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Introduction and Progress of Methodism in Southeastern Indiana

By ALLEN WILEY
(Continued)

No. XXI

1819-20.—As the conferences in the western country met in the summer and autumn, the conference year embraced parts of two calendar years, which I shall henceforth designate as I have done at the beginning of this number; and if I had those which are published to prepare for the press, I should do the same with them.

This year Walter Griffith was appointed to the Miami district, Ohio conference, and John P. Durbin to Greenville circuit, Arthur W. Elliott and Samuel Brown to White Water, Allen Wiley and Benjamin T. Crouch to Oxford, Benjamin Lawrence and Henry S. Fernandes to Lawrenceburg, Henry Baker and William H. Raper to Madison, Samuel Hamilton to the Indiana district, Missouri, conference, and Calvin W. Ruter and Job M. Baker to Silver Creek circuit, John Stewart and Joseph Pownal to Blue River, and John Shrader and John Everheart to Indian Creek.

Walter Griffith has been favorably introduced in a former number as an energetic, successful, and early traveling preacher on Enon, afterward Lawrenceburg circuit. He was now farther advanced in life, and his health on the decline,

so that he was not as popular on the district as he had been on circuits. He, however, passed reputably with the people when able to attend his work.

John P. Durbin (now Dr. Durbin, of the Philadelphia conference), had traveled a part of the preceding year, under the direction of a presiding elder, on a populous circuit in Kentucky. Being young (nineteen or twenty years old) and zealous, he preached in rather a boisterous manner, so that according to his statement to me at a subsequent period, he was broken down when he was admitted on trial. His appointment to the frontiers of Ohio and Indiana, where the country was new, the roads muddy, and the houses mostly cabins, would hardly seem to suit the views and feelings of one who had been reared in the best society in the heart of Kentucky; but he regarded the appointment as Providential, for he once said to me, it was among the best things Heaven ever did for him, to send him to that new, and then obscure region of country.

Owing to the sparseness of the settlements, his congregations were usually small, and they met in private houses, and these mostly cabins, where it would have been wholly incongruous to vociferate; in consequence of which he learned to preach in a familiar, conversational tone, to the great improvement of his health, and edification and delight of his people; for he was very popular and useful among them, and had much success in his labors; for the *Minutes* show that the circuit rose from one hundred and fifty-four to two hundred and eighty-six, being an increase of one hundred and thirty-two, so that the circuit was nearly doubled in its membership. In the course of the year, Durbin attended two of the quarterly meetings on Oxford circuit, where he preached with great acceptability and usefulness; for although he was but a boy, he had all the gravity and dignity of years; and in these things the youth would compare to very great advantage with the present D.D. At that time his reading and studies were almost exclusively theological, and he could not see the propriety of studying even the English grammar; and it was not until

sometime the next year that he was made to feel the need of such study.

The following circumstances was the means of changing his views on that subject. One night he delivered an exhortation of moderate length, and a brother observed to him afterward, that he had violated the rules of Grammar fourteen times in his exhortation the night before. Sometime after I saw him and he related to me the matter, and observed that while the brother was counting his violations of the rules of Grammar, the exhortation did not take hold of the brother's heart; and the consequence was a most intense application to the study of Grammar. May not all public speakers here learn an important lesson? While they suppose the hearers are listening to their performances, many minds are much occupied in thinking about their improprieties of language.

The White Water circuit had been left in a healthy state, and ripe for a general revival, so that the preachers had nothing to do but to commence their labors in a right spirit to insure a prosperous year. Elliott was then in the meridian of life, and full of zeal and energy. Those who know him, are aware that the God of nature has done more for him than for thousands of others. His person is portly, his features agreeable, his voice, though capable of filling a ten acre field, is harmonious and pleasant, his imagination brilliant, his feelings most ardent, and his annunciation flowing and easy; so that he is a natural orator, and most powerful preacher. Had he joined hands with his Maker, and given his mind that culture and discipline, of which it was at once capable, he might have been one of the first men in the western country, or indeed in any country. He has never read extensively, but from moderate reading, much hearing, and considerable thought, he has acquired quite a fund of varied knowledge, which he can use to much advantage; for he has no inactive capital, but uses all he has to the best purpose.

I introduced Brown in a former number as a talented preacher, who had made a favorable impression at a camp meeting four or five miles above Brookville, at the close of the

preceding year. These brethren began their work under advantageous circumstances, and success crowned their labor in almost all parts of the circuit.

The general government had made a large purchase of Indian territory in the interior of the state, which was not yet brought into market; but the people had commenced making settlements on it in many parts, particularly in what is now the eastern part of Rush county, and they began to call for preaching in what was then called the New Purchase. As early as the fall of 1817, or the spring of 1818, there was a considerable settlement formed on the small branches of what was called Little Flat Rock, near where Judge Gregg now lives. Among these settlers there was a local preacher by the name of James Montgomery who used to preach to the people and formed a society considerable for numbers; and at their request the writer visited them in the summer of 1818, and incorporated them with the circuit, and left them on the plan. The distance from White Water to this preach-place was ten or eleven miles, going and returning along the same trace. This, so far as I know was the first spread of Methodism west of Fayette county.

This year these people prospered under the labors of the preachers on the circuit, and perhaps branched into more than one society. The prosperity and pleasantness of this year had but one drawback. Elliott being only a probationer in the conference and Brown being an elder of some years' standing, he thought his dignity invaded by being a junior preacher under a probationer, so that the elder deemed it expedient to change him with the junior preacher on Lawrenceburg circuit. This little unpleasantness did not interrupt the work which went on most gloriously so that the circuit increased from eight hundred and seven to twelve hundred and six, being an increase of three hundred and ninety-nine. The last quarterly meeting on the circuit was a good camp meeting, which I had the privilege to attend, and enjoy the society of many friends, with whom I had labored the year before. The presiding elder was not present from some cause; I suppose sickness.

Wiley and Crouch began their work on Oxford circuit, at a camp meeting appointed the previous year. When Wiley arrived on the ground, he found his friend Bigelow superintending the meeting; but shortly after they met, Bigelow, in his good-natured way, said, I surrender the charge; but he labored faithfully, and counseled wisely. The meeting was medium in its usefulness and success. The preachers endeavored to begin their labors in the proper spirit and look for success; but they did not find a people possessing the same warm-heartedness and zeal as the people whom they had left on the White Water circuit; neither did they find so many and so efficient local preachers as they had been co-operating with the year before.

The indefatigable Bigelow had been two years on the circuit, and things had reached their zenith, and languor had begun to ensue, and many Church difficulties sprang up. One local preacher was expelled and another was silenced, who withdrew, and a considerable number of private members were disowned; so that the year was one of considerable sadness. This state of things being new to the preacher in charge, it had a most unhappy effect on his mind, by inducing feelings of discouragement, in consequence of which it became a very great cross to him to preach, particularly at popular meetings, so that he evaded preaching on such occasions whenever he could do so by any means; and usually he could prevail on his superiors in office to excuse him. This unpleasant state of feeling, and unfortunate course, lasted more than five years; so that he never will be the preacher that he might have been. Although the local preachers were not equal to the White Water circuit preachers in number, talents, zeal, and usefulness, there were some excellent and useful men among them. There was one by the name of Aaron Powers who had been as deeply and wickedly sunk in infidelity as ever Thomas Paine was. By some extraordinary interposition of Providence and grace, he was powerfully converted, and became a preacher of some talents, much zeal, and considerable usefulness. But, O, the instability of man! He is now a Mormon! From the time of his conversion he was somewhat of an enthu-

siast, and the creature of his feelings. He professed the blessing of perfect love, and strengthened the hearts of many; but we know there is no measure of grace in this life which men may not lose. I presume the Mormons have never been able to fleece him much, in the way of property, for he always knew how to take care of this. Early this year, James Conwell moved into the circuit. He had been recently licensed to preach, and was somewhat useful; but his astonishing influence and usefulness, which subsequently characterized him, had not then been greatly developed.

The preachers found a warm friend and wise counselor in Moses Crume, who was then superannuated, and living in Oxford. After a lapse of twenty-seven years, the writer, on looking over the unpleasant difficulties and painful events of that year, feels clear of having wronged anybody; but with his present knowledge and experience he thinks he might have prevented some of them and managed others to better advantage. With all the discouragements, the circuit improved some; for it rose from seven hundred and ten to seven hundred and eighty-one, being an increase of seventy-one.

The last quarterly meeting was a camp meeting, at which some good was done. The presiding elder was not present, but Elliott from White Water, and Durbin from Greenville were in attendance, and preached to good advantage, particularly Durbin, who preached twice on Sabbath. It was indiscreet, on my part, to put forward, so much, any man so young as he, but I had confidence in his humility and piety, or I would not have done so. Samuel West, from the Hamilton station, was present and preached with ability; and Lawrence, from the Lawrenceburg circuit, preached well. This year the writer had a valuable horse killed by the kick of another horse, which the people generously replaced by another of equal value, but ministerial support was very limited.

This was the second year that Lawrence was on the Lawrenceburg circuit; and although his want of variety was objectionable to the more intelligent congregations, his many excellencies made him still popular and useful in his charge. His colleague, Fernandes, was a young man, just received on

trial. He was a very small man in body; and at that time his mind was not much improved; and had it not been for the goodness of the man, he would have been a very scant pattern for a minister. His humility, modesty, piety, and fervor, gave him the hearts of the people, and the Lord blessed his labors, so that revivals commenced in several parts of the circuit by his instrumentality before he was removed to White Water circuit, where he was not quite so useful and successful as he was before his removal. He lived to improve in gifts and grace, so that he occupied a respectable grade in the Christian ministry. I would refer the reader to the interesting account of this brother in the *Western Christian Advocate* written by brother Finley. How Brown succeeded on Lawrenceburg, I know not. The country on the west ends of what are now Manchester and Wilmington circuits was rapidly filling up, so that the circuit enlarged toward the west. The circuit had a good share of prosperity; for it increased from five hundred and seventy-one to seven hundred and thirteen, being an increase of one hundred and forty-two.

