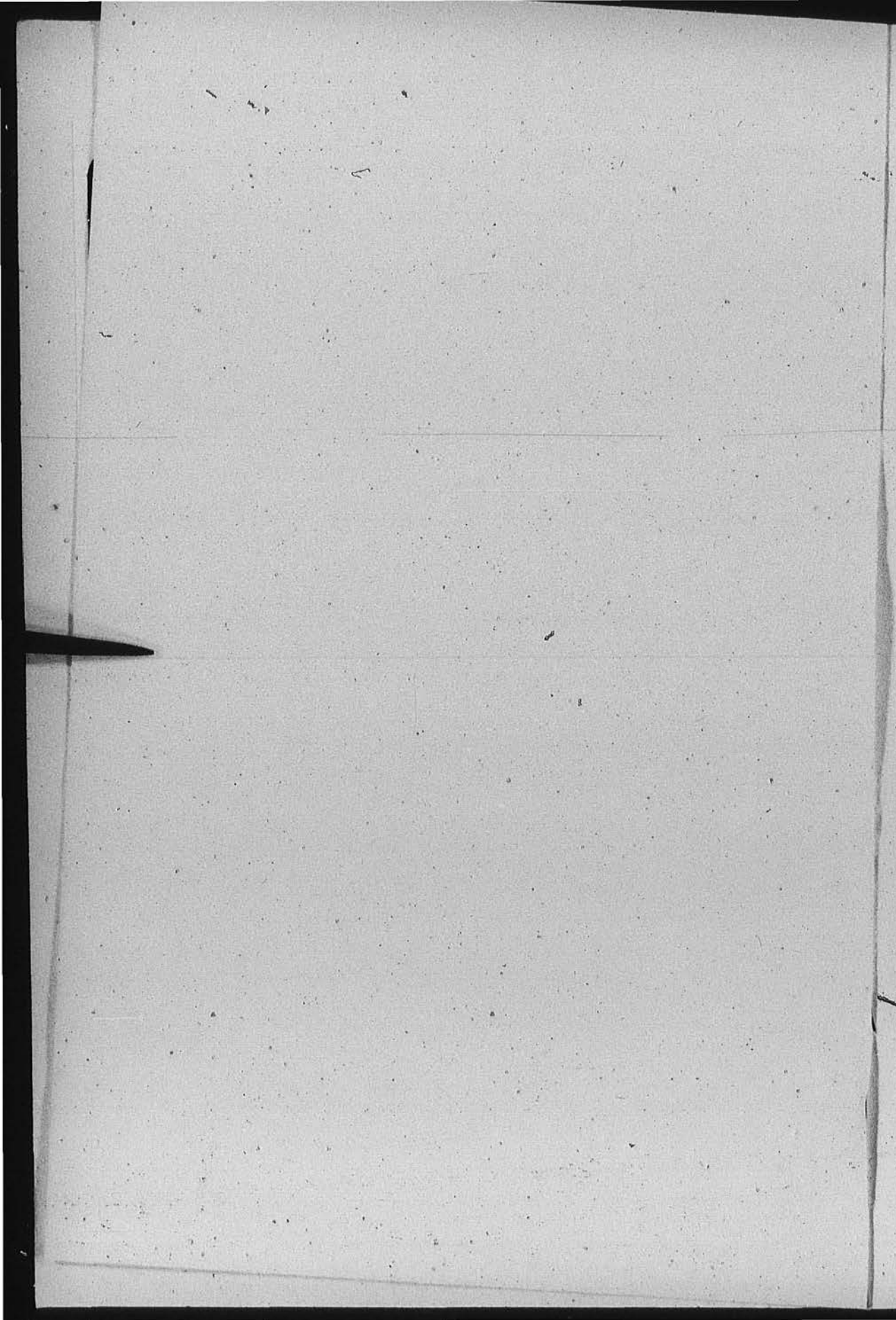
The historic FREE METHODIST CHURCH of Albion, N. Y.
Dedicated May 18, 1860—now remodeled and still in use.

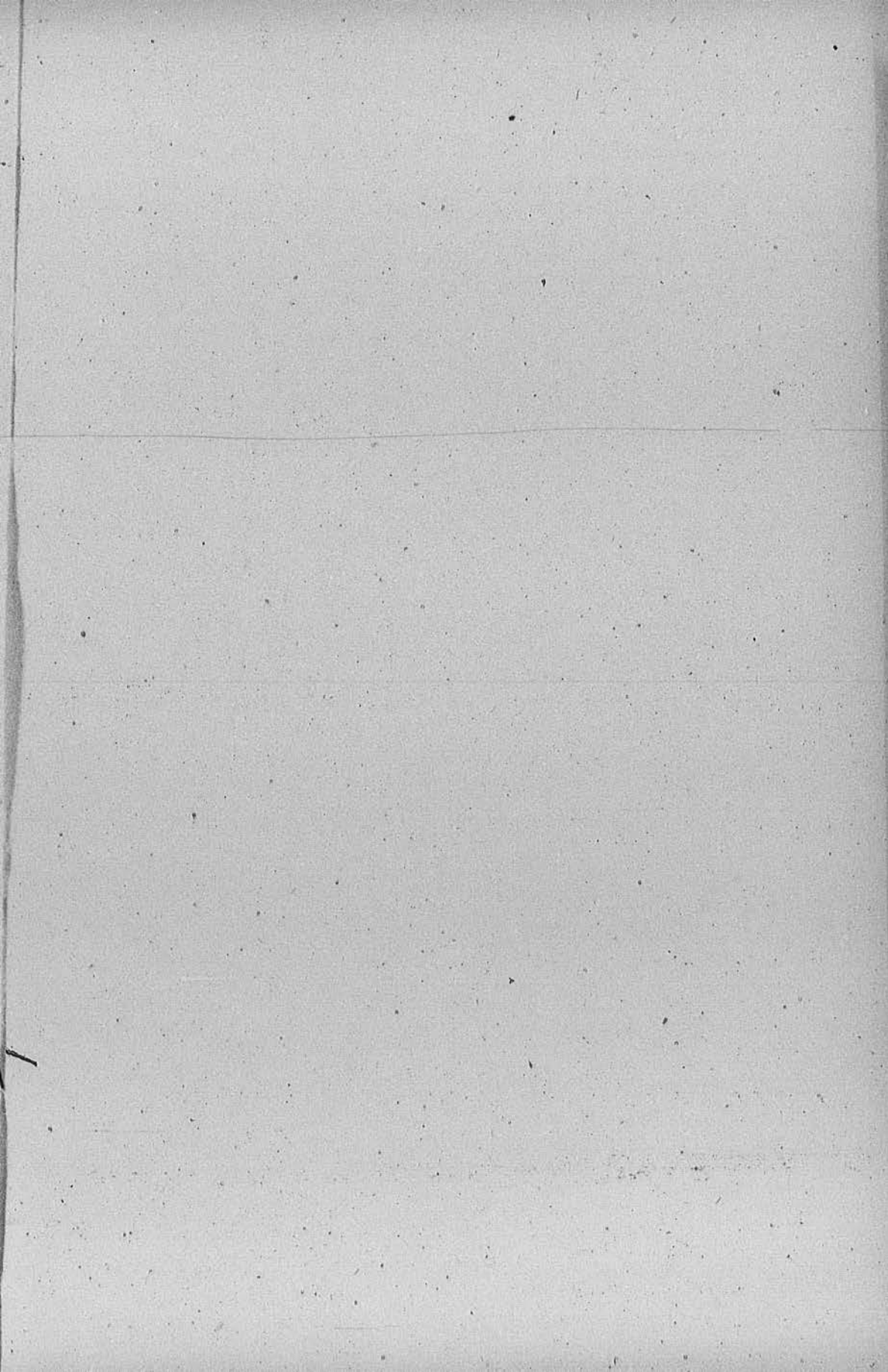
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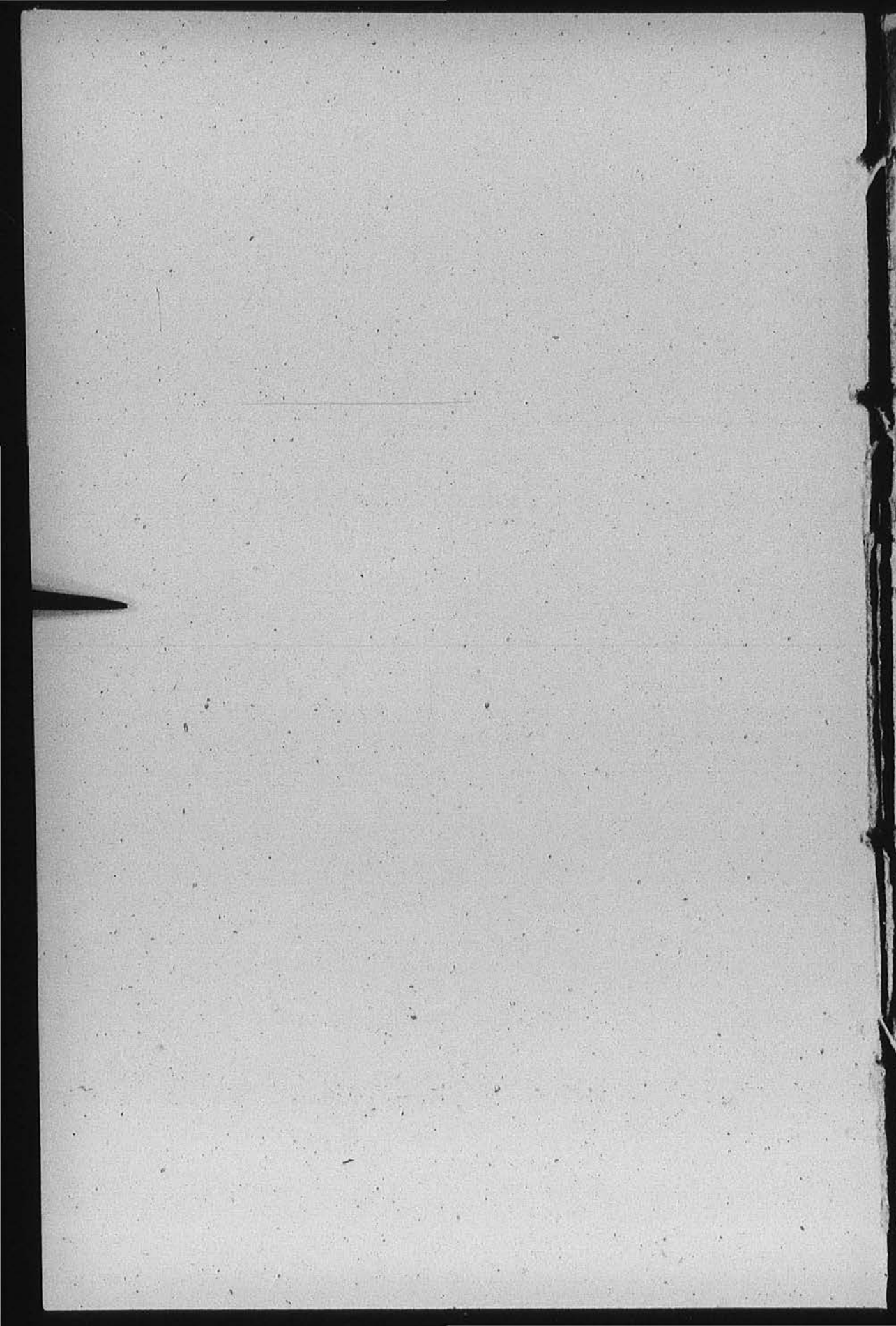
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Pessie R. Mauston
- from Roberts Homestead,
by Ellwood Voller







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THE
DOCTRINES
AND
DISCIPLINE
OF THE
FREE METHODIST CHURCH.

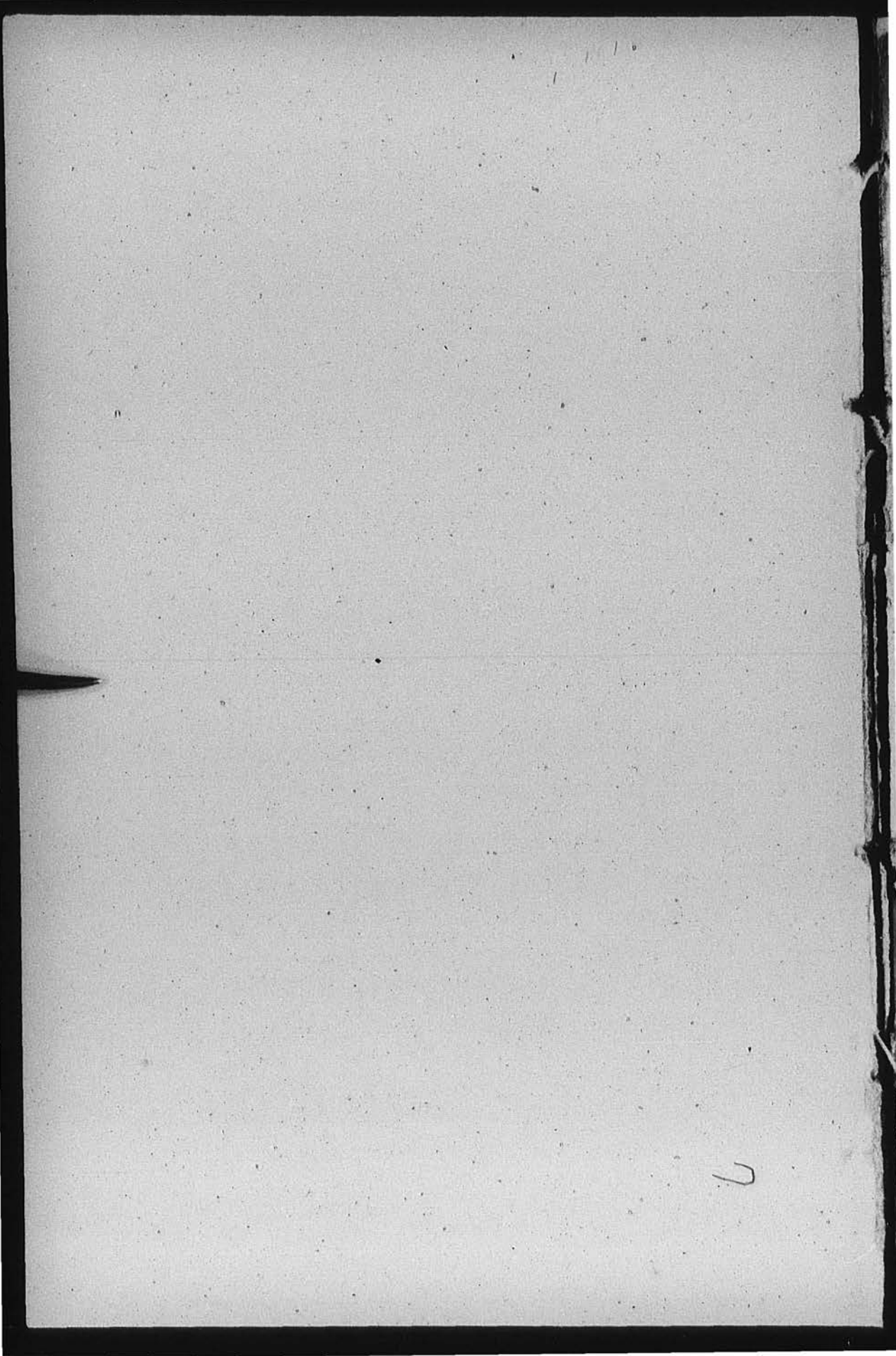


*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to
all the flock.*



PUBLISHED BY B. T. ROBERTS.
1875.

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THE
Doctrines and Discipline
OF THE
Free Methodist Church.

CHAPTER I.

SECTION I.

ARTICLES OF RELIGION.

I. *Of Faith in the Holy Trinity.*

THERE is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the maker and preserver of all things, visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead, there are three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity;—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

II. *Of the Word, or Son of God, who was made very man.*

The Son, who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin; so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided, whereof

Free Methodist Church, as adopted by the General Conference.