The preachers on Madison circuit were industrious, persevering men, who greatly enlarged their field of labor. The circuit was extended westward, so as to embrace much of the territory now in Paris, Vernon, the whole of Canaan, Moorfield, Vevay, and perhaps a part of Versailles, and certainly part of Wilmington circuits. In looking over some old plans, I find the circuit contained thirty-five preaching places in the fall of 1820, when William M. P. Quinn and I went to it as the successors of Baker and Raper. Baker was a man of feeble constitution, so that the charge of such a circuit must have made its labors a heavy burden to him. Raper had just been received on trial, and was a man of vigorous health and fervent in spirit, and was able to bear the labor with more ease, as he had not the special care of all the societies. Baker was acceptable to the people, and Raper was very popular for a new beginner in the itinerant work, and even then he gave some indications of future eminence; but few, however, expected him to obtain the standing in the community which he has since attained. These brethren were

faithful to God and his cause, and they had success in winning souls, and in building up those already won. The circuit had an addition of one hundred and twenty-nine, for it grew from seven hundred and thirty-two to eight hundred and sixty-one.

The Ohio conference met this year in Cincinnati, early in August, and there were three of the superintendents present, M'Kendree, George, and Roberts, George being the regular president. The superintendents represented the Missouri conference as much in need of preachers. The conference then embraced most of Indiana, all of Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas. Volunteers were called for, when several consented to go; among whom was Samuel Hamilton, now again of the Ohio conference. Hamilton, for a man of his age, was popular and useful, and was deemed by the bishop presiding at the Missouri conference a suitable man to be placed on the Indiana district, which then embraced the whole of Indiana, except what was in the Ohio conference. Hamilton remained four years on the district, and was exceedingly popular in the Grant, and so remained until he was placed on the Charlestown circuit, a part of his former field. Many of the people were weak enough to expect him to preach as strong and popular sermons at their small week-day appointments as he had formerly preached at their crowded quarterly meetings, and to manifest as much zeal in serving a few as he had formerly done in serving many. Under such circumstances, it is not in the power of man to meet public expectation; and the consequence was, he fell off woefully in the estimation of his charge, and he had an unpleasant year. It is an unwise arrangement for any useful presiding elder, at the end of four years on a district, to be appointed to any field in its bounds, for he cannot meet public expectation.

Ruter and Baker, who were appointed to Silver Creek circuit, were both transferred from Ohio, and had just been admitted into full connection, and ordained deacons. Ruter was then a vigorous young man, and full of ardor in all his undertakings. Baker was also young and popular, and calculated to do good; but I have an impression on my mind that Baker

was removed from the circuit to fill a vacancy elsewhere. Ruter has frequently told me all about the matter, but my recollection is at fault on this subject. If Baker was removed, I think he remained awhile on the circuit.

The preachers commenced their work soon after conference, for they were single men, and could remove their all in their saddle-bags, and behind their saddles. They found a warm-hearted people, who received them kindly, and held up their hands in the work. There were also several useful local preachers, the most prominent of whom were James Garner, mentioned in a former number, and Cornelius Ruddle, who united with the traveling preachers to help on the good cause.

Sometime in the month of October, there was a camp meeting in what was called Jacob's settlement, near where a meeting-house now stands called New Chapel, a mile or two from the Ohio river, in the rear of Utica. In the beginning of the meeting the weather was very unpleasant, so much so, that some snow fell, and the people had to build large log fires, to keep themselves from suffering, and the prospects of the meeting were gloomy; but after a day or two, the atmosphere began to grow more bland, and the religious temperature was equally mollified, and the work of God went on most gloriously, and many souls were converted. The work thus happily begun lasted all all winter, and the revelations of the judgment alone can tell how much good was done. Quite a number of the converts became preachers, some local and some traveling, a few of whom have fallen in the work, some far from home and the place of their conversion.

From this revival the work spread almost all round the circuit; and when I went to that circuit, six years afterward, it was yet a delightful subject of conversation among the people, and they seemed to regard it as an important era in the history of Methodism in the Grant. This revival was a dear one to Ruter; for his soul became absorbed in it, that he labored almost night and day, far beyond the capabilities of his athletic body, and the consequence was that his noble constitution was wrecked to be repaired no more. It is true, he has seemed very well since and a stranger would have sup-

posed at sometimes that he was the most vigorous member of the Indiana conference, but this seeming vigor was deceptive; for at any time a little exposure and extra exertion would have prostrated him. At this time he stands among the superannuated members of the conference, and there is little hope that he will ever be able to go forth in the regular ranks of itinerancy, as it is feared he is the subject of an appalling and incurable disease. Sad must be the days of a broken-down traveling preacher, for though he may and ought to share in the sympathies and prayers of his brethren, the fact that he cannot go forth with them makes him weep. Well:

Earth has no sorrow, which Heaven cannot cure.

So great was the success this year, that the circuit rose from five hundred and sixty to nine hundred and twelve, being an increase of three hundred and fifty-two, which was the largest increase in any circuit, in proportion to the numbers in the beginning of the year, except Greenville; for although White Water increased forty-seven more than Silver Creek, it had nearly one-third more in the commencement of the year, so that the ratio of increase on White Water was not so great as that on Silver Creek.

John Stewart, the preacher in charge of Blue River circuit, was also a volunteer transfer from Ohio, of the same age in the ministry as Ruter and Baker. He traveled five years in Indiana as a member of the Missouri and Illinois conferences, and then returned to Ohio. He was a man of respectable talents and usefulness. He still continues in the work, and is now on the Kanawha district, Ohio conference; and, I trust, is doing much good.

Joseph Pownal has been introduced before as a good and useful preacher, but this year we part with him as a traveling preacher, for he located in the fall. He was received on trial in the fall of 1814, and traveled six years in different parts of the work, and then located. Whether he married before or after his location, I do not know; but when I became personally acquainted with him in the fall of 1826, he was a man of a family, and lived about four miles above Columbus, the

county town of Bartholomew county, Ia., where he owned mill property. He was a man of a kind heart, which I felt forcibly the first time I ever saw him. That year, conference met in Bloomington, and many of us had traveled all day through the hilly wilderness which then intervened between Bloomington and Columbus, with only here and there a house on our route. When we drew near brother Pownal's, brother Strange, who knew him, led the way. Never shall I forget the smiling countenance which indicated the gladness of heart with which he received us weary pilgrims, although there were enough of us to scare a parsimonious man. Two years afterward, when I was placed on the Madison district, Columbus circuit became a part of my charge, when my acquaintance became more intimate with brother Pownal, and lasted until near his death. It seems to me that I preached his funeral sermon, but if I did, my recollection of the fact is not vivid. He was a most amiable man, and very passable preacher, and while he traveled he was a strict and good disciplinarian. I think his death occurred in the summer of 1832, so that if he only began to preach a short time before he commenced traveling, he was a preacher eighteen years; one-third of which was spent in the itinerancy. He was a man of feeble constitution, and was not well able to do the work of a traveling preacher. Doubtless, he rests in peace.

The vicissitudes which marked the Blue River circuit that year, and what new fields were occupied, are unknown to the writer. He, however, finds on the *Minutes* an increase of eighty-three, being an enlargement from five hundred and six to five hundred and eighty-nine.

John Shrader was the preacher in charge on the Indian Creek circuit, and he had for his colleague Job Everheart, who had once been a member of the Baltimore conference, and had located. I suppose he was readmitted this year into the Missouri conference, and located at its close. I would say more in reference to him, but he will appear before us again in the White Water county. Shrader was zealous and successful, and Everheart was sometimes up and sometimes down, and consequently not calculated to do much good. How large

a scope of country round about Corydon was embraced in this circuit I do not know.

So limited is my information concerning Blue River and Indian Creek circuits, that I have been tempted, more than once to cross the Knobs no more; but I have still been hoping that some person on the ground would furnish me the necessary information, to give some interest to this region. Should I continue to write, I shall arrive at a period when I shall give more information from personal knowledge, obtained when I was stationed in New Albany. All my information concerning this circuit this year is derived from the *Minutes*. From this source of information, I learn there was a pretty good increase on the circuit, for it advanced from four hundred and eighty-six to six hundred and thirty-seven, being an addition of one hundred and fifty-one; which was doing well in a country that could not have been densely populated twenty-six years ago.

The reader will perceive that this was a year of considerable prosperity to the Church in the region which I am traveling over, for the whole increase on the eight circuits was fourteen hundred and fifty-nine. We, however, then had not the same difficulty to swell our numbers that we have now in this old part of the country; for most of the persons who were converted remained with us; but now the inviting country to the west and north induces so many to move, that we dismiss three or four by letter for every one that we receive in that way.

ALLEN WILEY.

Brookville, Ia., May 15, 1846.

P. S. Since the seventeenth number was published, Brother Caldwell, of the New Washington circuit, writes me that a Brother Andrew Mitchell informs him that in 1801, Bishop M'Kendree, then presiding elder on the Kentucky district, crossed the Ohio in a canoe near where Westport now is, and first formed the Gassaway or Salem meeting-house class, on the east side of Fourteen Mile creek; and that he went from thence to Prather's, near Utica, and formed an-

other class; and then continued on to Louisville, and formed another class, and then returned the same route to the place of starting, on the Kentucky side of the river. Mitchell's statement and Robinson's statement, to me, can be easily reconciled, by supposing the classes, organized by the Bishop, became in whole or in part dissolved, and were reorganized by the persons named in the seventeenth number.

A. W.

Western Christian Advocate, Cincinnati, Friday, June 5, 1846.

No. XXII

1820-21—Walter Griffith was continued on the Miami district and Benjamin Lawrence was appointed to Greenville circuit, James Jones to White Water, Samuel Baker and William H. Raper to Oxford, John P. Durbin and James Colford to Lawrenceburg, Allen Wiley and William M. P. Quinn to Madison, Samuel Hamilton was continued on the Indiana district, Missouri conference, and Calvin W. Ruter again sent to Charleston circuit, having William Cravens for his colleague, John Scripps and Samuel Glaze were sent to Blue River, and John Shrader to Corydon.

This year, I know but little about Greenville circuit, only I find it was supplied with that acceptable preacher, Benjamin Lawrence, who had an increase of fifty-four. James Jones, who had been for sometime a useful local preacher, had just been received on trial, and was sent alone to the large and important White Water circuit which was a matter of surprise to all of us who knew that field of labor; but we afterward learned that the plan was for the presiding elder to employ Augustus Jocelyn, a local preacher of much experience, (as he had formerly traveled a number of years) to take charge of the circuit. Jocelyn, after his location, became bewildered with Arianism, or some kindred error; in consequence of which, he lost his piety, and became separated from the Church. I have heard him say the commencement of his downfall was caused by volunteering to go to a very poor

circuit, to which the preacher appointed refused to go. Jocelyn having a heavy family, became so straitened in his temporalities, that he was necessitated to locate. He was two or three times united with and separated from the Church. His intellectual powers were of a very superior order. Indeed, I have my doubts whether I ever knew his equal in this respect; but with all his mental strength, he was a very child in his knowledge of men and the ways of the world, and had all the instability of a child. Sometimes I have said he was the weakest strong man, and the strongest weak man, that I ever knew.

He was a very able, and sometimes a powerful preacher. He was a good disciplinarian, and kept his circuit in excellent order. So far as I know, he was the first man on the circuit in the west who strictly observed the rule in receiving probationers into full membership. Formerly, when persons had been in society six months, if they were moral, and attended the means of grace, they were regarded as members in full standing as a matter of course. At the end of the year, he furnished his successor with a list of the probationers in every class, which list gave the time when each joined on trial. His successor, who was the writer, was pleased with his plan, and adopted it, and recommended it to others, and by degrees we have become more regular in receiving members into Church.

Jones labored hard and with considerable success, and how it was that there was a decrease of one hundred and thirty-seven under the labors of such men, I know not, unless the great ingathering of the preceding year reacted under the strict administration of Jocelyn. Near the close of the year, there was a camp meeting on the ground near Doddridge's meeting-house, which was attended with much power; for I think I have been told there were about one hundred conversions. Here it was that James Conwell's great revival powers began to be fully known.

Oxford circuit was well supplied, with Samuel Baker and William H. Raper as its preachers. Samuel Baker had been four years in the work, and filled two more charges after the

present year, and then died in great peace. His preaching talents were only medium, but his ministerial fidelity was great; and to the amount of his gifts great was his usefulness. In the first volume of the bound *Minutes*, page 474, the reader will find a short account of this worthy brother. He had been appointed to Milford circuit a few days before his death. Raper I have before mentioned as zealous and successful, and he increased in these things. These brethren were much united in spirit and labor the two years they traveled together, for the next year they were appointed together on the Miami circuit. A considerable amount of prosperity was realized this year on the circuit, for there was an increase of one hundred and sixty-four. In what parts of the circuit they had the most interesting revival, I am not informed. In Oxford and its vicinity there was a gracious work, when Nehemiah B. Griffith and John A. Baughman were converted.

Griffith labored as a traveling preacher for a number of years with uncommon zeal and success, and finished his course in the north of Indiana in the summer of 1834. Baughman is still traveling as a member of the Michigan conference, and has filled many important charges in the Church. He has always been popular and useful. The brethren in the town of Oxford commenced building a good brick church in the fall of 1818 or summer of 1819, but before the roof was on the wind blew down a part of the wall, which increased their expenses, so that they had hard struggling to complete it. The year I was on the circuit, we occupied it in partly an unfinished state; but this year, I presume, it was entirely finished, and its debts paid. This, and one or two log houses, were all that were then on the circuit; and I suppose for some years to come.

I refer the reader to the last number for some account of Durbin, who was now in charge of Lawrenceburg circuit. Collord, his colleague, had just been received on trial. He was a good, sensible man, but his voice was not well adapted to forcible preaching; he, however, passed acceptably with the people, for his good sense and piety were properly estimated by them. He traveled a few years and located, and

moved to the city of New York, with a view to follow his trade, which was printing. He obtained the place of head or principal printer in the Methodist Book Concern, which he has held for many years with honor to himself and profit to the Concern. Durbin and Collord had some success; but I find an increase of only twenty-two members on the circuit. Being on a contiguous circuit, Durbin and myself met often, as our rounds came near together, so that we formed an intimate acquaintance and a strong friendship. Durbin's people, as I personally know, loved him most ardently, and he served them faithfully.

In the spring of 1820, the General Conference had passed a rule constituting a local conference in each presiding elder's district, consisting of all the local preachers. The first conference for the Miami district was held in Lawrenceburg circuit, on the Second Bottom, about one mile from New Lawrenceburg, in August, 1821.

The conference was held at a camp meeting, superintended by Durbin. There were many preachers present, local and traveling; for the presiding elder had told all the preachers in charge of circuits to be present, to represent their local brethren before the conference. There was much good and popular preaching at the meeting. Dr. Ruter was in attendance, as he had been appointed secretary by the presiding elder, and he preached a very popular and impressive sermon; but the most impressive thing which I heard, was an exhortation delivered by Joel Havens, a plain and measurably illiterate man. The meeting had a good effect on the public mind.

Wiley and Quinn were early at their work, and commenced on a circuit with thirty-five appointments; but the action of the previous General Conference, and the presiding elder on the Indiana district lessened their labors. The General Conference had made the dividing line between the Ohio and Missouri conferences commence at the town of Madison and run due north, so that ten appointments on the Madison circuit fell in the bounds of the Missouri Conference. After

the preachers had gone two rounds, Hamilton, the presiding elder, sent old Father Garner to take those appointments, and extend the work north and west, so as to make an entire new circuit called Flat Rock, after the name of a water course which unites with Blue River a few miles above Columbus, the county town of Bartholomew county, Ia.

Blue River and Flat Rock, united, make the Driftwood Fork of White River. This Blue river is not the one after which the Blue River circuit, mentioned in these numbers, is named. The *Minutes* show that Garner reported, the next fall, a circuit of three hundred members. The many difficult streams of water, and the intervening flat and muddy land, must have made it a field of hard labor to a man of Garner's age to travel that very difficult winter; but he never thought of anything but perseverance in every good undertaking. I noticed him at some length in a former number, as a useful local preacher on the Grant, or I would say more now. The then Flat Rock circuit embraced the territory now included in Paris, Vernon, Columbus, Edinburg, and Milford circuits, and perhaps some more territory now in Shelbyville circuit.

The preachers on Madison circuit had rather an unpleasant year. The society in Madison was in a most unhappy state of contention; and some other societies were in a similar state. Quinn had recently married in Cincinnati, where his wife remained. She became sickly, and the consequence was some sixty or more disappointments, and finally he wholly retired from the work, some three months before conference. These disappointments were the more unfortunate, as Quinn was a talented and popular young man, of whom the people were very fond. His greatest lack was that of deep piety, which was very manifest in his public devotions; for although he could talk most fluently to men, there was hardly a member on the circuit who was not more gifted in prayer than he was. O, how hard it is for an undevout man to converse with God in prayer! The conference dropped him; and what has become of him, I know not. From the *Minutes* there

appears to be a decrease of one hundred and sixty-four; but most of these went with the ten appointments to Flat Rock circuit.

In the winter of this year, the writer took in Versailles, the county town of Ripley county, which had been organized only a few years; and he found a small and feeble class, which has continued, but with many ebbings and flowings. I believe there is now a pretty good society in the town, and a tolerably good brick meeting-house; but the religious influence is not what it ought to be. Near the close of the year, there was a good camp meeting in the vicinity of the present small village, after which Canaan circuit is named. The preacher in charge was able to preach some on Friday, which was his last for near three months, and he had been taken with the fever the Monday previous which lasted, in all, about three months, with occasional intermission in which he traveled hundreds of miles. Sometimes he would ride alone much exhausted. The presiding elder attended this meeting but was unable to preach, and had not been able to attend the two preceding quarterly meetings. This year closed his itinerant life; for he was superannuated at conference, and died the next summer at Xenia, Ohio. On page 400 of the bound *Minutes*, volume first, the reader will find some account of him. The reader must be aware that Wiley had a pretty hard time on a heavy four-weeks' circuit, without a presiding elder or colleague most of the time.

Samuel Hamilton still remained popular and useful on the Indiana district, to which he was appointed the second year.

Calvin W. Ruter was returned to the Charlestown circuit, as it was now called, in rather feeble health, in consequence of the excessive labors of the preceding year, and the Church, after such a glorious revival, requiring much labor and care to sustain the work.

This year, William Cravens, from Virginia, who had been a local preacher of long standing, and of much notoriety, was received on trial by the Missouri conference, and placed on the circuit with Ruter. Cravens was a man of respectable talents, and possessed a world of wit, and good common sense

and was one of the most undaunted men that ever lived. He abhorred sin of all sorts with a perfect abhorrence, but more particularly the sins of drunkenness and negro slavery. Against these he declaimed with a zeal which made the wicked quail before him, even in the aristocratic parts of Virginia. It was natural to suppose that when he came to a free state, he would cease his declamations against the sin of slavery; but no. Some had their slaves hired out in slave states, and were yearly drawing their wages. These were made to feel agony under his withering rebukes. Many more had sold their slaves, and had come to Indiana and had purchased homes for themselves and children with the price of their slaves, and were now zealous declaimers against slavery. These were denounced by him as blood-stained hypocrites, who were worse than the actual slaveholder, who was now holding slaves, and treating them kindly. He seldom preached a sermon without making all who made, sold, or drank ardent spirits feel uneasy. Ruter labored as well as he could, and Cravens was ardent and powerful; but with all their toil, they had only thirty-three of an increase; but doubtless many of those who had joined the preceding year were converted and greatly improved in their religious knowledge and experience.

John Scripps, who was appointed to the Blue River circuit, was an Englishman by birth who by close application, acquired a considerable fund of useful knowledge, which he used in the cause of his Master for many years. His travels were extensive in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas. He was several times secretary of his conference, and was sometimes in circuits, and sometimes in the station and district work. He has been many years a superannuated preacher of the Missouri conference, and lives in Illinois, unless he has recently died. His talents and usefulness were considerable.

Samuel Glaze, the colleague of Scripps, was admitted into full connection in the Ohio conference in the summer of 1818, and transferred to the Missouri conference. He traveled until the fall of 1823, when he was superannuated and died in 1824. He was a good man, somewhat useful. At the conference after

his death, Bishop Roberts preached his funeral sermon at the request of the conference, and was then asked for a copy of the sermon for publication; but I suppose the copy was never furnished. There is a short account of this brother in the first volume of the bound *Minutes*, page 474. The circuit had some prosperity; for I find an increase of one hundred and three.