We do not wish any to subscribe to it unless they believe it will be for the glory of God and the good of their souls. We have no desire to get up simply a large church; but we do hope that our societies will be composed, *exclusively*, of those who are *in earnest to gain heaven*, and who *are determined, by the grace of God*, to live up to the requirements of the Bible.

It is of the greatest importance that those who come into this organization should be of one heart and one mind.

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is one Christ, very God and very man, who truly suffered, was crucified, dead and buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for actual sins of men.

III. *Of the Resurrection of Christ.*

Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day.

IV. *Of the Holy Ghost.*

The Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty and glory with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God.

V. *The Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation.*

The Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the Holy Scriptures, we do understand those canonical books of the Old

and New Testament, of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church.

The names of the Canonical Books.

Genesis,
Exodus,
Leviticus,
Numbers,
Deuteronomy,
Joshua,
Judges,
Ruth,
The First Book of Samuel,
The Second Book of Samuel,
The First Book of Kings,
The Second Book of Kings,
The First Book of Chronicles,
The Second Book of Chronicles,
The Book of Ezra,
The Book of Nehemiah,
The Book of Esther,
The Book of Job,
The Psalms,
The Proverbs,
Ecclesiastes, or the Preacher,
Cantica, or Songs of Solomon,
Four Prophets the greater,
Twelve Prophets the less.

All the books of the New Testament, as they are commonly received, we do receive and account canonical.

VI. *Of the Old Testament.*

The Old Testament is not contrary to the New; for both in the Old and New Testaments everlasting life is offered to mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and man. Wherefore they are not to be heard who feign that the old fathers did look only for transitory promises. Although the law given from God by Moses, as touching ceremonies and rites, doth not bind Christians, nor ought the civil precepts thereof of necessity to be received in any commonwealth; yet, notwithstanding, no Christian whatsoever is free from the obedience of the commandments which are called moral.

VII. *Of Original or Birth Sin.*

Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam, (as the Pelagians do vainly talk,) but it is the corruption of the nature of every man that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and of his own nature inclined to evil, and that continually.

VIII. *Of Free Will.*

The condition of man after the fall of Adam is such, that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and works, to faith and calling upon God; wherefore we have no power to do good works, pleasant and acceptable to God, without the grace of God by Christ preventing us, that we may have a good will, and working with us, when we have that good will.

IX. *Of the Justification of Man.*

We are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by faith, and not for our own works or deservings; Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only, is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.

X. *Of Good Works.*

Although good works, which are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, cannot put away our sins, and endure the severity of God's judgments; yet they are pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and spring out of a true and lively faith, insomuch that by them a lively faith may be as evidently known as a tree is discerned by its fruits.

XI. *Of Works of Supererogation.*

Voluntary works—besides, over and above God's commandments—which are called works of supererogation, cannot be taught without arrogance and impiety. For by them men do declare that they do not render only unto God as much as they are bound to do, but that they do more for his sake than of bounden duty is required: whereas Christ saith plainly, When ye have done all that is commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants.

XII. *Of Sin after Justification.*

Not every sin willingly committed after justification is the sin against the Holy Ghost, and unpardonable. Wherefore the grant of repentance is not to be denied to such as fall into sin, after justification; after we have received the Holy Ghost, we may depart from grace given, and fall into sin, and by the grace of God, rise again and amend our lives. And therefore they are to be condemned who say they can no more sin as long as they live here: or deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent.

XIII. *Entire Sanctification.*

Justified persons, while they do not outwardly commit sin, are nevertheless conscious

of sin still remaining in the heart. They feel a natural tendency to evil, a proneness to depart from God, and cleave to the things of earth. Those that are sanctified wholly are saved from all inward sin—from evil thoughts and evil tempers. No wrong temper, none contrary to love remains in the soul. All their thoughts, words and actions are governed by pure love.

Entire sanctification takes place subsequently to justification, and is the work of God wrought instantaneously upon the consecrated, believing soul. After a soul is cleansed from all sin, it is then fully prepared to grow in grace

XIV. *Future Reward and Punishment.*

God has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ, according to the Gospel. The righteous shall have in heaven an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. The wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, where their worm dieth not, and their fire is not quenched.

XV. *Of Speaking in the Congregation in such a Tongue as the people understand.*

It is a thing plainly repugnant to the word

of God, and the custom of the primitive Church, to have public prayer in the Church, or to minister the sacrament in a tongue not understood by the people.

XVI. *Of the Church.*

The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of pure men, in which the pure word of God is preached, and the sacraments duly administered, according to Christ's ordinance, in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same.

XVII. *Of the Sacraments.*

Sacraments ordained of Christ are not only badges or tokens of Christian men's profession; but rather they are certain signs of grace, and God's good-will toward us, by the which he doth work invisibly in us, and doth not only quicken, but also strengthen and confirm our faith in him.

XVIII. *Of Baptism.*

Baptism is not only a sign of profession, and mark of difference, whereby Christians are distinguished from others that are not baptized; but it is also a sign of regeneration, or the new birth. The baptism of young children is to be retained in the Church.

XIX. *Of the Lord's Supper.*

The supper of the Lord is not merely a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves, one to another, but rather is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death; insomuch that, to such as rightly, worthily, and with faith receive the same, the bread which we break is a partaking of the body of Christ; and likewise the cup of blessing is a partaking of the blood of Christ.

Transubstantiation, or the change of the substance of bread and wine in the supper of our Lord, cannot be proved by Holy Writ, but it is repugnant to the plain word of Scripture, overthroweth the nature of a sacrament, and hath given occasion to many superstitions.

The body of Christ is given, taken, and eaten in the supper, only after a heavenly and spiritual manner. And the means whereby the body of Christ is received and eaten in the supper, is faith. The sacrament of the Lord's supper was not by Christ's ordinance reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshiped.

XX. *Of the one Oblation of Christ, finished upon the Cross.*

The offering of Christ, once made, is that perfect redemption, propitiation, and satisfaction for all the sins of the whole world, both

original and actual; and there is none other satisfaction for sin but that alone. Wherefore the sacrifice of the masses, in the which it is said that the priest doth offer Christ for the quick and the dead, to have remission of pain or guilt, is a blasphemous and dangerous deceit.

XXI. Of the Rites and Ceremonies of Churches.

It is not necessary that rites and ceremonies should in all places be the same, or exactly alike; for they have been always different, and may be changed according to the diversity of countries, times and men's manners, so that nothing be ordained against God's word. Whosoever, through his private judgment, willingly and purposely doth openly break the rites and ceremonies of the Church to which he belongs, which are not repugnant to the word of God, and are ordained and approved by common authority, ought to be rebuked openly, that others may fear to do the like, as one that offendeth against the common order of the Church, and woundeth the consciences of weak brethren. Every particular Church may ordain, change, or abolish rites and ceremonies so that all things may be done to edification.

XXII. *Of Christian Men's Goods.*

The riches and goods of Christians are not common, as touching the right, title, and possession of the same, as some do falsely boast. Notwithstanding, every man ought, of such things as he possesseth, liberally to give alms to the poor, according to his ability.

XXIII. *Of a Christian Man's Oath.*

As we confess that vain and rash swearing is forbidden Christian men by our Lord Jesus Christ, and James the Apostle; so we hold that the Christian religion doth not prohibit, but that a man may swear when the magistrate requireth, in a case of faith and charity, so it be done according to the prophet's teaching, in justice, judgment and truth.

NOTE.—This Article shall not deprive of membership in our Church those who have conscientious scruples against taking an oath.

SECTION II.

GENERAL RULES.

The Nature, Design, and General Rules of our United Societies.

(1.) In the latter end of the year 1739, eight or ten persons came to Mr. Wesley in London, who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin, and earnestly groaning for redemption. They desired, (as did two or three more the next

day,) that he would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come; which they saw continually hanging over their heads. That he might have more time for this great work, he appointed a day when they might all come together, which, from thenceforward, they did every week, namely, on *Thursday*, in the evening. For these, and as many more as desired to join with them, (for their number increased daily,) he gave those advices, from time to time, which he judged most needful for them; and they always concluded their meetings with prayer suited to their several necessities.

(2.) This was the rise of the UNITED SOCIETY, *first in Europe, and then in America.* Such a society is no other than “*a company of men having the form and seeking the power of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation.*”

(3.) That it may the more easily be discerned whether they are indeed working out their own salvation, each society is divided into smaller companies, called classes, according to their respective places of abode. There

are about twelve persons in a class, one of whom is styled *the leader*. It is his duty,

I. To see each person in his class once a week at least; in order,

1. To inquire how their souls prosper.

2. To advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require.

3. To receive what they are willing to give toward the relief of the preacher, church and poor.*

II. To meet the minister and the stewards of the society once a week; in order,

1. To inform the minister of any that are sick, or of any that walk disorderly, and will not be reprov'd.

2. To pay the stewards what they have received of their several classes in the week.

(4.) There is only one condition previously required of those who desire admission into these societies, "a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from their sins." But wherever this is really fixed in the soul, it will be shown by its fruits. It is therefore expected of all who continue therein, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

* This part refers to towns and cities; where the poor are generally numerous, and church expenses considerable.

First, By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced ; such as,

The taking of the name of God in vain.

The profaning of the day of the Lord, either by doing ordinary work therein, or by buying or selling.

Drunkenness, buying or selling spirituous liquors, or drinking them, unless in cases of extreme necessity.

The buying, selling, or holding of a human being as a slave.

Fighting, quarreling, brawling, brother going to law with brother; returning evil for evil; or railing for railing; the using many words in buying or selling.

The buying and selling goods that have not paid the duty.

The giving or taking things on usury, i. e., unlawful interest.

Uncharitable or unprofitable conversation, particularly speaking evil of magistrates or ministers.

Doing to others as we would not they should do unto us.

Doing what we know is not for the glory of God; as,

The putting on of gold or costly apparel.

The *taking such diversions* as cannot be used in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Singing those songs, or reading those books, which do not tend to the knowledge or love of God. -

Softness and needless self-indulgence, *especially, snuffing, chewing or smoking tobacco, for the gratification of a depraved appetite.*

Laying up treasure upon earth.

Borrowing without a probability of paying; or taking up goods without a probability of paying for them.

(5.) It is expected of all who continue in these societies, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

Secondly, By doing good, by being in every kind merciful after their power, as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and as far as possible to all men.

To their bodies, of the ability which God giveth, by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by visiting or helping them that are sick or in prison.

To their souls, by instructing, reproofing, or

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exhorting all with whom we have any intercourse, trampling under foot that enthusiastic doctrine, that "we are not to do good unless *our hearts be free to it.*"

By doing good, especially to them that are of the household of faith, or groaning so to be; employing them preferably to others, buying one of another, helping each other in business; and so much the more, because the world will love its own, and them *only.*

By all possible *diligence* and *frugality*, that the gospel be not blamed.

By running with patience the race which is set before them, *denying themselves and taking up their cross daily*; submitting to bear the reproach of Christ, to be as the filth and offscouring of the world; and looking that men should say *all manner of evil of them falsely for the Lord's sake.*

(6.) It is expected of all who desire to continue in these societies, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

Thirdly, By attending upon all the ordinances of God: such are,

The public worship of God;

The ministry of the word, either read or expounded;

The supper of the Lord;

Family and private prayer;
Searching the Scriptures; and
Fasting or Abstinence.

(7.) These are the General Rules of our societies; all of which we are taught of God to observe, even in his written word, which is the only rule, and the sufficient rule both of our faith and practice. And all these we know his Spirit writes on truly awakened hearts. If there be any among us who observe them not, who habitually break any of them, let it be known unto them who watch over that soul as they who must give an account. We will admonish him of the error of his ways. We will bear with him for a season. But if then he repent not, he hath no more a place among us. We have delivered our own souls.

SECTION III.

Of Receiving Members into the Church.

1, Let none be admitted on probation until they give evidence of a desire to flee from the wrath to come, by saving faith in Christ, and consent to be governed by the General Rules.

2. Let none be received into full connection, unless they give evidence of a renewed heart.

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by living up to the requirements of the General Rules, and have met in class six months on probation, have been baptized, have, wherever practicable, been recommended by the official members of the society, and can give satisfactory answers to the following questions, which shall be proposed to them before the Society:

1. Have you the witness of THE SPIRIT that you are a child of God?

2. Have you that perfect love which casteth out fear? If not, will you diligently seek until you obtain it?

3. Is it your purpose to devote yourself the remainder of your life wholly to the service of God, doing good to your fellow men, and working out your own salvation with fear and trembling?

4. Will you forever lay aside all superfluous ornaments, and adorn yourself in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety, not with brodered hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array, but which becometh those professing godliness, with good works?

5. Will you abstain from connection with all secret societies, keeping yourself free to follow the will of the Lord in all things?

6. Do you subscribe to our articles of reli-

gion, our General Rules, and our Discipline, and are you willing to be governed by the same?

7. Have you Christian fellowship and love for the members of this society, and will you assist them, as God shall give you ability, in carrying on the work of the Lord?

The person giving affirmative answers to the above questions shall, with the consent of three-fourths of all the members present at a society meeting, be admitted to all the privileges of a member. Any person in good standing in any evangelical church may be received into full connection, upon his meeting the other requirements of this section, without his having been on probation in our Church.

Where societies already organized design to unite with the Free Methodist Church, they should adopt the Discipline as a whole; and then each member should be admitted in his individual capacity as provided for above.

CHAPTER II.

OF THE OFFICIAL BODIES.

SECTION I.

Of our Department at the Conferences.

It is desired that all things be considered on these occasions as in the immediate presence of God; that every person speak freely whatever is in his heart.

Ques. How may we best improve our time at the Conferences?

Ans. 1. While we are conversing, let us have an especial care to set God always before us.

2. In the intermediate hours, let us redeem all the time we can for private exercises.

3. Therein let us give ourselves to prayer for one another, and for a blessing on our labors.

SECTION II.

Of the General Conference.

1. The General Conference shall be composed of the Superintendents, and an equal number of clerical and lay delegates belonging to the Free Methodist Church, to be appointed by the Annual Conferences, at their respective

sessions next preceding the session of the General Conference. Each Annual Conference shall be entitled to one lay and one ministerial delegate; and an additional one of each kind for every ten preachers in full connection. In electing delegates to the General Conference, the preachers and laymen shall vote separately, each branch electing by ballot, the preachers from the elders in full connection in the Conference, and the lay delegates from the members in full connection in our Church within the bounds of the Conference, the delegates to which they are respectively entitled. Each Annual Conference shall be entitled to one *additional* ministerial and lay delegate in the General Conference, whenever there is belonging to it an additional fraction of seven traveling preachers.

2. Whenever two-thirds of the Annual Conferences shall demand it, the Superintendent or Superintendents, or, if there be none, the Secretary of the General Conference, shall call an extra session of the General Conference, fixing the date thereof, and the time of assembling, later than the next ensuing session of each of the Annual Conferences.

3. The General Conference shall meet on the second Wednesday of October, 1862, at

St. Charles, Ills., and once in four years thereafter, at such place as it may designate.

4. At all times, when the General Conference is met, it shall take two-thirds of all the delegates elected by the Annual Conferences to form a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time, until a quorum is obtained.

5. One of the General Superintendents shall preside in the General Conference; but, in case no General Superintendent be present, the General Conference shall elect, by ballot, a President pro tem.

6. Each General Conference shall elect one or more General Superintendents, and a Secretary, by ballot. The Secretary shall continue in office until his successor is elected.

7. The members of the General Conference shall deliberate and vote as one body, nevertheless, upon a call of one-fourth of the members, the house shall divide, and it shall require a majority of the ministerial, and a majority of the lay delegates present, to pass any vote, or transact any business.

8. The General Conference shall have full powers to make rules and regulations for our Church, under the following limitations and restrictions:

1. The General Conference shall not revoke, alter, or change our articles of religion, or the General Rules of the United Societies, or establish any new standards or rules of doctrines, contrary to our present, existing and established standards of doctrine.