The name of Indian Creek circuit was superseded this year by that of Corydon, which remains to this day; but the circuit is much curtailed, for there have been detached from it, New Albany, now containing two stations, Greenville, Elizabeth, and Fredericksburg circuits. John Shrader, who was the preacher, was quite a popular and successful preacher. He had been admitted on trial by the Tennessee conference in the fall of 1813, and continued faithful in the work until the fall of 1821, when he located, and settled in the lower part of Indiana, commonly called the Pocket, from its shape, between the Ohio and the Wabash rivers. He still lives there, and is yet a very popular and useful local preacher. The only time I ever saw him was in the summer of 1818, when he went to Cincinnati, to pilot Bishop M'Kendree to the Missouri conference, which met at Mt. Zion meeting-house, at or near the Forks of White river, in Indiana. His circuit had some prosperity this year; for the *Minutes* report seventy-five of an increase.

When we come to sum up the doings of this year, we find it was not so prosperous as the former year, for on some of the circuits there was a decrease, and on all the nine circuits noticed there was only an increase of four hundred and fifty; yet the work was continually spreading into the new settlements, which were rapidly forming in different parts of the state.

ALLEN WILEY

Brookville, Ia., May 21, 1846.

Western Christian Advocate, Cincinnati, Friday, June 19, 1846.

No. XXIII

1821-22—This year Alexander Cummins was on the Miami district, James Collord on the Greenville circuit, Allen Wiley and James T. Wells on White Water, Moses Crume and Richard Brandriff on Oxford, Henry Baker on Lawrenceburg, James Jones and James Murry on Madison, Samuel Hamilton on the Indiana district, James Armstrong on Charleston circuit, George R. Hester on Flat Rock, John Wallace and Joseph Kinkaid on Blue River, and Job M. Baker on Corydon.

Alexander Cummins, the presiding elder on the Miami district, was a lovely man and a good minister. He was a very calm and self-possessed man, who managed the affairs of the Church with deliberation and prudence. He fell on evil times, when the Radical controversy was convulsing the Church, in some measure, from the center to the circumference of the land; but finally did her little or no harm. With all his mildness, he was drawn into painful collision with some of his former most warm and devoted friends; but although he had a mind and heart to appreciate and love a friend, he loved the Church of God better, and continued firm in his opposition to all the mischievous innovations which many desired to introduce in her government. He was at this time in feeble health, but continued to render all the service which his enfeebled constitution would permit.

James Collord, who was on Greenville circuit, was noticed in the last year's account of Lawrenceburg circuit. He was a faithful, good man, and had considerable success in his charge, for he had an increase of eighty members, which was doing well on a circuit which was still a wilderness compared with many other parts of the work; for Preble county, Ohio, and Randolph county, Ia., were not then densely populated.

When Wiley and Wells came to White Water circuit, it was a very large one; but there were two new arrangements made by the presiding elder, which much curtailed it. The first was to make Brookville a station, at the request of the people, and place in it Augustus Jocelyn, who had been employed by the elder to travel with Baker on Lawrenceburg

circuit. Jocelyn now entered on his work with much zeal and some effect among the people, among whom his talents gave him much influence. By laboring much with his own hands, and influencing others, the meeting-house, which had been reared and inclosed a year or two before, was finished, which was the first Methodist meeting-house built of brick in the White Water valley.

I have before mentioned that the New Purchase west of the White Water circuit was now in rapid progress of settlement, and many new places wanted preaching, which it was impossible to supply, and do the regular work on the circuit; hence the presiding elder, after consultation with the writer, concluded to send Wells to hunt up all the new places which he could find, and connect them with the nine appointments west of White Water, and form a new circuit to be called Connersville. After Wells had accomplished this work of formation, he returned to the old circuit, and Cummins employed John Havens, a local preacher, to travel the new circuit; and such was the increase of the work, that it became expedient to employ another preacher before conference. The preacher employed was David J. Cos, a local preacher in Oxford circuit. Cos was a man of good mind, and superior acquirements, but he was a very tame preacher, and never passed with the people for his real worth. He will come before us again, or I would say more now. Wiley and Wells continued to labor as well as circumstances would permit. Wells was a man of more than ordinary mind, and his acquirements were considerable; but such were his peculiarities, that he was rather an encumbrance than a benefit to any circuit which he traveled. This statement would be corroborated by every presiding elder and colleague with whom he was associated. Had he been a man with a bad heart, and immoral life, we could soon have disposed of him; but he was one of the most conscientious and prayerful men whom I have ever been acquainted. He continued to travel until the summer of 1825, when he located. The last I knew of him, he was traveling extensively in Indiana as a temperance agent and lecturer. What has become of him since he has ceased

to be agent, I know not. He was then the same talented, sincere, but singular man, that he was when I was intimate with him.

This year, the second local conference was held on the White Water circuit, at a camp meeting contiguous to Doddridge's meeting-house, named in a former number. There were many preachers present many of whom were men of superior talents; for the district extended from the Little Miami to the western wilds of Indiana, and down the Ohio to Madison. Very many of the men who were then prominent are gone the way of all the earth; but some of them still continue to bless the rising generation. The camp meeting, at which the conference met, was a good one, and there was a number of accessions to the Church, several of whom, however, were not found by my successor; and the consequence was that ever after I refused to report the numbers that joined at camp meeting at the close of the year. This course, I think, has now become the general practice; but the general practice formerly was, to report all such in taking the numbers. It is strange that we did not always see that none should be numbered but such as had their names on the class papers, and I should add, on the Church books; but we then had no Church books and we have too few now, although the Indiana conference has taken action on the subject, and resolved that all the preachers should make Church registers.

This was a year of considerable falling off, yet the *Minutes* report twelve hundred and thirty-one, being an increase of one hundred and sixty-two; but it should be remembered that the numbers for the new circuit were included in the number for White Water circuit, as Connersville circuit was not then known on the *Minutes*. In giving an account of the new circuit, I might have noticed that there was a good camp meeting on it near the close of the year.

That the preachers of the present day may know how we used to fare, I will make a statement of a few facts. I then had a wife and seven children, and my entire receipts for house rent, fuel, table expenses, and quarterage, amounted

this year to seventy-six dollars. Then there were no estimates for house rent, etc., and quarterage for children; so that if there were a married and single preacher on the circuit, the collections were divided into three parts, and the married man received two parts and the single man one; or if one preacher had ten children and the other none, they both shared equal when they were both married men.

Crume, who was in charge of Oxford circuit, has been portrayed at some length, so that I need add no more here. Richard Brandriff had just been admitted, and was a modest, lovely youth, who traveled usefully a number of years, and was many more years on the superannuated list, and so remained until the fall of 1843, when he withdrew from the Church; and the last I heard of poor Richard, he was in what is very improperly called, the "True Wesleyan Church," the organization effected by Scott, Lee and others, who erroneously supposed the Methodist Episcopal Church to be pro-slavery. Oxford circuit, this year, had a decrease of seventy-seven.

After the presiding elder took Jocelyn away from Lawrenceburg circuit, Baker was alone; but I think James Murry was removed some time in the year from Madison circuit to help Baker, and Joel Havens mentioned before, employed to help Jones. How well the people on Lawrenceburg circuit liked their preachers, and the preachers the people, I do not know. From the *Minutes* there appears to have been a decrease of twenty-two on the circuit. Brother Baker was then in feeble health, and unable to labor with much vigor.

Somewhere about this time the present Methodist meeting-house was built in Lawrenceburg, and was then thought to be a spacious house for the size of the town, and the state of society in it. That house has long been inadequate to the wants of the community, and all strangers, especially strange ministers, feel disappointed when they see and contrast the size and appearance of the house with the size of the town, and wealth of citizens. This disappointment, however, is not to last longer; for if Providence favors our people in that charge, we shall soon have a house which will do honor to

the Church and the town. The house is to be on High street, in a central part of the town, and it is estimated that the ground and house will cost nine thousand dollars, or more, and will meet the wants of the population for some years to come.

Jones now entered on his second year's itinerancy, and he did so with much zeal and success. His colleague was a young man of moderate talents, who had been two years in the work. When he had traveled two years, his friends had much difficulty to obtain his reception, and must have failed, if his success in the introduction of Methodism into a town where many talented men had failed had not enlisted James B. Finley in his favor. Finley used his utmost exertion, and succeeded in his reception; but he could not secure his election to deacons' orders.

Murry was a sincere man, and was to some extent useful; but his want of talents was an incubus on him. The preachers labored in earnest, and the work prospered in their hands, and many souls were added to the Church. If Murry was sent to Lawrenceburg, which I think was the case, Joel Havens traveled with Jones. I once heard Cummins say he would rather have Havens as a colleague for three months, than any man whom he knew.

Near the close of the year, there was a camp meeting on the hill about two miles from Madison, which was attended by several strange preachers. I preached the funeral sermon of James Kile, who died near Madison. Cravens and Kile had been neighbors in Virginia; and the preacher said he had known his friend long and well, and he had never known a charge brought against him in the Church but once, and that was for praying for blood-suckers and negro thieves; "but," said the preacher, "he was honorably acquitted, and permitted to pray on, thank God." Bishop Roberts also attended this meeting, if I am not misinformed, and preached with great acceptability. One sermon in particular, preached from the words of Abraham to the rich man, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets," etc., is yet a subject of interest-

ing conversation with the old members and citizens. The increase on the circuit was two hundred and twenty-six which was doing well.

Samuel Hamilton still remained the acceptable presiding elder on the Indiana district, Missouri conference. James Armstrong, the preacher on Charlestown circuit, had just been received on trial by the Missouri conference, and had been a number of years an uncommonly popular and successful local preacher in Philadelphia and Baltimore, and contiguous regions. He had been a kind of an itinerant local preacher, who had given himself much to the work, particularly at popular meetings. He was among the most untiring and energetic men I ever knew. In the course of these numbers, I shall furnish for republication, an article which I wrote concerning him some years ago, or prepare a new article, or I would say more concerning him in this place. Whether he had a colleague or not, I cannot say; but I presume some one was employed to travel with him, as the circuit was a heavy one. The ingathering on the circuit this year was very great for the circuit rose from nine hundred and 'forty-five to twelve hundred and fifty-eight, being an increase of three hundred and thirteen. This ingathering was on almost all parts of the circuit, and consisted of all classes and ages of the community. Many of the present worthy members in Clarke's Grant were the fruits of this ingathering; but there was a painful reaction in which many were lost from the Church.

George K. Hester, the preacher on Flat Rock circuit, had lived many years near Charlestown, Clarke county, Ia., and entered the work in the fall of 1820, and was placed on Mt. Sterling circuit. The metes and bounds of the circuit are now unknown, as the name has been long since lost. Hester was a young man of a good mind, but so very bashful that he could not tell his name without a deep blush; and in this thing, he has not improved very much. I presume no human being on earth, or angel in heaven, knows how much of real agony he has suffered in the course of his life from this diffidence. With all his timidity, however, he pursued the

course of duty, and the Lord owned and blessed his labors; for he had an increase of seventy on his new, muddy, inconvenient circuit. I have before mentioned the inconveniency of traveling this circuit, from the multitude of water courses in which it abounds; and then there were no bridges or ferries.

I never had any acquaintance, either personal or from information, with John Wallace, the preacher in charge of Blue River circuit, except what is found in the *Minutes*. In the first volume of the bound *Minutes*, page 424, the reader will find an interesting account of this good brother. From this account we learn that his appointment to the Blue River circuit was his last; for he died in August of this year. There is a mistake in placing his location in the Forks of White Water river, instead of White river. From this account we also learn that the circuit extended to the East Fork of White river; for he was taken sick at Brownstown, the county town of Jackson county, Ia.

This must have been a large circuit; for three years afterwards the name was lost in names of Salem and Paoli circuits. What was the increase or decrease, we cannot learn; for the *Minutes* give the number of the former year, which is usual when there is no return to conference, which, I suppose, was the case this year, as Wallace died just before conference.

In a former number I made some mention of Joseph Kinkaid, but could not then tell where he commenced his course, and graduated to elders' orders; but since I have found that he was received on trial in the year 1809 by the Genesee conference, in the bounds of which he traveled a number of years, and was then transferred to Zanesville, Ohio, and from thence to Silver Creek, Ia. I refer the reader to a former number for a more full account of this brother, who has been dead many years.

Job M. Baker, although a good preacher, seems to have been unsuccessful this year on Corydon circuit, as there was a decrease of seventy-two. From the fact that he was made supernumerary at the close of the year, I infer that his health now began to decline, and he was not able to attend to his

work regularly, and the consequence was a falling off of the membership, which is generally the case under such circumstances. We shall now part with this brother, as he received but one more appointment, and that was on Vincennes circuit, which is out of my proposed bounds.

Baker was a talented and popular preacher. After his location he studied medicine, and moved to some place in the Mississippi country. The last I heard of him was in Cincinnati, where he attended medical lectures some years ago, and was popular as a local preacher, if my information be correct. This year was one of only medium prosperity, as the whole increase on the ten circuits was only six hundred, which, however, was better than the preceding year.

ALLEN WILEY

Brookville, Ia., May 21, 1846.

P. S. My prescribed limits will not permit me to travel far west; but I may say, in a few words, that there was a new circuit constituted this year in the center of the state, called Indianapolis, to which William Cravens was sent. He had success in his new field, and much good was done, especially in the new metropolis of Indiana. If some person on the ground will take the trouble, there may be gathered up some interesting events; but a little delay will soon cover the whole in perpetual oblivion. The widow Given, and James Scott, the successor of Brother Cravens, could give valuable information. Brother Henry Porter could have given interesting facts, but he is gone, and his information with him.

A. W.

Western Christian Advocate, Cincinnati, Friday, June 26, 1846.

No. XXIV

1822-23—The Miami and Indiana districts and the circuits in their bounds, about which I write, were supplied as follows: Miami district, Alexander Cummins; Greenville circuit, Richard Brandriff and Moses Crume, supernumerary;

White Water, Russel Bigelow and George Gatch; Connersville, James Murry and James C. Taylor; Oxford, James Jones and Levi White; Lawrenceburg, William H. Raper; Madison, John Stewart and Nehemiah B. Griffith; Indiana district, Samuel Hamilton; Charleston circuit, James Armstrong; Flat Rock, Dennis Willey; Blue River, William M'Reynolds and George K. Hester; Corydon, James L. Thompson; Indiaapolis, James Scott.

This year, the health of Cummins continued feeble; but he attended his work until the last quarterly meeting for Miami circuit, which was held August 22d and 23d, at Mechanicsburg, now West Chester, where the writer then lived in the parsonage. Cummins preached on Saturday from Romans, i, 16, and held quarterly conference, which closed his ministerial life; for in the afternoon he was taken with a chill and fever, which proved to be his last sickness. He remained a few days at the parsonage, where the writer and his family esteemed it a privilege to wait on the good man; but he was anxious to go to his residence in Cincinnati, where he could have the attendance of his family physician, and others of superior skill. Old Brother Legg and myself made a kind of hammock in a wagon; and in this manner conveyed him home, where he lay until the 27th of September, when he died in peace.

The first sermon which Brother Bigelow preached in the Cincinnati station, to which he was appointed that year, was the funeral sermon of his former colleague and friend to whom he was much attached. At the time of his death, he was on the superannuated list, where he had been placed a few days before his lamented death.

Cummins was a tall, slender man, with a long neck, and he was very narrow across the shoulders, so that he could speak with much ease; and when young, and in health, very loud, and still with a pleasant and energetic voice. I have heard him say that in his prime if the people would be still and silent, he had no difficulty in making them hear him distinctly a quarter of a mile. Notwithstanding he seemed to speak with great ease, such a volume of voice as he used was

more than his slender frame could endure; and in a few years he had to be placed on the supernumerary list, but he did not remain long there; for when his health had recruited some, he undertook the full work again. This brother had a well balanced and well informed mind; and had his health and life been spared, he would have stood, at this day, among the very first men in the land; but a wise God removed him from the field of action and usefulness in the meridian of life. Why this was done, we do not know; but infinite wisdom saw what was best for him, and took him from all danger and sorrow. The reader will find in the first volume of the *Minutes*, page 474, some account of this good man, with a reference to the *Methodist Magazine*, Vol. VII, page 166, for a more full account. Had my work not grown on my hands far beyond my expectation, I would have enlarged this brief notice of so much excellency. Great was the success of this preacher in his days of health and strength.

Brandriff and Crume had not much success on Greenville in the way of ingathering, but it is presumable that the circuit was much improved in knowledge and stability. Crume's relation did not require full work, and I presume he did not labor much, as his health was on the decline, and he was superannuated in the fall, and he never filled another appointment; but he lived many years, and was useful in a limited way.

Bigelow, I have before named as a superior and powerful preacher; but as I wish to give an account of him somewhat in detail, I shall say nothing of importance about him now, only that he labored with his untiring energy, but not with his usual success.

George Gatch, his colleague, was the son of Philip Gatch, who was a traveling preacher as early as 1774, when the second Methodist conference was held in America. He traveled four years, and then located; but locations are not mentioned on the *Minutes* until the next year. At an early day Philip Gatch moved to the western country and settled on the Little Miami, contiguous to where the present town of Milford stands. Few men have been more respected for so long a

time as was he, and he did much good as a local preacher. The Ohio conference made him a superannuated member of its body several years before his death, and the reader may find an interesting account of him in the second volume of the bound *Minutes*, page 403. He lived to be nearly eighty-five years old.

George Gatch traveled eight years, and then located; and where he lives and how he is prospering as a local preacher, I do not know. When he traveled with Bigelow, he was not as splendid as some preachers, but was a young man of good mind, whose sermons had more of solid matter than of show. With all the labor of these brothers, the *Minutes* show a decrease of four hundred and five, but there was not that decrease, for the numbers for Connersville circuit were included in the White Water return the year before. I find the numbers for Connersville to be three hundred and fifty-eight, which are to be deducted from the White Water decrease, which will reduce it to forty-seven; and if there was a decrease on Connersville, which I deem probable, there was very little if any decrease in Bigelow's charge.

James Murry, the preacher in charge of Connersville circuit, has been before mentioned in connection with Madison and Lawrenceburg circuits. James C. Taylor, his colleague, had just been admitted on trial, and continued to travel about ten years, when I miss his name from the *Minutes* of the Ohio conference, without being informed what has become of him. I suppose he located, but by some oversight the fact has not been noticed. As to the talents and usefulness of the brother, I know nothing. I find the circuit reported as containing three hundred and fifty-eight members, which I suppose was not an increase on the circuit, but the fact cannot be ascertained, as the circuit was not numbered separately the year before. As I then lived in Ohio, I know but little about the White Water country, other than what I find on the *Minutes* and some small scraps of information collected incidentally from the people.

James Jones, who was in charge of Oxford circuit, has been before noticed. Levi White was a young man of zeal

and some promise, and was received on trial at the conference, from which he was sent to Oxford. White is yet in the traveling connection, as a member of the Ohio conference; and, I believe, is acceptable and useful. I have no particular knowledge of the doings of these brothers, but from my knowledge of the men, I have no doubt of their zealous cooperation in trying to promote the cause of God; but their success was small, for they had only seven of an increase. We should, however, greatly err if we were to judge of men's usefulness, or even success, by the number of members received and retained by them. There is a possibility that hundreds may be received on a circuit and at the same time the circuit be almost ruined by the neglect of discipline, or an injudicious administration of it. Hundreds of nominal members, who do not faithfully attend the means of grace, and support the benevolent institutions of the Church, add nothing to her strength. Like the merchant, the more unsalable goods he has, the worse are his circumstances. Another circuit may shrink much in its membership, and at the same time be greatly elevated and advanced in its moral and religious character, and be a much better circuit than it was before its shrinkage.