2. They shall not change or alter any part or rule of our government, so as to do away with lay delegation, or an itinerant ministry, or General Superintendency, or the Free Seat system in our Churches.

3. They shall not have power to deprive our preachers or members of the right of trial by an impartial committee, and of an appeal.

Provided, nevertheless, that upon the concurrent recommendation of three-fourths of all the members of the several Annual Conferences, who shall be present and vote on such recommendation, then a majority of two-thirds of the General Conference succeeding, shall suffice to alter either of the above restrictions, except the last; and also, whenever such alteration or alterations shall have been first recommended by two-thirds of the General Conference, so soon as three-fourths of the members of all the Annual Conferences shall have concurred as aforesaid, such alteration or alterations shall take effect

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SECTION III.

Of the Annual Conferences.

1. Each Annual Conference shall be composed of all the traveling and superannuated preachers who have been duly received into full connection, within its bounds, and of lay delegates elected by the several circuits, as provided for in the Section on Society Meetings. Each circuit shall be entitled to one delegate for every preacher traveling upon it, according to the provisions of the Discipline.

2. There shall be the following Annual Conferences, to wit: The Illinois, the Genesee, the Susquehanna, the Michigan, the Kansas and Mo., the New York, the Wisconsin, the Iowa, the Minnesota, and such others as may be organized, as hereinafter provided.

3. Each Annual Conference shall appoint the place, and with the concurrence of the President, the time of its own sessions.

4. They shall elect a Secretary, who shall record, in a suitable book, the proceedings of the Annual Conference, which record shall be sent to the General Conference for their examination. And in the absence of the Superintendent, they shall elect, by ballot, an Elder from their own number, to preside.

5. The ministers and laymen composing the Annual Conference shall deliberate and vote as one body; but at the call of one-fourth of all the members present, the house shall divide, and the ministers and laymen vote separately; and it shall require a majority of both branches, to constitute a vote of the Conference.

6. The territory embraced by each Annual Conference shall be divided into districts, and over each of these one of the traveling elders shall be appointed by the Annual Conference as Chairman.

7. The Chairmen of the several Districts, and an equal number of laymen to be elected by ballot the first day of the Session, together with the President of the Annual Conference, shall constitute a Stationing Committee, (of which the President shall be Chairman, and have a casting vote,) whose duty it shall be to appoint the preachers to their several fields of labor; provided that no preacher shall be appointed to the same circuit more than four years in succession.

8. Each Annual Conference shall inquire—

1. What are the names of preachers and delegates having a seat in this Conference?

2. Who are the Stationing Committee?
3. What preachers are admitted on trial?
4. Who remain on trial?
5. Who are admitted into full connection?
6. Who are the Deacons?
7. Who have been elected and ordained Elders this year?
8. Who have located this year?
9. Who are the superannuated or worn-out preachers?
10. Who have been expelled from the Conference this year?
11. Who have withdrawn from the Conference this year?
12. Are all the preachers blameless in life and conversation? Have they, during the past year, discharged their duties to God, themselves, and one another, as required by section ix, chapter iii, of the Discipline?
13. Who have died this year?
14. What is the number of Church members?
Amount collected for superannuated preachers?
Amount collected for the Missionary Society?
Amount collected for the American Bible Society?

Number of Sunday Schools?

Number of officers and teachers?

Number of scholars?

Number of volumes in library?

What has been expended during the year, on the circuit for Sabbath School purposes?

15. What amounts are necessary for the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers, and to make up the deficiencies of those who have not obtained their regular allowance on the circuits?

16. At the Session next preceding the session of the General Conference, the question shall be asked—What sum is necessary to defray the expenses of our delegates to the General Conference?

17. What has been collected on the foregoing accounts, and how has it been applied?

18. Where are the preachers stationed this year?

19. Where, and when, shall our next Conference be held?

SECTION IV.

Of the Quarterly Conferences.

1. The Quarterly Conferences shall be composed of all the traveling and local preachers,

exhorters, stewards, and leaders of the district.

2. Four sessions of the Quarterly Conference shall be held each year, in connection with the General Quarterly Meetings, at such times and places as it may designate.

3. The Chairman of the district shall be President of the Quarterly Conference, and in his absence a president *pro tem* shall be elected by the members present.

4. A Secretary shall be appointed by the Quarterly Conference, who shall keep a faithful record of its proceedings.

5. The Quarterly Conference shall hear complaints, and try appeals, grant and renew licenses to preach, and recommend suitable persons to the Annual Conference to be employed as traveling preachers. No person shall be licensed to preach until he has been recommended by the Official Board of the circuit to which he belongs, and until he has first been examined by the Quarterly Conference, or District Chairman, in regard to his piety, his soundness in doctrine, his gifts, and his usefulness. Let none be licensed until satisfactory answers are given to all the questions found in the section, "*Of the trial of those who*

think they are moved by the Holy Ghost to preach." The Quarterly Conference shall also, in connection with the Chairman of the District, appoint and hold Camp Meetings as the interests of the cause of God may require.

SECTION V.

Of the Executive Committee.

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Superintendents, and one traveling elder, and one layman from each Annual Conference, to be elected by the General Conference, from their members.

2. If there be a vacancy in the Executive Committee, or if a new Conference be organized, in the interval of the General Conference, the Conference in which such vacancy occurs, or the new Conference so organized, shall elect, by ballot, from their own number, an elder or layman, or both, as the case may demand, to fill such vacancy.

3. In case there be no Superintendent to travel through the work at large, and preside over the Annual Conferences, the Executive Committee shall meet together and elect a

Superintendent or Superintendents, who shall serve until the ensuing General Conference.

4. The Executive Committee shall fix the allowance of the Superintendents, and provide such means as they judge proper for raising the same.

5. The Executive Committee shall constitute a court of appeals, which shall, if necessary, hold a session once a year, for the purpose of trying all appeals that may be taken by any traveling preachers, from the decision of an Annual Conference. The President of the General Conference, or one of the Superintendents, shall preside at the trial of appeal cases. Seven members of the Committee on appeals, shall constitute a quorum.

6. The Executive Committee shall meet whenever the Superintendent, or one-third of the Committee, shall deem it necessary; and a majority of the members elected shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.

SECTION VI.

Of the Official Meetings.

1. An Official Meeting, composed of the

preachers, exhorters, stewards and class leaders, shall be held in each circuit once a month whenever practicable. Sunday School Superintendents, when members of our church, shall have a voice in the Official Board on all Sabbath School matters.

2. The Official Board shall look after the temporal and spiritual interests of the circuit, establish and maintain Sunday Schools, grant and renew licenses to exhort, provided that no person shall be licensed to exhort without a recommendation from the society* of which he is a member. They shall also recommend suitable persons to the Quarterly Conferences to be licensed as local preachers.

3. The preacher in charge shall be Chairman of the Official Meeting, and in his absence a chairman shall be elected. The Recording Steward shall be the Secretary of the Board, who shall keep and record, in a suitable book provided for that purpose, faithful minutes of the proceedings of the Official Meetings, and also of the meetings of the society. He shall also keep a record of all the money raised on

*By a "Society" is meant all the members of our Church, who meet together stately, in one place, for public worship.

the circuit for religious purposes, and of the manner in which the same was expended.

SECTION VII.

Society Meetings.

1. Every circuit shall have, within three months prior to the session of the Annual Conference to which it belongs, an Annual Society Meeting, of which the preacher in charge shall be chairman, and the recording steward, secretary.

2. At this meeting the members of the Church, in full connection, on the circuit, shall elect, by ballot, one or more of their members to represent them in the Annual Conference, according to the provisions of the Discipline.

3. The Annual Society Meeting shall elect not less than three nor more than nine stewards for the circuit, who shall hold their office for one year, or until others shall be elected in their place. Any vacancy may be filled at any regular Society Meeting.

4. The preacher in charge of a circuit, or (in his absence or refusal to do it,) a majority of the official board may call a meeting of the Society, whenever in their judgment the interests of the Church require it.

CHAPTER III.

OF OFFICERS AND MINISTERS.

SECTION I.

Of the General Superintendents.

1. The General Conference shall elect one or more traveling Elders as General Superintendents, to remain in office during the four years following, or until others shall be appointed.

2. It shall be the duty of the Superintendents to travel through the connection at large; to oversee the spiritual and temporal interests of our Church, and to labor to promote its purity, peace, and prosperity; to establish new societies; to receive and suspend preachers, according to the provisions of the Discipline, and to change them with their consent and the consent of a majority of the Official Board of the circuit from which they are to be removed; to transfer a preacher from one Conference to another, with the consent of the preacher and of the Conference to which he is transferred; and in the intervals of the sessions of the Conference, with the consent of the Chairmen of the Districts of the Conference to which he is transferred; to form

new Conferences in the intervals of General Conference, as the wants of the work may demand, subject to the approval of the General Conference—provided that no new Conference shall be formed without the consent of at least two-thirds of the members of the Executive Committee; to preside at the General and Annual Conferences, and to decide all questions of law therein, subject to an appeal to the respective Conferences.

3. The General Superintendents shall estimate the amount necessary to pay the expenses of delegates to the General Conference, and shall apportion the same among the several Conferences.

4. The Superintendents shall be amenable to the General Conference for the discharge of their official duties, and for their Christian conduct, to the Annual Conferences to which they respectively belong.

SECTION II.

Of the Chairmen of Districts.

It shall be the duty of the Chairman of a district—

1. To look after the spiritual and temporal interests of our Church within his district, and

to take the oversight of the work on his district, according to the Discipline.

2. To see that every part of the Discipline is duly enforced.

3. To visit every circuit on his district whenever he may judge it expedient. The Chairman is especially directed and required to visit any circuit in his district, when so requested by the Board, in case of any dispute or difficulty, or any emergency that may arise. The circuit sending for him shall pay his traveling expenses.

4. To hold four General Quarterly Meetings in his district during each year.

5. To hold Quarterly Meetings once in three months in each circuit within his district, and to labor as an Evangelist within his district, if, in the judgment of the Annual Conference, the cause of God can be best served thereby.

6. To change, receive, and suspend preachers in his district in the intervals of the Conference. Provided, nevertheless, he shall not change any preacher contrary to his wishes unless by the request of two-thirds of the members of the circuit.

7. To give the Superintendent all the necessary information of the state of his district.

8. The chairman shall not have the power

to employ a preacher that has been rejected by the Annual Conference without permission by said Conference.

9. No chairman shall preside over the same district more than four years in succession.

10. Traveling Chairmen shall be elected by ballot in open Conference, without debate.

11. Stationed Chairmen shall be nominated by the preachers and lay delegates of the districts over which they are to preside.

12. In case there should be a vacancy in the office of Chairman, during the intervals of the sessions of any Annual Conference, the President of the Conference shall have power to fill such vacancy, subject to the approval of the ensuing Quarterly Conference of the District.

13. Whenever in the judgment of an Annual Conference, the interests of the work can be best subserved thereby, the same person may be Chairman of more than one District at the same time.

14. The chairman shall be supported by the circuit to which he is appointed, unless he devotes all his time in labors as an Evangelist, as provided for above, in which case he shall receive his support from the district, each circuit contributing its proportion, as agreed upon in the District Conference.

SECTION III.

Of the Election and Ordination of Traveling Elders, and of their Duty.

Ques. 1. How is an Elder constituted?

Ans. By the election of a majority of the Annual Conference, and by the laying on of the hands of the President and some of the Elders that are present.

Ques. 2. What shall be the time of probation of a Traveling Deacon for the office of an Elder?

Ans. Every Traveling Deacon shall exercise that office for two years, before he be eligible to the office of Elder; except in the case of missions, when the Annual Conferences shall have authority to elect for the Elder's office sooner, if they judge it expedient.

Ques. 3. What is the duty of a Traveling Elder?

Ans. 1. To administer baptism and the Lord's supper, and to perform the office of matrimony, and all parts of Divine worship.

2. To do all the duties of a traveling preacher.

No Elder that ceases to travel, without the consent of the Annual Conference, certified under the hand of the President of the Conference, except in case of sickness, debility, or other unavoidable circumstances, shall, on

any account, exercise the peculiar functions of his office, or even be allowed to preach among us; *nevertheless* the final determination in all such cases is with the Annual Conference.

SECTION IV.

Of the Election and Ordination of Traveling Deacons, and of their Duties.

Ques. 1. How is a Traveling Deacon constituted?

Ans. By the election of a majority of the Annual Conference, and by the laying on of the hands of the President.

Ques. 2. What is the duty of a Traveling Deacon?

Ans. 1. To baptize; and to perform the office of matrimony.

2. To assist the Elder in administering the Lord's supper.

3. To do all the duties of a traveling preacher.

No Deacon who ceases to travel, without the consent of the Annual Conference, certified under the hand of the President of the Conference, except in case of sickness, debility, or other unavoidable circumstances, shall, on any account, exercise the peculiar functions of his office, or even be allowed to preach

among us; *nevertheless*, the final determination in all such cases is with the Annual Conference.

SECTION V.

Of the Reception of Preachers from other Denominations.

Ques. How shall we receive those ministers who may offer to unite with us from other Christian Churches?

Ans. Those ministers of other Evangelical Churches, who may desire to unite with our Church, whether as local or itinerant, may be received according to our usages; on condition of their giving satisfactory answers to the questions which we propose to our own ministers and members before receiving them into full connection, and of their giving satisfaction to an Annual Conference of their being in orders, and of their agreement with us in doctrine, discipline, government, and usages; *provided* the Conference is also satisfied with their gifts, graces and usefulness.

Every minister whose ordination is recognized by an Annual Conference, shall be entitled to a parchment from the President of the Conference, certifying the fact of his ordination.

SECTION VI.

Of the Examination of those who think they are moved by the Holy Ghost to preach.

Ques. How shall we try those who profess to be moved by the Holy Ghost to preach?

Ans. 1. Let the following questions be asked, namely:—Do they know God as a pardoning God? Have they the love of God abiding in them? Do they desire nothing but God? And are they holy in all manner of conversation?

2. Have they gifts, (as well as grace) for the work? Have they (in some tolerable degree) a clear, sound understanding, a right judgment in the things of God, a just conception of salvation by faith? And has God given them any degree of utterance? Do they speak justly, readily, clearly?

3. Have they fruit? Are any truly convinced of sin, and converted to God by their preaching?

As long as these three marks concur in any one, we believe he is called of God to preach. These we receive as sufficient proof that he is moved by the Holy Ghost.

SECTION VII.

Of the Reception of Preachers.

Ques. 1. How shall a preacher be received on trial?

Ans. By the Annual Conference, after passing a satisfactory examination as prescribed in the last section, and in the course of study laid down for probationers, and having been duly recommended by a Quarterly Conference.

Ques. 2. How shall a traveling preacher be received into full connection?

Ans. 1. He must give satisfactory answers to the following questions, namely: Have you faith in Christ? Have you the present assurance of sins forgiven? Do you believe in Christian perfection? Have you attained to this rich experience in your own heart? (If not,) Are you groaning after it? Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and his work? Do you know the General Rules? Do you keep them? Do you constantly attend the sacrament? Have you read our Discipline? Are you willing to conform to it? Have you considered the rules of a preacher?

Will you keep them for conscience' sake? Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God? Will you endeavor not to speak too long nor too loud? Will you diligently instruct the children in every place? Will you visit from house to house? Will you recommend fasting, or abstinence, both by precept and example? Are you in debt? Do you use snuff, tobacco, or drams?

2. He must have been employed in the regular itinerant work for two successive years, after he was received on trial by the Annual Conference.

3. He must pass a satisfactory examination in the prescribed course of study.

SECTION VIII.

Of the Rules for a Preacher's Conduct.

Ques. 1. What are the directions given to a Preacher?

Ans. 1. Be diligent. Never be unemployed; never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any place than is strictly necessary.

2. Be serious. Let your motto be, *Holiness to the Lord*. Avoid all lightness, jesting and foolish talking.

3. Converse sparingly, and conduct yourself prudently with women. I Tim. v. 2.

4. Take no step toward marriage without first consulting with your brethren.

5. Believe evil of no one without good evidence; unless you see it done, take heed how you credit it. Put the best construction on everything. You know the judge is always supposed to be on the prisoner's side.

6. Speak evil of no one; because your word, especially, would eat as doth a canker. Keep your thoughts within your own breast, till you come to the person concerned.

7. Tell every one under your care what you think wrong in his conduct and temper, and that lovingly and plainly as soon as may be; else it will fester in your heart. Make all haste to cast the fire out of your bosom.

8. Avoid all affectation. A preacher of the gospel is the servant of all.

9. Be ashamed of nothing but sin.

10. Be punctual. Do everything exactly a the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but conscience' sake.

11. You have nothing to do but to save souls; therefore, spend and be spent in this work; and go always not only to those that

want you, but to those that want you most.

Observe! it is not your business only to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that society; but to save as many as you can; to bring as many sinners as you can to repentance, and with all your power to build them up in that holiness without which they cannot see the Lord. And remember!—a Methodist Preacher is to mind every point, great and small, in the Methodist Discipline! Therefore, you will need to exercise all the sense and grace you have.

12. Act in all things not according to your own will, but as a son in the gospel. As such it is your duty to employ your time in the manner in which we direct: in preaching, and visiting from house to house; in reading, meditation, and prayer. Above all, if you labor with us in the Lord's vineyard, it is needful you should do that part of the work which we advise, at those times and places which we judge most for his glory.

Ques. 2. Are there any smaller advices which may be of use to us?

Ans. Perhaps these: 1. Be sure never to disappoint a congregation. 2. Begin at the time appointed. 3. Let your deportment be

serious, weighty, and solemn. 4. Always suit your subject to your audience. 5. Choose the plainest texts you can. 6. Take care not to ramble, but keep to the text, and make out what you take in hand. 7. Take care of anything awkward or affected, either in your gesture, phrase, or pronunciation. 8. Do not usually pray *extempore*, above eight or ten minutes (at most) without intermission. 9. Frequently read and enlarge upon a portion of Scripture; and let young preachers often exhort without taking a text. 10. Always avail yourself of the great festivals, by preaching on the occasion.

SECTION IX.

Of the duty of Preachers to God, themselves, and one another.

Ques. 1. What is the duty of a preacher?

Ans. 1. To preach.

2. To meet the societies and classes.

3. To visit the sick.

4. To visit [all the members and probationers on his circuit, at least once in three months; and all the members of his congregation, whenever practicable.

5. To preach out of doors wherever an attentive congregation can be found.

Ques. 2. How shall a preacher be qualified for his charge?

Ans. By walking closely with God, and having his work greatly at heart; and by understanding and loving discipline, ours in particular.

Ques. 3. Do we sufficiently watch over each other?

Ans. We do not. Should we not frequently ask each other, Do you walk closely with God? Have you now fellowship with the Father and the Son? At what hour do you rise? Do you punctually observe the morn-

ing and evening hours of retirement? Do you spend the day in the manner which the Conference advises? Do you converse seriously, usefully and closely? To be more particular: Do you use all the means of grace yourself, and enforce the use of them on all other persons?

They are either instituted or prudential.

I. The instituted are—

1. Prayer—private, family, and public; consisting of deprecation, petition, intercession and thanksgiving. Do you use each of these? Do you forecast daily, wherever you are, to secure time for private devotion? Do you practice it everywhere? Do you ask everywhere, Have you family prayer? Do you ask individuals, Do you use private prayer every morning, and evening in particular?

2. Searching the Scriptures, by—

(1.) Reading: constantly, some part of every day; regularly, all the Bible in order; carefully with notes; seriously with prayer before and after; fruitfully, immediately practising what you learn there?

(2.) Meditating: At set times? By rule?

(3.) Hearing: Every opportunity? With

prayer, before, at, after? Have you a Bible always about you?

3. The Lord's supper: Do you use this at every opportunity? With solemn prayer before? With earnest and deliberate self-devotion.

4. Fasting: Do you use as much abstinence and fasting every week as your health, strength, and labor will permit?

5. Christian conference: Are you convinced how important and difficult it is to order your conversation aright? Is it always in grace? Seasoned with salt? Meet to minister grace to the hearers? Do you not converse too long at a time? Is not an hour commonly enough? Would it not be well always to have a determined end in view? And to pray before and after it?

II. Prudential means we may use either as Christians, as Methodists, or as preachers.

1. As Christians: What particular rules have you in order to grow in grace? What arts of holy living?

2. As Methodists: Do you never miss your class?

3. As Preachers: Have you thoroughly considered your duty? And do you make a conscience of executing every part of it? Do you meet every society and their leaders?

These means may be used without fruit. But there are some means which cannot: namely — watching, denying ourselves, taking up our cross, exercise of the presence of God.

1. Do you steadily watch against the world? Yourself? Your besetting sin?

2. Do you deny yourself every useless pleasure of sense? Imagination? Honor? Are you temperate in all things? Instance in food: (1.) Do you use only that kind and that degree which is best both for body and soul? Do you see the necessity of this? (2.) Do you eat no more at each meal than is necessary? Are you not heavy or drowsy after dinner? (3.) Do you use only that kind and degree of drink which is best both for your body and soul? (4.) Do you choose and use water for your common drink? And only take wine medicinally or sacramentally?

3. Wherein do you take up your cross daily? Do you cheerfully bear your cross, however grievous to nature, as a gift of God, and labor to profit thereby?

4. Do you endeavor to set God always before you? To see his eye continually fixed upon you? Never can you use these means but a blessing will ensue. And the more you use them, the more you will grow in grace.

SECTION X.

Of the Duties of those who have the charge of Circuits.

Ques. 1. What are the duties of the preacher who has the special charge of the circuit?

Ans. 1. To see that the other preachers in his circuit behave well, and want nothing.

2. To nominate all the leaders, subject to confirmation by the class, and to examine each of the leaders with all possible exactness, at least once a quarter, concerning his method of leading his class.

3. To hold watch-nights, and love-feasts, and to see that the sacrament is administered at least once in three months.

4. To take care that every society be duly supplied with books.

5. To take an exact account of all the members in society in their respective circuits, keeping the names of all local elders, deacons and preachers, properly distinguished, and deliver such account to the Annual Conference, that their number may be printed in the minutes.

6. To give an account of his circuit every quarter to the Chairman of the district.

7. To report to the Society, at least once a

quarter, the names of those who have been received into the Church, or excluded therefrom during the quarter; also the names of those who have been received or dismissed by certificate, and of those who have died or have withdrawn from the Church.

Ques. 2. What other directions shall we give him?

Ans. Several.

1. To take a regular catalogue of the societies in towns and cities, as they live in the streets.

2. To leave his successor a particular account of the circuit, including an account of the subscribers for our periodicals.

3. To enforce vigorously, but calmly, all the rules of the society.

4. As soon as there are four believers in any place, to put them into a class.

5. To warn all, from time to time, that none are to remove from one circuit to another without a note of recommendation from the preacher of the circuit, in these words:—"A. B., the bearer, wishing to remove from this Society, we hereby certify that he has been an acceptable member of the Free Methodist Church. N. B.—This certificate is valid for one year only, unless renewed." And inform them that

without such a certificate, they will not be received into the Church in other places.

6. To recommend everywhere decency and cleanliness.

7. To read the rules of the society, with the aid of the other preachers, once a year in every congregation, and once a quarter in every society.

8. He shall take no steps involving the circuit in financial liability, without the consent of the Official Board.

9. He shall take care that a fast be held in every society in his circuit, on the Friday preceding every Quarterly Meeting; and that a memorandum of it be written on all the class papers.

N. B.—The preachers who have the oversight of circuits are required to execute all the rules fully and strenuously against all frauds, and particularly against dishonest insolvencies; suffering none to remain in our Church, on any account, who are found guilty of any fraud.

Ques. 3 What can be done to supply the circuits during the sittings of the Conferences?

Ans. 1. Let all the appointments stand according to the plan of the circuit.

2. Engage as many local preachers and exhorters as will supply them; and let them be paid for their time in proportion to the allowance of the traveling preachers.

3. If preachers and exhorters cannot attend, let some person of ability be appointed in every society, to sing, pray, and read one of Mr. Wesley's sermons.

4. But if that cannot be done, let there be prayer-meetings.

SECTION XI.

Of the Matter and Manner of Preaching.

Ques. 1. What is the best general method of preaching?

Ans. 1. To convince. 2. To offer Christ. 3. To invite. 4. To build up. And to do this in some measure in every sermon.

Ques. 2. What is the most effectual way of preaching Christ?

Ans. The most effectual way of preaching Christ is to preach him in all his offices; and to declare his law, as well as his gospel, both to believers and unbelievers. Let us strongly and closely insist upon inward and outward holiness in all its branches.

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SECTION XII.

Rules by which we should continue, or desist from Preaching at any place.

Ques. 1. Is it advisable for us to preach in as many places as we can, without forming any societies?

Ans. By no means. We have made the trial in various places, and that for a considerable length of time. But in all the seed has fallen by the way-side. There is scarcely any fruit remaining.

Ques. 2. Where should we endeavor to preach most?

Ans. 1. Where there is the greatest number of quiet and willing hearers.

2. Where there is most fruit.

Ques. 3. Ought we not diligently to observe in what places God is pleased at any time to pour out his Spirit more abundantly?

Ans. We ought; and at that time to send more laborers than usual into that part of the harvest.

SECTION XIII.

Of Visiting from House to House, Guarding against those things that are so common to Professors, and enforcing Practical Religion.

Ques. 1. How can we further assist those under our care?

Ans. By instructing them at their own houses. What unspeakable need is there of this! The world says, "*The Methodists are no better than other people.*" This is not true in the general: but, 1. Personal religion, either towards God or man, is too superficial among us. We can but just touch on a few particulars. How little faith is there among us! How little communion with God; how little living in heaven, walking in eternity, deadness to every creature! How much love of the world! Desire of pleasure, of ease, of getting money! How little brotherly love! What continual judging one another! What gossiping, evil-speaking, tale-bearing! What want of moral honesty! To instance only one particular: who does as he would be done by in buying and selling?

2. Family religion is wanting in many branches. And what avails public preaching alone, though we could preach like angels? We must, yea, every traveling preacher must instruct the people from house to house. Till this be done, and that in good earnest, Methodists will be no better.

Our religion is not sufficiently deep, universal, uniform. It is superficial, partial, uneven.

It will be so until we spend half as much time in this visiting, as we now do in talking uselessly. Can we find a better method of doing this than Mr. Baxter's? If not, let us adopt it without delay. His whole tract entitled, *The Reformed Pastor*, is well worth a careful perusal. Speaking of this visiting from house to house, he says, "We shall find many hinderances, both in ourselves and the people."

1. In ourselves there is much dullness and laziness, so that there will be much ado to get us to be faithful in the work.

2. We have a base, man-pleasing temper, so that we let them perish rather than lose their love; we let them go quietly to hell lest we should offend them.

3. Some of us have a foolish bashfulness. We know not how to begin, and blush to contradict the devil.

4. But the greater hinderance is weakness of faith. Our whole motion is weak, because the spring of it is weak.

5. Lastly, we are unskillful in the work. How few know how to deal with men so as to get within them, and suit all our discourse to their several conditions and tempers; to choose the fittest subjects, and follow them

with a holy mixture of seriousness, terror, love and meekness!

But undoubtedly this private application is implied in those solemn words of the apostle: "I charge thee before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing, preach the word; be instant in season, out of season: reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering."

O, brethren, if we could but set this work on foot in all our societies, and prosecute it zealously, what glory would redound to God! If the common lukewarmness were banished, and every shop and every house were busied in speaking of the word and works of God, surely God would dwell in our habitations, and make us his delight.

And this is absolutely necessary to the welfare of our people, some of whom neither repent nor believe to this day. Look around, and see how many of them are still in apparent danger of damnation. And how can you walk, and talk, and be merry with such people, when you know their case? When you look them in the face, you should break forth into tears, as the prophet did when he looked upon Hazael, and then set on them with the most vehement exhortations. O, for God's

sake, and the sake of poor souls, bestir yourselves, and spare no pains that may conduce to their salvation!

What cause have we to bleed before the Lord that we have so long neglected this good work? If we had but engaged in it sooner, how many more might have been brought to Christ! And how much holier and happier might our societies have been before now! And why might we not have done it sooner? There were many hinderances; and so there always will be. But the greatest hinderance is in ourselves, in our littleness of faith and love.

But it is objected, I. "This will take up so much time, we shall not have leisure to follow our studies." We answer, 1. Gaining knowledge is a good thing, but saving souls is better. 2. By this very thing you will gain the most excellent knowledge, that of God and eternity. 3. You will have time for gaining other knowledge too. Only sleep no more than you need; "and never be idle, or triflingly employed." But, 4. If you can do but one, let your studies alone. We ought to throw by all the libraries in the world, rather than be guilty of the loss of one soul.

It is objected, II. "The people will not submit to it." If some will not, others will.

And all the success with them will repay all your labor. O, let us herein follow the example of St. Paul! 1. For our general business, *Serving the Lord with all humility of mind.* 2. Our special work, *Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock.* 3. Our doctrine, *Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.* 4. The place, *I have taught you publicly, and from house to house.* 5. The object and manner of teaching, *I cease not to warn every one night and day, with tears.* 6. His innocence and self-denial herein, *I have coveted no man's silver or gold.* 7. His patience, *Neither count I my life dear unto myself.* And among all other motives, let these be ever before our eyes: 1. *The Church which he hath purchased with his own blood.* 2. *Grievous wolves shall enter in: yea, of yourselves shall men arise, speaking perverse things.*

Write this upon your hearts, and it will do you more good than twenty years' study. Then you will have no time to spare; you will have work enough. Then, likewise, no preacher will stay with us who is as salt that has lost its savor. For to such, this employment will be mere drudgery. And in order to do it, you will have need of all the knowl-

edge you can procure, and all the grace you can attain.

The sum is, Go into every house in course, and teach every one therein, young and old, to be Christians, inwardly and outwardly; make every particular plain to their understandings; fix it in their minds; write it on their hearts. In order to this there must be line upon line, precept upon precept. What patience, what love, what knowledge is requisite for this! We must needs do this, were it only to avoid idleness. Do we not loiter away many hours in every week? Each try himself; no idleness is consistent with a growth in grace. Nay, without exactness in redeeming time, you cannot retain the grace you receive in justification.

Ques. 2. Why are we not more holy? Why do we not live in eternity? Walk with God all the day long? Why are we not, we all, devoted to good? Breathing the whole spirit of missionaries?

Ans. Chiefly because we are enthusiasts; looking for the end without using the means. To touch only upon two or three instances:—Who of us rise at four, or even at five, when we do not preach? Do we know the obligation and benefit of fasting and abstinence? How often do we practice it? The neglect of

this alone is sufficient to account for our feebleness and faintness of spirit. We are continually grieving the Holy Spirit of God by the habitual neglect of a plain duty. Let us amend from this hour.

Ques. How shall we guard against Sabbath breaking, evil speaking, unprofitable conversation, lightness, expensiveness or gayety of apparel, and contracting debts without due care to discharge them ?

Ans. 1. Let us preach expressly on each of these heads. 2. Read in every society the sermon on evil speaking. 3. Let the leaders closely examine and exhort every person to put away the accursed thing. 4. Let preachers warn every society that none who is guilty herein can remain with us. 5. Extirpate out of our Church buying or selling of goods which have not paid the duty laid upon them by government. Let none remain with us who will not totally abstain from this evil in every kind and degree. Extirpate bribery, receiving anything, directly or indirectly, for voting at any election. Show no respect to persons herein, but expel all that touch the accursed thing. And strongly advise our people to discountenance all treats given by candidates

before or at elections, and not to be partakers in any respect, of such iniquitous practices.