The *Minutes* place William H. Raper alone on the Lawrenceburg circuit, but the presiding elder employed William Lambdin to travel with Raper. Lambdin had been a number of years a traveling preacher but was now in a local life, and living not far from the North Bend in Ohio. He subsequently joined the traveling connection, and filled some important charges in the Pittsburg conference. I believe he is now traveling in Tennessee. He never was a splendid preacher, but he was a very useful man. Raper and Lambdin were very acceptable to the people; but their success was moderate, for there was a decrease of seven on the circuit this year. Perhaps, however, the circuit was much improved in its religious character.

John Stewart, the preacher in charge of Madison circuit, has been mentioned before, in connection with the Blue River

circuit. Nehemiah B. Griffith, his colleague, has been mentioned among the converts of Oxford circuit, the year Samuel Baker and William H. Raper traveled that circuit. He now entered the traveling connection as a flaming herald of salvation. That he was in some things enthusiastic and that he was sometimes precipitate, and a little dogmatic in his administration of discipline, in after years, must be admitted; but that he was a very superior man in some things, and a preacher of more than ordinary success, are facts known to all who have ever been acquainted with his labors. Perhaps it is not in human nature, in most cases, to be very successful without inspiring the successful man with an undesirable degree of confidence in himself. I know there are exceptions to this general rule, but they are like "angels' visits few and far between." Griffith continued to travel about twelve years and died in the northern part of Indiana. Doubtless the day of eternity will show hundreds who were brought to the knowledge of salvation by his instrumentality in these twelve years. He and his widow (afterward the wife of the Rev. William Campbell, now of the North Indiana conference) are both gone, and have left three orphan children. May heaven protect and bless them! In the second volume of the bound *Minutes*, page 344, will be found a short account of Brother Griffith. At the request of the Indiana conference, Bishop Roberts preached a funeral sermon in memory of Armstrong, Locke and Griffith, at the Centerville conference.

The Madison circuit had considerable prosperity this year, considering the success of the preceding year; for it is a melancholy fact, that a prosperous year is almost always succeeded by a year of declension. I have before suggested a remedy for this evil; but as yet it exists; and I fear will continue to do so until the better days of the Church. The increase on the circuit was ninety-five. Not being in this region, at the time, I have not been informed where they had their greatest revivals, or what popular and interesting meetings were held on the circuit.

This year closed the time which the Discipline permitted

Hamilton to remain on the Indiana district. Perhaps he had reached his zenith on his charge before this time; but he finished the four years with acceptability to the people.

Armstrong was returned to Charlestown circuit; but with all his zeal and popularity, the great ingathering the preceding year began to react painfully, and continued to do so for four years to come. This year there was a decrease of one hundred and forty-eight. I presume Armstrong did not travel alone, but if I ever heard who traveled with him, I have forgotten. I have an impression that Samuel Hull, now near Terre Haute, helped him.

Dennis Willey, the preacher on Flat Rock circuit, was the son of Barzillai Willey, who had been a traveling preacher in the Philadelphia conference (which then embraced much of the state of New York) as early as 1799. He traveled five years, and then located. He subsequently removed to Indiana, and settled in Clarke's Grant, near Silver creek. At what time he settled in Indiana, I am not informed; but when I first became acquainted with him, and his premises, nearly twenty-one years ago, the farm and buildings had the marks of antiquity. He is now a man well stricken in years, and is yet zealous in the good cause. He is unable to do much personally, but he is liberal to the cause of missions, which his former uncommonly industrious habits enable him to patronize. His son Dennis became a traveling preacher in the fall of 1821, and was sent to the Arkansas circuit as his first field of labor. Dennis was a studious youth, and continued to travel and preach four years, when his health failed, and he located, and went into business, which he has followed with much industry and profit for many years. He is now a respectable local preacher in the town of Paris, Jennings county, Ia. He had prosperity in Flat Rock circuit, for the increase in that new region was seventy-four.

William M'Reynolds, who was in charge of Blue River circuit, was admitted on trial in the fall of 1820 by the Tennessee conference, which then embraced most of Kentucky.

The General conference that year had separated that part of Kentucky formerly embraced in the Ohio conference, and made a Kentucky conference with it and a part of the Tennessee conference. In making out the appointments, M'Reynolds was placed in the Kentucky conference, in which he traveled two years, and was then transferred to the Missouri conference, where he traveled two years, and was then transferred to the Kentucky conference, where he traveled several years, and located, and moved to Ohio, and taught a female school. Where he now is, and what he is doing, I know not. Whether he preaches much or little, is acceptable and useful, or otherwise, I am not informed. George K. Hester, his colleague, has been named before as the bashful youth. How industrious they were, I have no information; but from the character of the men, it is presumed they did their duty; but the year was an unsuccessful one, for there was a decrease of ninety-six.

James L. Thompson, who was on the Corydon circuit, had been admitted on trial by the Missouri conference in the fall of 1821, and placed on the Patoka circuit. The river, after which the circuit is named, has its source west of Harrison county, Ia., and runs west and joins the Wabash. The country was then new, and a most unpleasant region to travel. I have heard Brother Thompson tell about getting lost in the night, and having to sit on a log in the rain and hold his horse until morning, while the nearness of the howling wolves was rather appalling to man and horse.

This year he had an older and better field, for the circuit not only embraced the town after which it was named, being then the seat of government for the state, but the town of New Albany also was included in it. Thompson was an acceptable preacher on that circuit, as he always continued to be wherever he traveled. When I was stationed in New Albany, where the conference met in the fall of 1837, I found more families anxious to have him as one of their guests, than any other preacher in conference, although he had been away

from that charge fifteen years. His labors had not much visible fruit on the circuit; for there were only six of an increase in the membership.

The Indianapolis circuit, to which James Scott was sent, was now a spreading and flourishing field of labor. Its metes and bounds at that day are unknown to me, but it must have embraced much of the central part of Indiana. It would be interesting if Brother Scott would describe it as it was. The increase this year, for so new a country, was glorious, being two hundred and nine.

This was Scott's fourth year in the traveling ministry. He had been received on trial by the Missouri conference in the fall of 1819; but the *Minutes* do not state where he was appointed that year. The next year he went to Cedar Creek in Missouri, and the year following to Illinois circuit in Illinois, and then to the present charge, and at the close of this year he located, and so remained for several years. He will come before us again.

This was rather an unfruitful year on the circuits noticed; for on six of them there was an increase of three hundred and ninety-seven and on four others there was a decrease of six hundred and fifty-four, being a decrease in the whole ten of two hundred and forty-seven. This is a melancholy consideration, to see the country rapidly populating, and seventeen or more men of God hard at work, and the cause of religion seemingly on the decline. If such a thing were now to take place, there would be many and sufficient reasons, in the judgment of many, for the result; but then we were not sufficiently knowing to account for all the mysteries of the divine government.

ALLEN WILEY

Brookville, Ia., June 4, 1846.

Western Christian Advocate, Cincinnati, Friday, July 3, 1846.

No. XXV

1823-24—John Strange was now placed on the Miami district; and of the Greenville circuit, James Murry and Silas Colvin; White Water, John Everhart and Levi White; Connersville, Aaron Wood; Oxford, Peter Stevens and James Jones; Lawrenceburg, William H. Raper and John Janes; Madison, John F. Wright and Thomas Hewson; Indiana district, William Beauchamp; Charlestown circuit, Samuel Hamilton and Calvin W. Ruter, supernumerary; Flat Rock, Thomas Rice; Blue River, William Cravens and Dennis Willey; Corydon, James L. Thompson; Indianapolis, Jesse Haile and George Horn.

This year, we shall take our leave of the Greenville circuit, as the General conference of this year made the line dividing the states of Ohio and Indiana, the line dividing the Ohio and Illinois conferences; for the states of Indiana and Illinois were constituted one conference. In this name of the new conference, we can see how selfish even good men are in small things, for Indiana was greatly in advance of Illinois in population and in improvements, and in churches and church members, but she had no delegate in the General conference peculiarly her own; hence, the conference was called Illinois instead of Indiana.

We shall also take leave of James Murry this year; for his future travels had no connection with Indiana. I will just say he traveled a few years longer, and then located, and settled on Tanner's Creek, in Dearborn county, Ia. After remaining a local preacher a while, he sent a rather uncourteous letter to the quarterly conference, signifying his withdrawal from the Church. He then united with the Protestant Methodist Church. I believe he has traveled some among his new friends, but I presume without much success; and I think he has declined traveling, and has entered into business in the city of Cincinnati. Colvin, his colleague, was a small

deformed man, of some talents, but he traveled only one year; for the conference discontinued him, as his deformity and weakness disqualified him for the work. It was not without wisdom that God's law prohibited the deformed among Aaron's sons from the exercise of the priest's office. It was wise in the Ohio conference not to let sympathy for an unfortunate man induce them to fill some charges with a brother who was incompetent, while so many men every way competent were presenting themselves to the conference. These brethren had some success; for there was an addition of forty-two in the membership.

This year, John Everhart was readmitted into the traveling connection by the Ohio conference. He had been a member of the Baltimore conference and then located, and there were some things objected against him; but he was permitted to appear before the conference and make some statements, which made a favorable impression on the minds of many of the preachers, so that he was admitted. He traveled two years, and located again; and what has become of him, I know not. If I were to conjecture, it would be that he is doing no good for this world, or the next; for any man who can commence traveling and locate three times before he comes to the meridian of life, has not that amount of stability which will make him successful in anything. White, his colleague, was an energetic young man, who was successful in his labors. There was an increase of fifty members on the circuit this year.

Aaron Wood had been one year in the work when he was sent alone to Connersville circuit. He was a sprightly, good-natured, pleasant young man. So I found him the next year, when we traveled together. He must have been popular among his people. His success was considerable; for he reported an increase of forty-seven members on a circuit, which had the year before been traveled by two preachers. Connersville circuit was now becoming a pleasant field, as the former dividing line between Ohio and Missouri conferences would not let it extend west into the wet, muddy land, as most of Rush county then was; but it has much improved in these respects.

Peter Stevens, who was in charge of Oxford circuit, was looking forward to a location, which he accomplished at the close of the next year; and in view of a location, he was preparing himself for the practice of medicine; and the consequence was, he was of little or no use on the circuit. I have before said, when a man intends to locate, he had better do so at once. To my mind, there is a want of moral honesty in any man who receives his boarding and support from the Church as their servant, while he is studying a profession of a secular kind, which he intends to follow so soon as he is qualified for it. I knew Stevens several years afterward, when he was a local preacher in good standing, and much more popular and useful, than he had been in the latter years of his traveling. O, my brethren, whenever you look to a secular calling, I beseech you to locate, and get out of the way; for no man can be a successful traveling preacher with a local heart. Jones did what he could, but things were languid, and he and his family were almost starved out for the want of support. The circuit was reported as having decreased sixty-eight.