SECTION XIV.

Of Sunday Schools, and the Religious Instruction of Children.

Ques. 1. What shall we do for the moral and religious instruction of the children?

Ans. 1. It shall be the special duty of preachers having charge of circuits, with the aid of the other preachers, to form Sunday Schools in all our congregations where ten children can be collected for that purpose, and to engage the co-operation of as many of our members as they can; to visit the schools as often as practicable; to preach on the subject of Sunday Schools and religious instruction in each congregation at least once in six months; and to form Bible classes wherever they can for the instruction of larger children and youth, and where they cannot superintend them personally, to see that suitable teachers are provided for that purpose.

2. It shall also be the duty of preachers to enforce faithfully upon parents and Sunday School teachers, the great importance of it.

structing children in the doctrines and duties of our holy religion; to see that our catechisms be used as extensively as possible, both in our Sunday Schools and families; to preach to the children, and publicly catechise them in the Sunday Schools, and at special meetings appointed for that purpose.

3. It shall be the duty of every preacher in his pastoral visits, to pay special attention to the children, speaking to them personally and kindly upon the subject of experimental and practical godliness, according to their capacity, pray earnestly for them, and diligently instruct and exhort all parents to dedicate their children to the Lord, in baptism, as early as convenient.

4. Each preacher in charge shall lay before the Quarterly Conference, to be entered on its Journal, the number and state of the Sunday Schools and Bible classes in his charge, and the extent to which he has preached to the children and catechised them, and make the required report on Sunday Schools to his Annual Conference.

5. The Superintendent of the Sunday School shall be elected by a Society meeting. The preacher in charge may nominate. The Superintendent, when a member of our Church, shall be a member of the Official Board.

SECTION XV.

Of employing our Time profitably, when we are not Traveling, or Engaged in Public Exercises.

Ques 1. What general method of employing our time shall we advise?

Ans. We advise you, 1. As often as possible to rise at four. 2. From four to five in the morning, and from five to six in the evening, to meditate, pray, and read the Scriptures with notes, and the closely practical parts of what Mr. Wesley has published. 3. From six in the morning till twelve, (allowing an hour for breakfast,) read with much prayer, some of our best religious tracts.

Ques. 2. Why is it that people under our care are not better?

Ans. Other reasons may concur, but the chief is, because we are not more knowing and more holy.

Ques. 3. But why are we not more knowing?

Ans. Because we are idle. We forget our first rule, "Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Neither spend any more time at any place than

is strictly necessary." We shall then assemble
 together a fault in this manner and then show
 us are clear. Within an hour or two
 hours a day in God's work as we will naturally
 in man's work." We shall — and it shall
 comes next to mind. We must acknowledge
 must, cure this evil of having the name of
 God. But how? Read the most useful
 books, and then improve and consequently
 Steadily spend all the morning in this em-
 ployment, or at least five hours in the day
 and twenty. "For I have in these
 ing." Consider a man who is engaged
 to your father's employment. "Read the most
 books." Be diligent in reading the books and
 you will have the use of them.

PROPOSITION IV.

Of the necessity of united study.

Let us be deeply sensible that we
 have known of the evil of a division of prin-
 ciple, spirit, or teaching and the dreadful con-
 sequences to ourselves and others. How we are
 united, what can we do for us? How we
 divide, we shall surely witness the work of
 God, and the souls of the people.

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Ques. 3. But why are we not more knowing?

Ans. Because we are idle. We forget our first rule, "Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Neither spend any more time at any place than

is strictly necessary." We fear there is altogether a fault in this matter, and that few of us are clear. Which of us spend as many hours a day in God's work as we did formerly in man's work? We talk,—talk or read what comes next to hand. We must, absolutely must, cure this evil, or betray the cause of God. But how? 1. Read the most useful books, and that regularly and constantly. 2. Steadily spend all the morning in this employment, or at least five hours in the four and twenty. "But I have no taste for reading." Contract a taste for it by use, or return to your former employment. "But I have no books." Be diligent to spread the books, and you will have the use of them.

SECTION XVI.

Of the necessity of union among ourselves.

Let us be deeply sensible (from what we have known) of the evil of a division in principle, spirit, or practice, and the dreadful consequences to ourselves and others. If we are united, what can stand before us? If we divide, we shall destroy ourselves, the work of God, and the souls of our people.

Ques. What can be done in order to a closer union with each other?

Ans. 1. Let us be deeply convinced of the absolute necessity of it.

2. Pray earnestly for, and speak freely to, each other.

3. When we meet, let us never part without prayer.

4. Take great care not to despise each other's gifts.

5. Never speak lightly of each other.

6. Let us defend each other's character in everything, so far as is consistent with truth.

7. Labor in honor each to prefer the other before himself.

8. We recommend a serious perusal of *The causes, Evils and Cures of Heart and Church Divisions.*

SECTION XVII.

Local Preachers.

Ques. What directions shall be given concerning local preachers?

1. The Quarterly Conference shall take cognizance of all the local preachers in the district, and shall enquire into the gifts, labors and usefulness of each preacher by name.

2. A licensed local preacher shall be eligible to the office of a Deacon, after he has preached four years from the time he received a regular license, and has obtained a recommendation from the Quarterly Conference, after proper examination as to his Christian character, his usefulness as a preacher, and a satisfactory knowledge of the prescribed course of study.

3. A local Deacon shall be eligible to the office of an Elder, after he has preached four years from the time he was ordained a deacon, and has obtained a recommendation from the Quarterly Conference of which he is a member, certifying his qualifications in doctrine, discipline, talents, and usefulness, and has passed a satisfactory examination in the prescribed course of study, signed by the President and Secretary.

4. Every local Elder, Deacon or Preacher, shall be amenable to the Quarterly Conference where he belongs for his Christian character, and the faithful performance of his ministerial office. He shall have his name recorded on the journal of said Conference, and also enrolled on a class paper, and shall meet in class; and in neglect of the above duties, the Quarterly Conference, if they judge it proper, may

deprive him of his ministerial office. And when a preacher is located, or discontinued by an Annual Conference, he shall hold his membership on the circuit where he had his last appointment.

5. Let the appointments be so arranged as to give the local preachers regular and systematic employment on the Sabbath.

SECTION XVIII.

Evangelists.

1. Evangelists are a class of preachers called of God to preach the Gospel, to labor to promote revivals of religion, and to spread abroad the cause of Christ in the land; but not called to a pastoral charge, or to government in the church.

2. Any brother or sister in good standing in our Church, feeling called of God to this work, may, upon recommendation of the Society to which he belongs, be licensed by the District Quarterly Conference, after due examination, according to Section 6, Chap. 3, of our Discipline entitled "Of the examination of those who think they are moved by the Holy Ghost to preach."

3. No evangelist shall appoint or hold meetings where they will interfere with the regular work of any preacher duly appointed to a circuit or station.

4. Those who labor successfully as evangelists for the period of four years, may, upon recommendation of the Quarterly Conference, be licensed by the Annual Conference; and such license shall hold good until revoked by the action of said Annual Conference.

5. Evangelists shall be amenable to the Quarterly Conference the same as a local preacher.

CHAPTER IV.

OF THE MEANS OF GRACE.

SECTION I.

Of Public Worship.

Ques. 1. What directions shall be given for the establishment of uniformity in public worship among us, on the Lord's day?

Ans. 1. Let the morning service consist of singing, prayer, the reading of a chapter out

of the Old Testament, and another out of the New, and preaching.

2. Let the afternoon service consist of singing, prayer, the reading of one or two chapters out of the Bible, and preaching.

3. Let the evening service consist of singing, prayer, and preaching.

4. But on the days of administering the Lord's supper, the two chapters in the morning service may be omitted.

5. In administering the ordinances, and in the burial of the dead, we recommend that the form of Discipline invariably be used. Let the Lord's prayer also be used on all occasions of public worship in concluding the first prayer, and the apostolic benediction in dismissing the congregation.

6. Let the society be met, wherever it is practicable, on the Sabbath day.

Ques. 2. Is there not a great indecency sometimes practiced among us, namely, talking in the congregation, before and after services? How shall this be cured?

Ans. Let all the ministers and preachers join as one man, and enlarge on the impropriety of talking before and after service; and strongly exhort those that are concerned,

to do it no more. In three months, if we are in earnest, this vile practice will be banished out of every Methodist congregation. Let none stop till he has carried his point.

SECTION II.

Of the Spirit and Truth of Singing.

Ques. How shall we guard against formality in singing?

Ans. 1. Choose such hymns as are proper for the occasion, and do not sing too much at once. Seldom more than four or five verses.

2. Let the tune be suited to the sentiment, and do not suffer the people to sing too slow.

3. In every society let due attention be given to the cultivation of sacred music.

4. If you cannot, yourself, sing, let one or two be chosen in each society to lead the singing.

5. As singing is part of Divine worship, in which all ought to unite, therefore exhort every person in the congregation to sing, not one in ten only.

6. In no case let there be instrumental music or choir singing in our public worship.

SECTION III.

Of Class Meetings.

1. Let no person, not a member of our church, be admitted to a class-meeting, without the consent of the Leader,

2. Let each Leader carefully inquire how every soul of his class prospers: not only how each person observes the outward rules, but how he grows in the knowledge and love of God.

3. Let the Leaders converse with those who have the charge of their circuits.

4. Let improper Leaders be changed.

5. Let the Leaders frequently meet each other's classes.

6. Let us observe which Leaders are the most useful; and let these meet the other classes as often as possible.

7. See that all the Leaders be not only men of sound judgment, but men truly devoted to God.

8. In all cases the Preacher in charge shall nominate, and the class elect the Leader, who shall hold his office one year.

9. There shall be a General Class-Meeting

held in each society the first Sabbath in every month.

10. *Ques.* What shall we do with those members of our Church who wilfully and repeatedly neglect to meet their class.

Ans. 1. Let the Elder, Deacon, or one of the Preachers visit them, whenever it is practicable, and explain to them the consequence if they continue to neglect, namely, exclusion.

2. If they do not amend, let them be brought to trial for neglect of duty.

SECTION IV.

Of Love Feasts.

1. Let a Love Feast be held on each circuit at least once in three months.

2. Let no person not a member of our Church, be admitted to our Love Feasts without the consent of the preacher having charge of the same.

3. Let our Love Feasts be held with closed doors, whenever practicable.

CHAPTER V.

OF DRESS AND MARRIAGE.

SECTION I.

Of Dress.

Ques. Should we insist on the rules concerning dress?

Ans. By all means. This is no time to give encouragement to superfluity of apparel. Therefore, receive none into the Church till they have left off superfluous ornaments. In order to this: 1. Let every one who has charge of a circuit, read Mr. Wesley's Thoughts upon Dress, at least once a year in every society. 2. In visiting the classes be very mild, but very strict. 3. Allow of no exempt case; better one suffer than many.

SECTION II.

Of Marriage and Divorce.

Ques. 1. Do we observe any evil which has prevailed in our Church with respect to marriage?

Ans. Many of our members have married

with *unawakened* persons. This has produced bad effects; they have been either hindered for life, or have turned back to perdition.

Ques. 2. What can be done to discourage this?

Ans. 1. Let every preacher publicly enforce the apostle's command, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." II Cor. vi. 4.

2. Let all be exhorted to take no step in so weighty a matter, without advising with the most serious of their brethren.

Ques. 3. Ought any woman to marry without the consent of her parents?

Ans. In general she ought not. Yet there may be exceptions. For if, 1. A woman believe it to be her duty to marry: if, 2. Her parents absolutely refuse to let her marry any Christian: then she may, nay, ought to marry without their consent.

We do not prohibit our people from marrying persons who are not of our Church, provided such persons have the form, and are seeking the power of godliness; but we are determined to discourage their marrying persons who do not come up to this description.

Ques. 4. What is the law of divorce among us?

Ans. We recognize no other ground for divorce than that permitted in the Word of God—Matt. xi. 32, and Mark x. 11 and 12. Any person guilty of a violation of this law shall have no place among us.

CHAPTER VI.

OF SECRET SOCIETIES.

What rule shall we make in regard to Secret Societies?

Voluntary associations are not necessarily sinful because they are secret. But secrecy is always a ground of suspicion. Evil works instinctively incline to darkness. Good works grow up in light. God commands us to let our light shine. Even a good cause under the shadow of secrecy invalidates its claim to the confidence of open and honest men. Grace and guile can have no affinity. All secrets necessary to be kept, can be kept without an oath. A *bad* institution *ought not*, and a *good* one *need not* be secret. Philan-

thropic associations claiming our co-operation on Christian grounds, must do so with open face. They must lift the veil while demanding our salutation, or we cannot salute them by the way. Therefore, all secret societies, both good and bad, are to be eschewed.

Any society requiring an oath, affirmation, or promise of secrecy, as a condition of membership, is held to be a *Secret Society*; and any member joining or continuing in such, violates his covenant obligations, and shall in due form be excluded from the Church; and the preacher shall report that he is excluded, not for immorality, but for infraction of our rules and regulations.

CHAPTER VII.

OF CHURCH TRIALS.

SECTION I.

Of the Trial of Church Members.

1. Every crime forbidden in the word of God, sufficient to exclude a person from the kingdom of grace and glory, shall subject a member to expulsion from the Church.

2. The neglect of duties required by the word of God, or the indulgence of sinful tempers, words, or actions, shall subject the person so offending, to private reproof by the official member of the Church having the oversight of the offender; and in case of persistence after proper admonition and labor, to trial and censure, being placed on probation, or expulsion, as the committee may determine.

3 Any member against whom a charge is brought, shall be furnished by the person bringing the charge, or by the presiding officer of the tribunal to which he is judicially responsible with a copy of the charges against him, at least fourteen days before the trial, unless all the parties shall agree upon an earlier time for the trial.

4. An accused party shall be entitled to the assistance of such counsel as he may select from the members or ministers of our Church.

5. In all appeal cases, whether they come before a Quarterly, Annual, or General Conference; no person shall be allowed to sit who has previously voted in the decision of the case.

6. When charges are preferred against a member, the preacher in charge shall call a

meeting of the society, who shall select a committee of not less than three, nor more than nine, who shall be members of our Church, to try the case. Both the accused and accuser shall have the right to challenge for cause, the validity of which shall be determined by the preacher in charge. The preacher in charge shall preside at the trial of members; but the chairman of the district may, for sufficient reasons, appoint some other traveling preacher in full connection, to preside at any particular trial.

Any member who has been tried and convicted by a committee, shall be entitled to an appeal to the next Quarterly Conference, provided he did not voluntarily absent himself from the trial, and provided he gave notice of his intention to appeal at the time of his condemnation, or as soon thereafter as he was notified thereof.

SECTION II.

Of the Trial of Preachers.

1. Every crime forbidden in the word of God, sufficient to exclude a person from the kingdom of grace and glory, shall subject a minister to expulsion from the Church.

2. The neglect of duties required by the word of God, or the indulgence of sinful tempers, words, or actions, as well as the dissemination of false doctrine, shall subject the person so offending to private reproof by the official member of the Church having the oversight of the offending brother; and, in case of persistence after proper admonition and labor, to trial and expulsion.

3 An accused local preacher shall be tried by the Quarterly Conference of which he is a member; or, at his option, by a committee of not less than three nor more than nine, chosen for this purpose by the Quarterly Conference; the chairman of the district shall preside at the trial. Any local preacher feeling aggrieved at the decision of his case, shall be allowed an appeal to the ensuing session of the Annual Conference. If a charge of gross immorality is brought against a local preacher in the interval of the Quarterly Conference, the chairman shall call a committee of not less than three members of the Quarterly Conference, who shall have power to suspend until the next session of the Quarterly Conference, with whom shall rest the decision of the case.

4. A preacher on probation in an Annual Conference shall be accountable for his moral and Christian conduct to the Quarterly Conference of the district within the bounds of which he travels. If charges are brought against him, he shall be tried the same as a local preacher.

5. Any traveling preacher who wilfully neglects or refuses to do the work assigned him by his Annual Conference, except in case of sickness or other unavoidable circumstances, shall be brought, by the Chairman of the district, or the Superintendent, before a committee of three ministers and three laymen, who shall have power to suspend him from all the functions of a Preacher, until the ensuing session of the Annual Conference, with whom the final determination of the case shall rest, and who shall have power to render the suspension final.

6. Any preacher against whom a charge is brought, shall be furnished by the person preferring the charge, or by the presiding officer of the tribunal to which he is judicially responsible, with a copy of the charges against him, at least ten days before the trial, unless all the parties agree upon an earlier time for trial.

7. An accused person shall be entitled to the assistance of such counsel as he may select from the members or ministers of our Church. Both the accused and accuser shall have the right of challenge for cause, the validity of which shall be determined by the presiding officer at the trial.

8. If a charge of immorality is brought against a traveling preacher in the interval of the Annual Conference, the chairman of the district shall call a committee of not less than three nor more than six traveling preachers, and an equal number of laymen, who were members of the last Annual Conference, who shall have power to suspend until the next session of the Annual Conference, with whom shall rest the decision of the case. But if the accused be a district chairman then three of the preachers of his district shall call in the chairman of an adjoining district, who shall call the accused before a committee as above provided, and preside.

9. Each Annual Conference shall have original jurisdiction over all the preachers belonging thereto, and shall have power to reprove, suspend, locate for inefficiency or want of use-

fulness, or expel, according to the nature of the case, and as righteousness may require. All cases brought before an Annual Conference, either by complaint or by appeal, may be referred to a committee of not less than four from each branch, who in the presence of the President of the Conference, either during its session or after its adjournment, shall try the case and decide upon its merits: and their decision shall have the same effect as that of the Annual or General Conference.

10. In all cases of trial and conviction of a traveling preacher, an appeal to the ensuing General Conference or Court of Appeals, as the appellant may choose, shall be allowed, if the condemned person signifies his intention to appeal, at the time of his condemnation, or at any time thereafter when he is informed thereof.

11. In all trials, the proceedings shall be taken down by a Secretary appointed by the court; and when an appeal is taken, the case shall be decided from the testimony as it appears upon the record.

12. After such forms of trial and expulsion, such persons shall have no privileges of soci-

ety or of sacraments in our Church, without contrition, confession, and satisfactory reformation.

SECTION III.

Of Insolvencies, and the Settlement of Disputes.

Ques. 1. How shall disputes between members of our Church concerning the payment of debts or otherwise be settled?

Ans 1. On any dispute between two or more of the members of our Church, concerning the payment of debts, or otherwise, which cannot be settled by the parties concerned, the preacher who has charge of the circuit shall inquire into the circumstances of the case; and shall recommend to the contending parties a reference, consisting of one arbiter chosen by the plaintiff, and another chosen by the defendant; which two arbiters so chosen shall nominate the third; the three arbiters being members of our Church.

But if one of these parties be dissatisfied with the judgment given, such party may apply to the ensuing Quarterly Conference for allowance to have a *second* arbitration appointed; and if the Quarterly Conference see sufficient reason, they shall grant a *second*

arbitration, in which case each party shall choose two arbiters, and the four arbiters shall choose a fifth, the judgment of the majority of whom shall be final; and any person refusing to abide by such judgment shall be excluded from the Church.

And if any member of our Church shall refuse, in case of debt or other disputes, to refer the matter to arbitration, when recommended by him who has charge of the circuit, or shall enter into a lawsuit with another member before these measures are taken, he shall be expelled, unless the case be of such a nature as to require or justify a process at law.

2. Whenever a complaint is made against any member of our Church for non-payment of debt, when the accounts are adjusted, and the amount ascertained, the preacher having the charge shall call the debtor before a committee of at least three, to show cause why he does not make payment. The committee shall determine what further time shall be granted him for payment, and what security shall be given for payment; and in case the debtor refuses to comply he shall be expelled; but in such case he may appeal to the Quarterly Conference, and their decision shall be final. And in case the creditor complains

that justice is not done him, he may lay his grievance before the Quarterly Conference, and their decision shall be final; and if the creditor refuse to comply he shall be expelled.

Ques. 2. What shall be done in case of insolvency on the part of any of our members?

Ans. 1. The preachers who have the oversight of circuits are required to execute all our rules fully and strenuously against all frauds and particularly against dishonest insolvencies; suffering none to remain in our Church, on any account, who are guilty of any fraud.

2. To prevent scandal, when any of our members shall fail in business, or contract debts which they are not able to pay, let two or three judicious members of the Church inspect the accounts, contracts, and circumstances of the case of the supposed delinquent; and if he has behaved dishonestly, or borrowed money without a probability of paying, let him be expelled.

CHAPTER VIII.

OF SUPPORT AND SUPPLIES.

SECTION I.

Of the allowance to the Ministers and Preachers, and to their Wives, Widows, and Children.

1 The annual allowance of the married traveling and superannuated preachers, shall be two hundred dollars and their traveling expenses.

2. The annual allowance of the unmarried traveling and superannuated preachers shall be one hundred dollars, and their traveling expenses.

3. Each child of a traveling preacher shall be allowed sixteen dollars annually to the age of seven years, and twenty-four dollars annually from the age of seven to fourteen years; and those preachers whose wives are dead shall be allowed for each child annually a sum sufficient to pay the board of such child or children during the above term of years; *Nevertheless*, this rule shall not apply to the children of preachers whose families are provided for by other means in their circuits respectively

4. The annual allowance of the widows of traveling and superannuated preachers, shall be one hundred dollars.

5. The orphans of traveling, superannuated, and worn out preachers, shall be allowed by the Annual Conference the same sums respectively which are allowed to the children of living preachers. And on the death of a preacher, leaving a child or children without so much of worldly goods as should be necessary to his, her, or their support, the Annual Conference of which he was a member shall raise, in such a manner as may be deemed best, a yearly sum for the subsistence and education of such orphan child or children, until he, she, or they, shall have arrived at fourteen years of age. The amount of which yearly sum shall be fixed by a committee of the Conference at each session in advance.

6. It shall be the duty of the committee appointed by the Official Board, who shall be members of our Church, to make, after consultation with the preacher, an estimate of the amount necessary to furnish fuel and table expenses for the family or families of preachers stationed with them, which estimate shall be subject to the action of the Official Board; and the Stewards shall provide, by

such means as they may devise to meet such expenses, in money or otherwise: *provided* the Stewards shall not appropriate moneys collected for the regular quarterly allowance of preachers to the payment of family expenses.

Let every class leader at the commencement of the year, ascertain how much each member of his class is able and willing to pay, *per week*, for the support of the preachers, and note the same in his class-book, and diligently see to it that the collections are made weekly, duly credited, and paid over to the Steward for the benefit of the preachers.

7. Let [the Stewards circulate among our friends, a subscription, payable quarterly, to supply the deficiency in the preacher's allowance; and if there be any surplus arising from the class collections and the quarterly subscriptions, it shall be appropriated for the support of missions, unless otherwise ordered by the Official Board.

SECTION II.

Of the Qualifications, Appointments, and Duties of the Stewards of Circuits.

Ques. 1. What are the qualifications necessary for Stewards?

Ans. Let them be men of solid piety, who

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SECTION II.

Of the Qualifications, Appointments, and Duties of the Stewards of Circuits.

Ques. 1. What are the qualifications necessary for Stewards?

Ans. Let them be men of solid piety, who

both know and love the Methodist doctrine and discipline, and of good natural and acquired abilities to transact the temporal business.

Ques. 2. How are Stewards to be appointed?

Ans. By the Society at their annual meeting.

Ques. 3 What are the duties of Stewards?

Ans. To take an exact account of all the money or other provisions collected for the support of preachers in the circuit, to make accurate returns of every expenditure of money, whether to the preachers, the sick, or the poor; to seek the needy and distressed in order to relieve and comfort them; to inform the preachers of any sick or disorderly persons; to tell the preachers what they think wrong in them; to attend the quarterly meetings of their circuit; to give advice, if asked, in planning the circuit; to attend committees for the application of money to Churches; to give counsel in matters of arbitration; provide elements for the Lord's supper; to write circular letters to the societies in the circuit to be more liberal if need be; as also to let them know, when occasion requires, the state of temporal concerns at the last quarterly meeting; to register the marriages and baptisms.

Ques. 4. What number of Stewards are necessary in each circuit?

Ans. Not less than three, nor more than nine, one of whom shall be the Recording Steward.

CHAPTER IX.

MISSIONS.

1. Each Annual Conference shall have the charge of all missions within its bounds. It shall have power to employ missionaries to labor within its bounds, who, with the concurrence of the president, shall be authorized to establish new societies, where the interests of the cause of God require.

2. Each class-leader shall appoint a missionary collector for his class, who shall collect at least a cent a week from each member of the class who is willing to contribute the same; and from any persons not members of our Church, who are willing to contribute to our missionary fund.

3. A public missionary collection shall also be taken up at each appointment on every circuit.

4. All money collected for general missionary purposes shall be forwarded to the General Missionary Board, and applied according to its direction.

CHAPTER X.

On Church Property.

1. Let no steps be taken involving pecuniary liability, in erecting houses of worship, parsonages, or purchasing church property of any kind; until two-thirds of the amount necessary to meet the estimated cost thereof is secured on good reliable subscriptions.

2. Let no houses of worship, parsonages, or other church buildings be erected on leased ground.

3. Let all our houses of worship, parsonages, or church property, be secured by Deed according to the form provided in our Discipline.

CHAPTER XI.

THE ORDER OF BAPTISM.

SECTION I.

Of Baptism.

1. Let every adult person, and the parents of every child to be baptized, have the choice either of immersion, sprinkling, or pouring.

2. We will on no account whatever make a charge for administering Baptism, or for burying the dead.

SECTION II.

The Ministration of Baptism to Infants.

[The minister coming to the font, which is to be filled with pure water, shall use the following:]

Dearly beloved, forasmuch as our Saviour, Christ, saith, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven; and as the holy apostle St. Peter, declares that, The promise is unto you and to your children, therefore *this child* has been brought hither that *he* may

be consecrated by this solemn ordinance to the service of *his* Creator, and that *he* may receive the sign and seal of the covenant of grace into which God is mercifully pleased to enter with all his children. But, inasmuch as all men are born in sin, and *this child*, like all others, has inherited a nature prone to evil, and will, if *he* survives, be exposed to many grievous temptations, by means of which *he* will, unless prevented by the grace of God, be led astray; and inasmuch as *these present* need heavenly wisdom and assistance to faithfully discharge their duty to *this child* that they may stand acquitted at the judgment day] I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his bounteous mercy he will grant unto *this child* evermore the fullness of grace, that *he* may grow up in the favor of God, and ever remain in the number of his faithful and elect children, and unto *these parents* the needed grace that they may properly discharge all the duties they owe to *this child* which God has given them.

[Then shall the minister say,]

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, the aid of all who need, the helper of all who flee to

thee for succor, the covenant keeping God, we thank thee that thou hast made it our privilege to dedicate our children to thy service, that they may live to thy glory, and *gain* everlasting life. We call upon thee for *this child* that *he* may be delivered from the power of sin and Satan, and sanctified by the power of the Holy Ghost, and enjoy the everlasting benediction of thy heavenly washing. We pray thee for these parents, that they may realize how great is the responsibility resting upon them, touching the proper training of those entrusted to their care; we beseech thee to grant unto them the aid of thy Holy Spirit, that both by precept and example they may so lead *this child* in the narrow way of life, that both *parent* and *child* may come to the everlasting kingdom, which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Then shall the people stand up; and the minister shall say:]

Hear the words of the Gospel written by St. Mark, in the tenth Chapter, at the thirteenth verse.

They brought young children to Christ, that he should touch them. And his disciples rebuked those that brought them; but when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and

said unto them, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he cannot enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

[Then shall the minister demand of the parents severally, as follows:]

Ques. Dost thou, in the presence of God, and of these witnesses, solemnly dedicate *this child* to the Lord, that *he* may live in his service all *his* days?

Ans. I do.

Ques. Dost thou, so far as thou canst, in *his* behalf, renounce the Devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that, in the training of this child thou wilt not follow nor be led by them; and so that, as far as in thee lies, thou wilt prevent *him* from following the same?

Ans. I will.

Ques. Dost thou believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Ans. I do.

Ques. Wilt thou out of the same, diligent-

ly teach this child the statutes and commandments of the Most High: and wilt thou train *him* up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Ans. I will.

Then the minister shall take the child into his hands and say to the friends of the child,

Name this child.

And then naming it after them, he shall sprinkle or pour water upon it, or if desired, immerse it in water, saying:

N. I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Then shall be said, all kneeling,

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven: give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

Then shall the minister conclude with extemporary prayer.

SECTION III.

The Ministration of Baptism to such as are of Riper Years.

Dearly Beloved, Since all men are by nature sinners, and have nothing in themselves by which they can be delivered from the guilt

and pollution of sin, and attain to that holiness without which no man can see the Lord, we invite you to join with us in fervent prayer for these persons, that they may have grace always to keep their covenant with God, and that they may continually enjoy the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Then shall the minister say,

Almighty and immortal God, the aid of all that need, the helper of all that flee to thee for succor, the life of them that believe, and the resurrection of the dead: we call upon thee for *these persons*; that *they*, coming to thy holy baptism, may receive the inward baptism of the Holy Ghost. Receive *them*, O Lord, as thou hast promised by thy well-beloved Son; saying, Ask, and ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; so give now unto us that ask; let us that seek, find; open the gate unto us that knock; that *these persons* may enjoy the everlasting benediction of thy heavenly washing, and may come to the eternal kingdom which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. *Amen*

[Then shall the people stand up, and the minister shall say,]

Hear the words of the Gospel written by St. John, in the third chapter.

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but thou canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

[Then the minister shall speak to the person to be baptized in this wise.]

Well Beloved, who *are* come hither, desiring to receive holy baptism, *ye* have heard how the congregation hath prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would vouchsafe to receive you, and bless you, to release you of your sins, to give you the kingdom of heaven, and everlasting life. And our Lord Jesus Christ hath promised, in his holy word, to grant all those things that we have prayed for: which promise he for his part will most surely keep and perform.

Wherefore, after this promise made by Christ *you* must also faithfully for *your* part, promise, in the presence of this whole congregation, that you will renounce the devil and all his works, and constantly believe

God's holy word, and obediently keep his commandments.

[Then shall the minister demand of each of the persons to be baptized, severally,]

Ques. Dost thou renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow or be led by them?

Ans. I renounce them all.

Ques. Dost thou believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth? and in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord? and that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary? that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; that he arose again on the third day; that he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and from thence shall come again, at the end of the world, to judge the quick and the dead?

And dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost, the communion of saints; the remission of sins; the resurrection of the body, and everlasting life after death?

Ans. All this I steadfastly believe.

Ques. Wilt thou be baptized in this faith?

Ans. This is my desire.

Ques. Wilt thou obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of thy life?

Ans. I will endeavor so to do, God being my helper.

Then shall the minister say :

O merciful God, grant that the old Adam in *these persons* may be so buried, that the new man may be raised up in *them*. *Amen.*

Grant that all carnal affections may die in *them*, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *them*. *Amen.*

Grant that *they* may have power and strength to have victory, and triumph against the devil, the world, and the flesh. *Amen.*

Grant that *they*, being here dedicated to thee by our office and ministry, may also be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlastingly rewarded through thy mercy, O, blessed Lord God, who dost live and govern all things, world without end. *Amen.*

Almighty, ever-living God, whose most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, died for the forgiveness of our sins; and gave commandment to his disciples that they should go

God's holy word, and obediently keep his commandments.