William H. Raper was on Lawrenceburg circuit the second year, and perhaps no man has ever traveled it with more acceptability than he. His colleague was a young man on his second year in the work. He became a man of eminence, and died a member of the North Ohio conference, early in the year 1843, after having been more than two years in a superannuated relation. He was more than nineteen years connected with the traveling connection. In the *Minutes* for 1843, page 421, the reader will find a short account of Brother Janes. With all the talents, popularity, and efforts of Raper and Janes, they only had an increase of fifteen in their charge. This, or the preceding year, there was a good camp meeting on Tanner's Creek.

The Madison circuit had John F. Wright for its preacher in charge, and Thomas Hewson as the second preacher; and such was the enlargement of the work, that the presiding elder employed William Runnells, a stripling who then lived near Manchester, Dearborn county, Ia., as a third preacher. I

presume it was with a view to give the town of Madison more preaching on the Sabbath, that it became necessary to employ another preacher. It would have been well if we had pursued this course more, if the people would have been satisfied with it, and not have made so many stations, which have more than one evil attending them. Wright is now on the Chillicothe district, in Ohio, and was in the Book Agency, at Cincinnati, twelve years; and is so well known that I do not deem it necessary to say much about him.

I, however, must be permitted to tell a little of the doings of the appointing power in connection with his appointment to Madison. Wright was down for Chillicothe station, and some one of the good-natured elders had let him and a brother from the station who was on a visit to Urbana, know the fact; and as was natural, Wright had had some conversation about the place of boarding, etc. Bigelow was down for Madison; but there was much difficulty in supplying Cincinnati that year, as the Church was convulsed with Radicalism. The conference adjourned for dinner, and were to meet at an early hour to hear the appointments. Bishop Roberts called the presiding elders together, and it was determined to put Bigelow in Cincinnati, and Wright on Madison circuit, and some one in his place in Chillicothe. Conference met, and Dr. Ruter was called to the chair as the Bishop was taken unwell, and could not attend. The journals were read; and the Doctor, or some one else, commenced reading the appointments; and when Chillicothe was named, Wright was not there, and he began to think, what have they done with me? for he remembered that Madison was among the last appointments which were read. At last it came, and behold, he was as far southwest as he could be placed in the Ohio conference. Now for a time of sour looks, pouting, and railing at presiding elders. Not a word of it, reader; for John went to his work as cheerful as the next man; and it remains for these days, and some of the men of these days, to put on such airs as poutings and railings. O, when shall we be what we were? I fear not while we have so many stations as bones of contention.

Hewson, who was an Englishman by birth, lived in Switzerland county, Ia., and had been an infidel for many years. I think it was during Jones' year on Madison circuit that he was powerfully converted, and was a most happy man while warm in his first love, and so he remained for several years; but, alas, his unhappy natural disposition obtained the ascendancy, and he became a miserable backslider, and is now an unhappy Universalist preacher. I suppose his infidelity, (for so I regard Universalism) will make him a mischievous man to the morals of the community while he lives, unless the Holy One should reclaim him. He was useful on the circuit that year and one more, but then he began to decline.

William Runnells was a slender youth when he began to travel, and so very timid that he could hardly say his soul was his own; or to use the language of R. Hall, the great Baptist writer, "He seemed to ask pardon of everybody for being in this world." He, however, was then beloved as a meek and modest youth, who wished to do all the good in his power. William is now a respectable member of the North Ohio conference, and was one of their delegates to the last General conference; and we roomed together with our old friend, James Collord, the printer at the Book-Room. Runnells' friends at Manchester need not be ashamed of him. The labors of this year were closed with a good camp meeting, near the upper part of Switzerland county. The year was rather unfruitful as it regards ingathering, for there was a decrease of seventy-two; but the fault could not have been in the brethren on the circuit, for they were well received, and labored faithfully.

The Indiana district had no ordinary man for its presiding elder this year. William Beauchamp traveled first in 1794 on Alleghany circuit, where he was continued the next year. In 1796, in Pittsburgh; 1797, New York city; 1798, Boston; 1799, Providencetown; and 1800, Nantucket. His health being feeble, he located in the summer of 1801; and subsequently, at sometime unknown to me, he moved to Chillicothe, Ohio, and he there published a monthly periodical of great merit, much of its valuable matter being the production of his own pen.

This publication lasted only one year. Prior to this monthly he had published a volume of essays on the truth of divine revelation. This was an eloquent and argumentative book, which I read many years ago with much satisfaction and improvement. In 1817, he settled in Mt. Carmel, Ill., and in the fall of 1822 he was readmitted into the itinerancy, and stationed in St. Louis, Mo.; and in the fall of 1823, he was appointed to the Indiana district. The same fall he was elected to the General conference; and such was the impression made on the minds of his brethren, that most of the western delegates selected him as a suitable person to be placed in the general superintendency, and he received a very respectable vote for that high and holy trust. His vote, however, was not equal to that received by Soule and Hedding, though he was not far behind the latter, who has so long and so well filled that office. Beauchamp finished his course in October, 1824, at Paoli, Orange county, Ia., where, I suppose, his body now slumbers, unless his friends have removed it to Mt. Carmel. He was a man of great piety, talents, and modesty. When I traveled Charlestown circuit, the more intelligent and pious part of the people thought they had never heard so able and holy a preacher as he was. He preached a sermon at a camp meeting in the Grant on sanctification, that had a wonderful effect on the public mind; and I presume, the fruit of it lasts to this day, although that was twenty-two years ago. It is supposed that the amount of labor on the Indiana district tended to shorten his days. When will we see the folly of working men to death, when there is no need of doing so? The reader will find an account of this brother in the first volume of the bound *Minutes*, page 474, which refers to a more enlarged account in the *Methodist Magazine*, Vol. VIII, pages 17, 49, and 86.

When I was at conference in Mt. Carmel, in the fall of 1827, I was at the house of his widow where I saw his peculiarly constructed study chair, made with his own hands, which brought to my deep consideration the powerful mind and pious heart which used to occupy that chair; but I reflected that that mind had no more connection with the things

of time, but was vastly expanded with the knowledge of the things of eternity, as with the knowledge of the things of eternity, as the mind, unclogged with clay, apprehends them.

I have before mentioned the impropriety and injudicious arrangement of placing Samuel Hamilton on Charlestown circuit, where he had been so very popular as presiding elder. He now sunk in his feelings, and the people and the work with him. Ruter was appointed to help him as a supernumerary, but he was not able "to go out and shake himself" as heretofore, for his health was ruined; and his constitution has only been patched ever since. This was another downward year on the circuit; for the shrinkage was one hundred and ten, being two hundred and fifty-eight in the last two years.

The preacher on the Flat Rock circuit was a very good and conscientious man, but a man of many singularities, and they not of the kind to make him acceptable to the people. He had all the queer notions and discontented feeling common to old bachelors in general, and to some of them in particular. Bishop Roberts observed to the conference at Charlestown, in the summer of 1825, that when he was traveling in the south and this brother with him, whenever it came to brother Rice's time to pray in the family, if the people where they staid were slaveholders, the brother would be sure to tell the Lord how they held their fellow-beings in bondage. William Cravens, in his witty way, said, "He prayed at them." At another time he was leading class, and he came to an older sister whose cap border either never had much starch in it, or it had somehow got out, so that it hung in quite a bunch over her forehead as she sat with her head leaning forward, and he said, "Sister, is not one cap border sufficient for your cap?" The sister being conscious that she had but one border to her cap, and not expecting such a question as this in class meeting, raised her head, and the border fell back, and left her face and forehead bare, and she said, "Do you mean me?" These, and many kindred instances, will show the honesty and fidelity of the brother; but not his good taste and correct judgment. I should judge the brother's zeal was a kind of hikera pikera, or holy bitter. The circuit fell off this year

fifty-five, which was a heavy shrinkage in a membership of four hundred and fifty-four, being about one-eighth. Perhaps, however, some of the appointments might be attached to some other charge, so that there might not have been so much loss as the *Minutes* show; for this plan of shifting appointments from one circuit to another was then common.

Cravens and Willey had a good work on Blue River circuit; for there was an increase of one hundred and fifty-nine. This is the last year that Blue River will be found on the *Minutes*, or in these numbers; for it was now to be lost in Salem and Paoli circuits.

Thompson's second year closed on Corydon with some success; for there was an increase of thirty-six. I would be glad if I could enter more into detail, and give matters of more interest in these fields of labor; but I have not the facts as they transpired, and to guess or conjecture them will not do for the verity of history.

Jesse Haile, who was in charge of the Indianapolis circuit, was a most excellent man, with his peculiarities as drawbacks. He lived to be an old preacher, who had seen much hard service in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas. He was still in the work in the fall of 1844, but I think the *Western Christian Advocate* gave an account of his death sometime since. The Church in the far west is much indebted to him for his pioneer services.

Horn was received on trial in the fall of 1821 by the Tennessee conference, in the bounds of which he traveled two years, and he was then transferred to the Missouri conference, and appointed with Haile to the Indianapolis work; and at the ensuing conference located. What has become of him, I know not. How well these brethren were received, I know not. Had I supposed my work would have so enlarged on my hands, I would have made the necessary inquiries when I was in the region of Indianapolis. I find the circuit had an increase of one hundred and twenty. The circuit now numbered four hundred and seventy-two.

It will be found that there was an increase on six of the circuits amounting to six hundred and sixty-nine, while there

was a decrease of four of the circuits, amounting to three hundred and five, so that the net increase on these ten circuits was only three hundred and sixty-four, which was doing better than the year before, when there was a decrease.

ALLEN WILEY

Brookville, Ia., June 4, 1846.

Western Christian Advocate, Cincinnati, Friday, July 10, 1846.