[Then shall the minister demand of each of the persons to be baptized, severally,]

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Almighty, ever-living God, whose most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, died for the forgiveness of our sins; and gave commandment to his disciples that they should go

teach all nations, and baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: regard, we beseech thee, the supplications of this congregation; and grant that the *persons* now to be baptized may receive the fulness of thy grace, and ever remain in the number of thy faithful and elect children, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Then shall the minister take by the right hand each person to be baptized: and placing him conveniently by the font, according to his discretion, shall ask the name; and then sprinkle or pour water upon him, (or if he shall desire it, shall immerse him in water,) saying:

N. I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer, all kneeling, concluding with extemporary prayer, and the benediction

CHAPTER XII.

THE LORD'S SUPPER.

SECTION I.

General Directions.

1. No person shall be admitted to the Lord's Supper among us who is guilty of any immoral or unchristian practice for which we would exclude a member of our Church.

2. All persons properly included in the general invitation may be allowed to partake of the Lord's Supper among us.

SECTION II.

The Order for the Administration of the Lord's Supper.

The elder shall say one or more of these sentences.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matt. v. 16.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but

lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. Matt. vi. 19, 20.

Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so unto them: for this is the law and the prophets. Matt. vii. 12.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Matt. vii. 21

Zaccheus stood, and said unto the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man, by false accusation, I restore him four-fold. Luke xix. 19.

He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. ix. 6, 7.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Gal. vi. 10.

Godliness with contentment is great gain; for we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 1 Tim. vi. 6, 7.

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be ready to distribute, willing to communicate, laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. 1 Timothy vi. 17, 19.

God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. Heb. vi. 10.

To do good, and to communicate, forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Heb. xiii. 16.

Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? 1. John iii. 17.

He that hath pity upon the poor, lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again. Prov. xix. 17.

Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. Psa. xli. 1.

While these sentences are being read, let a collection be taken up.

After which the elder shall say,

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your

sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort: and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

Then shall this general confession be made by the minister in the name of all those who are minded to receive the holy communion, both he and all the people kneeling humbly upon their knees, and saying:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Then shall the elder say,

O Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy great mercy hast promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto thee: have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Collect.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be opened, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Then shall the elder say,

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee, and saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God

of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. *Amen.*

Then shall the elder say,

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful souls and bodies may be made clean by his death, and washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

Then the elder shall say the prayer of consecration as follows,

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there by his oblation of himself once offered a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his pre-

cious death until his coming again; hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee, and grant that we, receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion,

may be partakers of His most blessed body and blood; who in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; (1) and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take; eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. Likewise after supper he took (2) the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this (3) is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many,

[1] Here the elder may take the plate of bread into his hand.

[2] Here he may take the cup in his hand.

[3] And here he may lay his hand upon all the vessels which contain the wine.

for the remission of sins; do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. *Amen.*

Then shall the minister first receive the communion in both kinds himself, and then proceed to deliver the same to the other ministers in like manner, [if any there be present,] and after that to the people also, in order, into their hands. And when he delivereth the bread he shall say,

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for *thee*, preserve *thy soul* and *body* unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for *thee*, and feed on him in *thy heart*, by faith, with thanksgiving.

And the minister that delivereth the cup shall say,

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for *thee*, preserve *thy soul* and *body* unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for *thee*, and be thankful.

If the consecrated bread or wine shall be all spent before all have communicated, the elder may consecrate more by repeating the prayer of consecration.

When all have communicated, the minister shall return to the Lord's table, and place upon it what remaineth of the consecrated elements, covering the same with a fair linen cloth.

Then shall the elder say the Lord's Prayer; the people repeating after him every petition.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name: thy kingdom come: thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven: give us this

day our daily bread ; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us ; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Concluding with this blessing,

May the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord ; and the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

N. B.—If the elder be straitened for time, he may omit any part of the service except the prayer of consecration.

CHAPTER XIII.

FORMS OF ORDINATION.

SECTION I.

The Form and Manner of Ordaining Elders.

When the day appointed for the ordination is come, there shall be a sermon or exhortation, declaring the duty and office of such as come to be admitted elders; how necessary that order is in the Church of Christ, and also how the people ought to esteem them in their office,

After which one of the elders shall present unto the president all them that are to be ordained, and say,

I present unto you these persons present to be ordained elders.

Then their names being read aloud, the president shall say unto the people,

Brethren, these are they whom we purpose, God willing, this day to ordain elders. For after due examination, we find not to the contrary, but that they are lawfully called to this function, and ministry, and that they are persons meet for the same. But if there be any of you who knoweth any impediment or crime in any of them, for which he ought not to be received into this holy ministry, let him come

forth in the name of God, and show what the crime or impediment is.

If any crime or impediment be objected, the president shall surcease from ordaining that person until such time as the party accused shall be found clear of the crime.

Then shall be said the collect, epistle, and gospel as followeth :

The Collect.

Almighty God, Giver of all good things, who by thy Holy Spirit hast appointed divers orders of ministers in thy Church ; mercifully behold these thy servants now called to the office of elders, and replenish them so with the truth of thy doctrine, and adorn them with innocency of life, that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve thee in this office, to the glory of thy name, and the edification of thy Church, through the mercies of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, world without end. *Amen.*

The Epistle. Eph. iv., 7-13.

Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts

unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

After this shall be read for the Gospel, part of the tenth chapter of St. John.

St. John x. 1-16.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will

flee from him, for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them, but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; by me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and go in and out and find pasture. The thief cometh not but for to steal and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is a hireling, and not the shepherd whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth, and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.

And that done, the president shall say unto them as here after followeth :

You have heard, brethren, as well in your private examination, as in the exhortation which was now made to you, and in the holy lessons taken out of the Gospel, and the writings of the apostles, of what dignity, and of how great importance this office is whereunto ye are called. And now again we exhort you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you have in remembrance, into how high a dignity and to how weighty an office ye are called ; that is to say, to be messengers, watch men, and stewards of the Lord, to teach and to premonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family, to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for his children that are in the midst of this evil world, that they may be saved through Christ forever.

Have always, therefore, printed in your remembrance, how great a treasure is committed to your charge. For they are the sheep of Christ, which he bought with his death, and for whom he shed his blood. The Church and congregation whom you must serve, is his spouse and his body. And if it shall happen, the same Church, or any member thereof, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your

negligence, ye know the greatness of the fault, and also the horrible punishment that will ensue. Wherefore, consider with yourselves the end of the ministry toward the children of God, toward the spouse and body of Christ; and see that you never cease your labor, your care and diligence, until you have done all that lieth in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all such as are or shall be committed to your charge, unto that agreement in the faith and knowledge of God, and to that ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there be no place left among you, either for error in religion, or for viciousness in life.

Forasmuch then, as your office is both of so great excellency, and of so great difficulty, ye see with how great care and study ye ought to apply yourselves, as well that ye may show yourselves dutiful and thankful unto that Lord who hath placed you in so high a dignity; as also to beware that neither you yourselves offend, nor be occasion that others offend. Howbeit ye cannot have a mind and will thereto of yourselves; for that will and ability is given of God alone; therefore ye ought, and have need to pray earnestly for his Holy Spirit. And seeing that ye cannot by any other means compass the doing of so weighty a work, per-

taining to the salvation of man, but with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with a life agreeable to the same; consider how studious ye ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures, and in framing the manners, both of yourselves and of them that specially pertain unto you, according to the rule of the same Scriptures: and for this self-same cause, how ye ought to forsake and set aside (as much as ye may) all worldly cares and studies.

We have good hope that you have all weighed and pondered these things with yourselves long before this time: and that you have clearly determined, by God's grace, to give yourselves wholly to this office, whereunto it hath pleased God to call you: so that as much as lieth in you, you will apply yourselves wholly to this one thing, and draw all your cares and studies this way, and that you will continually pray to God the Father, by the mediation of our only Saviour Jesus Christ, for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Ghost; that by daily reading and weighing of the Scriptures, ye may wax riper and stronger in your ministry; and that ye may so endeavor yourselves from time to time to sanctify the lives of you and yours, and to fashion them after the rule

and doctrine of Christ, that ye may be wholesome and godly examples, and patterns for the people to follow.

And now that this present congregation of Christ, here assembled, may also understand your minds and wills in these things, and that this your promise may the more move you to do your duties: ye shall answer plainly to these things which we, in the name of God and His Church, shall demand of you touching the same.

Do you think in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the order of elders?

Ans. I think so.

The President. Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrines required of necessity for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined out of the said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge, and to teach nothing as required of necessity to eternal salvation, but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the Scriptures?

Ans. I am so persuaded, and have so determined by God's grace.

The President. Will you then give your

faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrines and sacraments, and discipline of Christ, as the Lord hath commanded?

Ans. I will do so, by the help of the Lord.

The President. Will you be ready with all faithful diligence to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's word; and to use both public and private monitions and exhortations, as well to the sick as to the whole, within your charge, as need shall require, and occasion shall be given?

Ans. I will, the Lord being my helper.

The President. Will you be diligent in prayers, and in reading of the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh?

Ans. I will endeavor so to do, the Lord being my helper.

The President. Will you be diligent to frame and fashion yourselves, and your families, according to the doctrine of Christ; and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lieth, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?

Ans. I shall apply myself thereto, the Lord being my helper.

The President. Will you maintain and set forward, as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace, and love, among all Christian people, and especially among them that are or shall be committed to your charge?

Ans. I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

That done, the President shall pray in this wise, and say,

Let us pray.

Almighty God and heavenly Father, who of thine infinite love and goodness toward us, hast given to us thy only and most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ to be our Redeemer, and the author of everlasting life; who after he had made perfect our redemption by his death, and was ascended into heaven, sent abroad into the world his apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, by whose labor and ministry he gathered together a great flock in all parts of the world, to set forth the eternal praise of thy holy name; for these so great benefits of thy eternal goodness, and for that thou hast vouchsafed to call these thy servants here present to the same office and ministry appointed for the salvation of mankind, we render unto thee most hearty thanks; we

praise and worship thee; and we humbly beseech thee by the same, thy blessed Son, to grant unto all who either here or elsewhere call upon thy name, that we may continue to show ourselves thankful unto thee, for these, and all other thy benefits, and that we may daily increase and go forward in the knowledge and faith of thee and thy Son, by the Holy Spirit. So that as well by these thy ministers, as by them over whom they shall be appointed thy ministers, thy holy name may be for ever glorified, and thy blessed kingdom enlarged, through the same, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, world without end. *Amen.*

When this prayer is done, the president with the elders present shall lay their hands severally upon the head of every one that receiveth the order of elders; the receivers humbly kneeling upon their knees, and the president saying,

The Lord pour upon thee the Holy Ghost for the office and work of an elder in the Church of God now committed unto thee by the imposition of our hands. And be thou a faithful dispenser of the word of God, and of his holy sacraments; in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Then the president shall deliver to every one of them, kneeling, the Bible into his hands, saying,

Take thou authority to preach the word of God, and to administer the holy sacraments in the congregation.

Then the president shall say,

Most merciful Father, we beseech thee to send upon these thy servants thy heavenly blessings, that they may be clothed with righteousness and that thy word spoken by their mouths may have such success, that it may never be spoken in vain. Grant also that we may have grace to hear and receive, what they shall deliver out of thy most holy word, or agreeably to the same, as the means of our salvation; and that in all our words and deeds we may seek thy glory and the increase of thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Assist us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The peace of God which passeth all under

standing, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

SECTION II.

The Form and Manner of making Deacons.

When the day appointed for the ordination is come, there shall be a sermon of exhortation, declaring the duty and office of such as come to be admitted deacons.

After which one of the elders, shall present unto the president the persons to be ordained deacons, and their names being read aloud, the president shall say unto the people:

Brethren, if there be any of you who knoweth any impediment or crime in any of these persons presented to be ordained deacons, for the which he ought not to be admitted to that office, let him come forth in the name of God, and show what the crime or impediment is.

if any crime or impediment be objected, the president shall surcease from ordaining that person, until such time as the party accused shall be found clear of that crime.

Then shall be read the following collect and epistle.

The Collect.

Almighty God, who by thy divine Providence hast appointed divers orders of ministers in thy Church, and who didst inspire thy apostles to choose into the order of deacons thy first martyr, St. Stephen, with others; mercifully behold these thy servants, now called to the like office and administration; replenish them so with the truth of thy doctrine, and adorn them with innocency of life, that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve thee in this office, to the glory of thy name, and the edification of thy Church, through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost now and forever.
Amen.

The Epistle. I Tim. iii. 8-13.

Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers,

sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon well, purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Then shall the president examine every one of those, who are to be ordained, in the presence of the people, after this manner following :

Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you the office of the ministry in the Church of Christ, to serve God for the promoting of His glory and the edification of His people ?

Ans. I trust so.

The President. Do you unfeignedly believe all the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testament ?

Ans. I do believe them.

The President. Will you diligently read or expound the same unto the people whom you shall be appointed to serve ?

Ans. I will

The President. It appertaineth to the office of a deacon to assist the elder in divine service. And especially when he ministereth the holy communion, to help him in the distribution thereof, and to read and expound the

Holy Scriptures; to instruct the youth, and in the absence of the elder to baptize. And furthermore, it is his office to search for the sick, poor, and impotent, that they may be visited and relieved. Will you do this gladly and willingly?

Ans. I will do so by the help of God.

The President. Will you apply all your diligence to frame and fashion your own lives (and the lives of your families) according to the doctrine of Christ; and to make (both) yourselves (and them) as much as in you lieth, wholesome examples of the flock of Christ?

Ans. I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

The President. Will you reverently obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions?

Ans. I will endeavor so to do, the Lord being my helper.

Then the president, laying his hands severally upon the head of every one of them, shall say,

Take thou authority to execute the office of a deacon in the Church of God; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Then shall the president deliver to every one of them the Holy Bible, saying,

Take thou authority to read the Holy Scriptures in the Church of God, and to preach the same.

Then one of them appointed by the president shall read the Gospel.

Luke xii. 35-38.

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning, and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord, when he will return from the wedding, that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching. Verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

[Then shall the president proceed in the communion, and all that are ordained shall receive the holy communion.]

The communion ended, immediately before the benediction, shall be said the collects following:

Almighty God, Giver of all good things, who of thy great goodness hast vouchsafed

to accept and take these thy servants into the office of deacons of thy Church: make them, we beesech thee, O Lord, to be modest, humble, and constant in their ministration, and to have a ready will to observe all spiritual discipline; that they having always the testimony of a good conscience, and continuing ever stable and strong in thy Son Christ Jesus, may so well behave themselves in this inferior office, that they may be found worthy to be called into the higher ministries in thy Church, through the same, thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; to whom be glory and honor, world without end. *Amen.*

Assist us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

CHAPTER XIV.

THE FORM OF SOLEMNIZATION OF MATRIMONY.

At the day and time appointed for the solemnization of matrimony, the persons to be married standing together, the man on the right hand, and the woman on the left, the minister shall say:

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony; which is an honorable estate, instituted of God in the time of man's innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that is between Christ and his Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence, and first miracle that he wrought in Cana of Galilee, and is commended of St. Paul to be honorable among all men; and therefore is not by any to be taken in hand unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, and in the fear of God.

Into which holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. Therefore, if any can show any just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter forever hold his peace.

And also speaking unto the persons that are to be married, he shall say,

I require and charge you both (as you will answer at the dreadful day of judgment, when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed) that if either of you know any impediment why you may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, you do now confess it; for be ye well assured, that so many as are coupled together otherwise than God's word doth allow, are not joined together by God, neither is their matrimony lawful.

If no impedient be alleged, then shall the minister say unto the man,

M., Wilt thou have this woman to thy wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance, in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honor, and keep her, in sickness and in health: and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?

Then the man shall answer:

I will.

Then shall the minister say unto the woman.

N., Wilt thou have this man to thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordi-

nance, in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou obey him, serve him, love, honor, and keep him, in sickness and in health: and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

The woman shall answer:

I will.

Then shall the minister join their right hands together, and say:

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

Forasmuch as *M.*, and *N.*, have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God, and this company, and thereto have pledged their faith either to other, and have declared the same by joining of hands; I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

And the minister shall add this blessing:

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that ye may so live together in this life, that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. *Amen.*

Then let prayer be offered.

CHAPTER XV.

ORDER OF THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

The minister, meeting the corpse, and going before
it shall say,

I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die. John xi. 25, 26.

I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another. Job xix. 25-27.

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. 1 Tim. vi. 7; Job i. 21.

At the grave, while the corpse is being laid in the earth,
the minister shall say,

Man that is born of woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He

cometh up, and is cut down like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay.

In the midst of life we are in death: of whom may we seek for succor, but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased?

Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts: shut not thy merciful ears to our prayers, but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not at our last hour for any pains of death to fall from thee.

Then, while the earth shall be cast upon the body, the minister shall say,

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God, in his wise Providence, to take out of this world the soul of our deceased *brother*, we therefore commit *his* body to the ground: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; looking for the general Resurrection in the last day, and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ; at whose second coming in glorious majesty to judge

the world, the earth and the sea shall give up their dead; and the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in him shall be changed, and made like unto his own glorious body; according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.

Then shall be said:

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write: from henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord: even so, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

Then shall the minister say,

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

The Collect.

O merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life: in whom whosoever believeth shall live, though he die: and whosoever liveth and believeth in him shall not die eternally; We meekly beseech thee, O Father, to raise us

from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness, that when we shall depart this life we may rest in him ; and at the general resurrection on the last day, may be found acceptable in thy sight, and receive that blessing which thy well beloved Son shall then pronounce to all that love and fear thee, saying, Come ye blessed of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. Grant this, we beseech thee O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

CHAPTER XVI.

CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES.

1. *Genesee Conference.*—The Genesee Conference shall embrace that portion of the State of New York lying west of the Genesee River, including Rochester, Mount Morris, Groveland, Belmont, and Scio ; also that part of the State of Pennsylvania lying west of a

line drawn due south from the eastern border of Potter County.

2. *Illinois Conference*.—The Illinois Conference shall embrace the State of Illinois and the city of St. Louis, Mo.

3. *Wisconsin Conference*.—The Wisconsin Conference shall include the State of Wisconsin.

4. *Susquehanna Conference*.—The Susquehanna Conference shall embrace the Counties of Tioga, Lycoming, Sullivan and Bradford, in the State of Pennsylvania, all that part of the State of New York east of Genesee Conference, and north of a line beginning at Great Bend, in Pennsylvania, and running due north to the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad, thence east along said railroad to Oneonta, and thence due east to the State of Massachusetts; but not including the villages situated immediately upon that portion of the said Albany and Susquehanna Railroad.

5. *New York Conference*.—The New York Conference shall embrace all parts of the States of New York and Pennsylvania not included in the Genesee and Susquehanna Conferences, and all that territory lying due east.

6. *Michigan Conference.*—The Michigan Conference shall embrace the States of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

7. *Minnesota Conference.*—The Minnesota Conference shall embrace the State of Minnesota and that part of Iowa embracing the towns and villages on the McGregor and Sioux City Railway west from Algona to the west line of Palo Alto County; north to the State line and thence west.

8. *Iowa Conference.*—The Iowa Conference shall embrace all the State of Iowa except that portion now included in the Minnesota Conference.

9. *Kansas and Missouri Conference.*—The Kansas and Missouri Conference shall embrace the States of Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska, excepting the city of St. Louis and the appointments adjacent.

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For those who wish to join the Traveling Connection on probation.

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FIRST YEAR.

The Bible—Doctrines.

The Existence of God; the Attributes of God, namely, Unity, Spirituality, Eternity, Omnipotence Ubiquity, Omniscience, Immutability, Wisdom, Truth, Justice, Mercy, Love, Goodness, Holiness; The Trinity in Unity; the Deity of Christ; the Humanity of Christ; the Union of Deity and Humanity, Personality and Deity of the Holy Ghost; Depravity; Atonement; Repentance; Justification by Faith; Regeneration; Adoption; The Witness of the Spirit; Growth in Grace; Christian Perfection; Possibility of Final Apostacy; Immortality of the Soul; Resurrection of the Body; General Judgment; Rewards and Punishment.

First half of Ralston's Divinity; Binney, Wesley's Plain Account of Christian Perfection; Quackenbush's Rhetoric.

Composition.

Essay or Sermon.

[Read Wesley's Sermons; the Life of Wesley; Arthur's Tongue of Fire.]

*For Local Preachers who wish to be Ordained
Deacons,*

All first year's—except Rhetoric.

SECOND YEAR.

The Bible—Sacraments.

The Sacrament of Baptism—Its Nature, Design, Obligation, Subjects and Mode; The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper—Its Nature, Design and Obligation.

Wood's Perfect Love; Wayland's Moral Science; Ralston's Divinity; Angus' Hand Book of the Bible, first part.

Composition.

Essay or Sermon.

[Read Steven's History of Methodism.]

*For Local Preachers who wish to be Ordained
Elders.*

All second year's—except Angus' Hand Book.

THIRD YEAR.

The Bible—History and Chronology.

Candidates to be prepared upon the leading events in the Old and New Testament; Angus' Hand Book, second part.

Mosheim's Church History; Hedge's Logic.

Composition.

Essay or Sermon.

[Read Fletcher's Works.]

FOURTH YEAR.

Review of the whole course.

Butler's Analogy.

Burke's Bible and Modern Thought.

Composition.

Essay or Sermon.

[Daubigne's History of the Reformation;
Wayland's Intellectual Philosophy.]

I.—FORM FOR A BILL OF CHARGES.

1st. *Charge.* (Name the offense.)

2d. *Specification.* (Name the act, time and place.)

II.—CHARGE.

1st. *Specification.*

2d. *Specification.*

II.—FORM.

Order to be observed in conducting Church trials.

1. Devotional exercises.

2. Reading of the action of the Society

Meeting by which the Committee to try the case was appointed, and the names of the Committee.

3. The appointment of a Secretary.

4. Reading the Charges and Specifications by the Secretary.

5. Answer by the accused in person, or by counsel.

6. Statement of the case, and line of evidence by the prosecution.

7. Evidence for the prosecution, and cross-examination by the defense.

8. Statement of the case and line of defense, by the defense.

9. Evidence for the defense, and cross-examination by the prosecution.

10. Rebutting evidence for the prosecution.

11. Rebutting evidence for the defense.

12. Summing up of the case by the prosecution.

13. Summing up of the case by the defense.

14. In case it be deemed proper to allow the prosecution to reply, the defense shall also be permitted to reply.

15. The verdict.

INCORPORATION OF CHURCHES.*

To hold property, every individual church must have a legal incorporation. This must be accomplished according to the laws of the State in which the Church is located. In several of the States the law is essentially the same as in the State of New York. In New York, to incorporate, in law, a religious society, proceed as follows:

1. The preacher, or if there be none, a steward or class leader; or if there be none, a member of the church must publicly notify the congregation that a meeting of the members of full age of the church and congregation, will be held at such a time, in their usual place of worship, for the purpose of electing trustees of said church and congregation. This notice must be given for two successive Sabbaths, and the first time it is given must be at least fifteen days before the election.

2. At the time of election, two of the members of the church or congregation, to be nominated by a majority of the members present, shall preside at such election, receive the

*This section is added by B. T. Roberts on his own responsibility.

votes of the electors, and be the judges of the qualification of such electors.

3. Any number of trustees may be chosen, from three to nine.

4. Immediately after the election, these two members who presided at the election, must fill out, and sign and seal, the following certificate, and acknowledge the same before some officer authorized to take the acknowledgment of deeds, and then record it in the clerk's office of the county in which said church is located.

*Certificate of Incorporation of the Free
Methodist Church.*

We, the undersigned, two of the members of the church, hereafter mentioned, do hereby certify, that on the day of instant, the persons of full age, belonging to a church in which divine worship is celebrated, according to the rites of the Free Methodist Church, and not already incorporated, met at the place of public worship heretofore occupied by the said church in the town of , in said county, for the purpose of incorporating themselves, and did then and there elect, by plurality of voices, A. B., C. D., and E. F., [*not less than three, nor more than nine,*] as trustees of

the said church ; and that the said persons did then and there also determine by the plurality of voices, that the said trustees and their successors should forever hereafter be called and known by the name, or title, of "The Trustees of the

Witness our hands and seals, this day
of 18 .

Signed and sealed in the	}	
presence of		L. M. [L.S.]
S. T.		G. H. [L.S.]

FORM OF DEED.

THIS INDENTURE, Made this....day of....
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight
hundred and seventy....., BETWEEN.....of
the first part, and[Here insert names of
Trustees and name of the Corporation.]
Trustees in trust for the uses and purposes
hereafter mentioned, of the second part,....
WITNESSETH, That the said party of the
first part, in consideration of the sum of....
to....duly paid, ha... sold, and BY THESE
PRESENTS do....grant and convey to the
sa... party of the second part,....and their
successors in office, ALL THAT TRACT OR
PARCEL OF LAND situate in the....of....
[Here insert description of property conveyed.]
In trust for the use and benefit of the

members of the Free Methodist Church in the United States, and in further trust and confidence that in the House of Worship now erected or that may hereafter be erected on said premises hereby conveyed, the seats shall be forever free; and in further trust and confidence that the said Trustees and their successors in office shall permit at all times, the preachers who may be duly authorized according to the Discipline of said Free Methodist Church, to hold religious services in said House of Worship, according to said discipline. WITH THE APPURTENANCES, And all the estate, title and interest therein of the said party of the first part. And the said.... do.... hereby covenant and agree to and with the said party of the second part, and their successors, that the premises thus conveyed in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, and their successors in office, will forever WARRANT AND DEFEND against any person whomsoever lawfully claiming the same or any part thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The part.... of the first part ha.... hereunto set.... hand.... and seal.... the day and year first above written.

Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH.

DEARLY BELOVED: We think it expedient, to give you a brief account, of the rise of Methodism.

“In the year 1729, two young men in England, reading the Bible, saw they could not be saved without holiness; followed after it and invited others to do so. In 1737, they saw likewise, that men are justified before they are sanctified; but still holiness was their object. God thrust them out to raise a holy people.”*

The Free Methodist Church is a body of Christians who profess to be in earnest to get to Heaven. They do not believe that either God, or the Bible has changed to accomodate the fashionable tendencies of the age. They sol-

*These are Wesley's words.

emly protest against the union of the church and the world. The conditions of salvation, as they teach, are the same now that they were eighteen hundred years ago. He who would be a Christian in reality, as well as in name, must deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Jesus. He must come out from the world and be separate, and touch not the unclean thing.

1. In doctrine they are Methodists. They believe in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, in a general atonement, in the necessity of the new birth, in the witness of the Spirit, and in future rewards and punishments. They insist that it is the duty and privilege of every believer to be sanctified wholly, and to be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Every one who is received into full connection, either professes to enjoy that perfect love which casts out all fear, or promises diligently to seek until he obtains it.

2. They look upon practical godliness as the never-failing result of a genuine religious experience. By their fruits ye shall know them. Hence they insist that those who profess to be the disciples of Christ should come out from unbelievers and be separate, abstaining from connection with all secret societies, renouncing all vain pomp and glory, adorning themselves in modest apparel, and not in gold, or pearls, or costly array. We have no right to abolish any of the requirements made by Christ and the apostles; or to make obedience to them a matter of small consequence. The Golden Rule, they hold, applies equally to the colored as to the white race. The first Free Methodist Church ever organized was in St. Louis, a slave-holding city, and at a time when slave-holders were freely admitted to the churches generally. Yet they made non-slaveholding a test of membership, prohibiting, as they have

ever done, "the buying, selling, or holding a human being as a slave."

3. The government is not aristocratic, but the members have an equal voice with the ministers in all the councils of the Church. Both the Annual and the General Conferences are composed of as many lay delegates as ministers, who have an equal voice and vote in all the proceedings. The stationing committee, by whom the appointments are made, is composed of the chairmen of the districts, and an equal number of laymen chosen for that purpose. The official boards are selected by the societies, and not appointed by the preachers. Instead of Presiding elders, they have Chairmen of districts, who generally have circuits the same as the rest of the preachers. They have general superintendents, elected once in four years, whose duty it is to preside at the Annual Conferences, and travel through the connexion at large. The rights of

the members are carefully guarded.

4. They endeavor to promote spirituality and simplicity in worship. Congregational singing is universal, and performances upon musical instruments, and singing by choirs in public worship are prohibited. They believe in the Holy Ghost. If men are really converted and sanctified, it is through the Spirit of God. When He works there is a stir. As President Edwards says, "Eternal things are so great, and of such vast concern, that there is great absurdity in men's being but moderately moved and affected by them." Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. The Free Methodists, while they do not believe in any mere formal noise, yet when the Spirit comes like "a rushing mighty wind" as on the day of Pentecost, do not dare to oppose the manifestation of His presence. As Edwards says, "Whenever there is any considerable degree of the Spirit's influence upon a

mixed multitude, it will produce, some way or other, a great visible commotion." To resist his operations is to hinder the work of God.

5. They do not believe in resorting to worldly policy to sustain the Gospel. Christ has said, that whosoever giveth a cup of cold water in His name, shall in no wise lose his reward. But it is the motive, and not the amount done that secures the Divine approbation. There is no more virtue in giving to the cause of God, for carnal pleasure, than there is in any other purely selfish action. Hence they give no countenance to modern expedients for promoting Christianity, such as selling or renting pews, picnics, Christmas trees, festivals, lotteries, fairs, and donation parties. To say that the church cannot be sustained without these contrivances to beguile the world into its support, is to confess that professing Christians are "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." It is to

pronounce Christianity a failure. The Gospel possesses an inherent power that will not only sustain itself, but make its way through all opposition, wherever its advocates live up to its requirements, and rely upon its promises.

6. All their churches are required to be as free as the grace they preach. They believe that their mission is two-fold—to maintain the Bible standard of Christianity, and to preach the Gospel to the poor. Hence they require that all seats in their houses of worship should BE FREE. No pews can be rented or sold among them. The world will never become converted to Christ, so long as the Churches are conducted upon the exclusive system. It has always been contrary to the economy of the Christian Church, to build houses of worship with pews to rent. But the spirit of the world has encroached, by little and little, until, in many parts of the United States, not a single free

church can be found in any of the cities or larger villages. The pew system prevails among nearly all denominations. We are thoroughly convinced that this system is wrong in principle, and bad in tendency. It is a corruption of Christianity. *Free Churches are essential to reach the masses.* The provisions of the Gospel are for all. The "glad tidings" must be proclaimed to every individual of the human race. God sends the true light to illuminate and melt every heart. To civilized and savage, bond and free, black and white, the ignorant and the learned, is freely offered the great salvation.

But for whose benefit are special efforts to be put forth? Who must be particularly cared for? Jesus settles this question. "The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up," and, as if all this would be insufficient to satisfy John of the

validity of his claims, he adds, "and the poor have the gospel preached to them." This was the crowning proof that He was the One that should come. In this respect the Church must follow in the footsteps of Jesus. She must see to it that the gospel is preached to the poor. Thus, the duty of preaching the gospel to the poor, is enjoined by the plainest precepts and examples. If the gospel is to be preached to all, then it follows, as a necessary consequence, that all the arrangements for preaching the gospel should be so made as to secure this object. If it be said that seats would be freely given to those who are unable to pay for them, we answer, this does not meet the case. But few are willing, so long as they are able to appear at church, to be publicly treated as paupers.

You will find in this book the doctrines and form of government of the

Free Methodist Church, as adopted by the General Conference.

We do not wish any to subscribe to it unless they believe it will be for the glory of God and the good of their souls. We have no desire to get up simply a large church; but we do hope that our societies will be composed, *exclusively*, of those who are *in earnest to gain heaven*, and who *are determined, by the grace of God*, to live up to the requirements of the Bible.

It is of the greatest importance that those who come into this organization should be of one heart and one mind.

Oct. 1862.