No. XXVI

1824-5.—In the spring of 1824, the General conference made the state line the line between Ohio and Illinois conferences, so that the Ohio conference had nothing to do with Indiana, only by consent of the Indiana preachers. I presume, however, a part of Greenville circuit was still in Indiana until White Water circuit was divided into White Water and Wayne in the fall of 1827, when the preachers on Wayne claimed those appointments which were in Wayne and Randolph counties. A part of Oxford circuit also was in Indiana until the fall of 1828, when the preachers in Indiana extended their work east to the state line. As the two circuits named were reported to a conference out of the state of Indiana, and were supplied by preachers from a conference which had no connection with any other part of the state, I shall notice these two circuits only incidentally, and in a very brief manner.

Isaac N. Elsbury was on the Greenville circuit, and from some cause there was a decrease of seventy-five in the membership.

Daniel D. Davidson and John A. Baughman (before named) were the preachers on Oxford circuit. How they passed with the people, I know not; but there was not much prosperity on the circuit, for there was a decrease of seven members, being three years out of four that the circuit decreased, and the year that was an exception the increase was only seven, which was a small number to balance one hundred and fifty-two of a falling off in the three years.

That part of Indiana which had been in the Miami district, and a part of that which had been in the Indiana district, Missouri conference, now formed the Madison district, Illinois conference, to which John Strange was appointed. Madison circuit, Allen Wiley and Aaron Wood; Lawrenceburg, James Jones and Thomas S. Hitt; White Water, Peter Stevens and Nehemiah B. Griffith; Connersville, James Havens; Rushville, Thomas Rice; Indianapolis, John Miller; Flat Rock, Thomas Hewson and James Garner; Indiana district, James Armstrong; Charlestown circuit, James L. Thompson and Jacob Varner; Corydon, George K. Hester and Dennis Willey; Salem, Samuel Low and Richard Hargrave; Paoli, Edward Smith.

This year, Madison was made a station, and Jesse Green, of the Missouri conference, appointed to it; but when the appointments were read out at the Missouri conference, Alexander M'Alister was appointed to the Cape Girardeau district; but he arose and said, "I cannot, I will not go," and Green was sent in his place, and the station left without a preacher, and Strange was expected to supply it or connect it with the circuit again. I suppose the latter was the expectation, for the station does not appear on the *Minutes*. Strange was unable to supply it satisfactorily, and it remained without a pastor the whole year, and had only occasional preaching. The people would have been glad to receive preaching from the preachers on the circuit, but they were unwilling to be connected with the circuit, as they feared if they became united that year, it might make against their station arrangements the next year. The objection to a union with the circuit grew out of an unfortunate want of harmony in the quarterly meeting conference. If a member in town were turned out and appealed to the quarterly conference, restoration was almost certain. So said the people in the town. There were also jealousies about the amount of preaching received by the town and country, and the amount of support contributed by each. I believe it is a very great evil to make so many stations as we have done; but it may be a greater evil to keep a jealous town and country united when

they are always in a state of contention. This was the beginning of stations in Indiana; and an unfortunate beginning it was, to be a whole year without a pastor. Strange lived in Madison, so that he could give them most of his spare Sabbaths, and there were some local preachers in it, and the preachers from the adjacent circuits preached to them sometimes, so that the Church did not quite die; but it was very sickly and did not get well for a long time; and perhaps some of the sickness of that day remains to the present time. How much increase or decrease there was in the station I cannot tell, as the numbers for the town were included in the numbers for the circuit in the summer of 1824. The number for the station for this year was one hundred and thirty-nine.

Wiley and Wood labored on the circuit in the most perfect harmony; and although there was considerable disparity in their ages, and great difference in their condition, the one with a heavy family and much care, the other single and free from care, they formed a close union in feeling, which lasts to the present day. They had not much revival success in their labors, but the year was not wholly unfruitful. There was a good work in Vevay, and some of the fruit of that year still remains. That year, sister Dumont, who occasionally writes for the *Repository*, joined the Church, observing to the preacher, "that candor compelled her to say, that if there were a Presbyterian Church in the town, she should prefer to join it." I replied, "You can try us, and if you do not like us, you can leave; but I think when you become well acquainted with us, you will never leave us;" and she remains with the society still. Some of the members of longest standing in the place were converted that year; and if we had then been able to build a church, we should now have a much better society in the town than we have. The preachers, before they left for Charlestown to attend the conference, made an arrangement to have a camp meeting immediately after conference, near Simeon Slawson's, about nine miles from Vevay, on the road to Indianapolis. This was the first of three camp meetings which were held on that ground, and it was a good meeting, and a goodly number of souls

were converted, and among the number the writer's eldest daughter, who continues in the good way.

The number for the circuit this year was seven hundred, being a decrease for the circuit and station of sixty-seven. Which decreased most, the town or country, I cannot tell; perhaps both in nearly equal ratios. This decrease was not quite so large as that of the preceding year, when there were three good preachers on the work. The preachers had hard times this year in the way of support. The collections on the circuit were something over one hundred and thirty dollars, of which the presiding elder received his proportion, and Wiley received about eighty-four dollars, mostly in the produce of the country, and Wood about forty-two dollars, mostly in money. Wiley's quarterage claim was then three hundred and twenty-eight dollars according to the allowance of the Discipline; but as stated in a former number, usage gave the man with a family two-thirds, and the single man one-third. The strict letter of the law, and the usage of the present day, would have given Wiley about one hundred and four, and Wood about twenty-two dollars, which the parties and all others would have deemed an oppression of the young man, who worked as hard as the older one. If the reader should ever meet a Discipline with notes by Bishops Coke and Asbury, he will find that the bishops contend that former usage was the lawful usage as intended by the General conference. In strict equity, the man who works most ought to have the most pay, whether married or single; but in Methodist economy, a salary, according to talents and services rendered, is not the aim, but to give men a mere support, which will enable them to remain in the work. Should men, however, receive a mere support while they are wearing out their constitutions? If adequate provision were made to give to superannuated men, their widows and orphans, the Disciplinary allowance, I would say a present support would be sufficient; but we know that no such provision is yet made, and not likely to be made at present.

James Jones, the preacher in charge of Lawrenceburg

circuit, has been named before. Thomas S. Hitt had been received on trial in the summer of 1819, and was appointed to Piqua circuit, and next year to Milford. In the summer of 1821, he was sent to Mad River circuit, which included Urbana, where he had lived some years before he commenced traveling. This year he had a copious and alarming hemorrhage from the lungs, by which he well nigh bled to death, for he bled until he could not raise his head from his pillow. Such was his prostration, that at the ensuing conference he was placed on the supernumerary list; but I do not find any field of labor assigned him. His relation was continued this year, and he was appointed to that part of the work which fell to the Illinois conference. Jones was zealous and faithful, and so was Hitt, so far as his health would permit; he, however, was a man of complicated sufferings, and could not exert himself as he had done in former and better days. There was a decrease of fourteen on the circuit this year, which must have been a great affliction to these warm-hearted brethren. I think Hitt was not able to travel part of the time, and Daniel Plummer filled his place on the circuit.

I have before spoken of Stevens, the preacher in charge of the White Water circuit. This was his last year of itinerancy; and I suppose it was to him an unpleasant, and to the people an unprofitable year, as he intended, and did locate in the fall. Griffith, his colleague, was young and uncommonly zealous; but at that time he had more zeal than talent. There was a good work this year under Griffith's labors in Brookville. He could not succeed very well in the Church; but when he could get the people to prayer meetings in the dwelling of our old friend, Samuel Goodwin, he would pour forth a torrent of burning exhortation, which would make the stout-hearted quail before him. In this way, a number of the prominent and valuable citizens were awakened, and converted, and joined the Church; but most of them are gone, some to other parts of this, and some to another world, where they and Griffith have met, I trust, in a better state of being than

can be enjoyed here. There was an increase of sixty-four this year; for the circuit rose from eight hundred and seventy-eight to nine hundred and forty-two.

James Havens was appointed to Connersville circuit, so that he fell within the bounds of the Illinois conference. He had been four years in the regular itinerant work, having been received on trial by the Ohio conference, in Chillicothe, in the summer of 1820. He had traveled a year or two under the direction of a presiding elder before he was received by the conference. He moved into the the eastern part of Rush county, which was the western part of his circuit, and settled in a small cabin with a large family. His condition was similar to that of most of his brethren, whose parsonages were generally humble cabins, fitted up for the occasion, when others had moved out of them into better houses, or to other parts of the country. He was then in the very vigor of his days, and popular and useful. He was not the man of intellectual culture which he now is; but he could supply the deficiency with bold and powerful declamation, which pleased the mass of the people as well as anything else, as it made them feel. His success was not so great as it has sometimes been, for there was only an increase of seven on the circuit.

This year, for the first time, we find on the *Minutes* a Rushville circuit. I suppose it was made partly from the northern part of Flat Rock circuit, the western part of Connersville, the eastern part of Indianapolis, and many new places which were now being settled. What were its metes and bounds, I do not certainly know; but when I first knew it in the fall of 1828, it embraced Rushville, the county town of Rush county, Greensburg, the county town of Decatur county, Shelbyville, the county town of Shelby county, and went within less than one mile of Greenfield, the county town of Hancock county, and all along the National Road east as far as Blue River, and at a former time went north perhaps as far as Newcastle, the county town of Henry county. If any man will look on a map of this great field he will see a large region for one man to travel in four weeks, especially in the winter and spring, when most of this rich level coun-

try was deep mud, before it became cleared and trodden by animals. That same circuit is now divided into Rushville station, Greensburg station, Milroy, Shelbyville, Burlington, a part of Milford, and a part of Knightstown, and a part of Pleasant View circuits, and perhaps a part of some other circuits. The good, but singular Thomas Rice was on the circuit. What success attended his ministry, I have no means of ascertaining, for there are no means by which I can ascertain how many members he had to begin with. The number at the close of the year was two hundred and sixty-eight.

John Miller, now of the Madison district, was appointed to the Indianapolis circuit. He had been one year in the work, having traveled the Sangamon circuit in Illinois. John could sing well, pray well, and preach some, and was on the increase in gifts and grace. His people and presiding elder were fond of him; and Strange used to say, in his humorous way, "John ought to have a patent-right for praying." I presume he had good times on his work, and had some increase; but the *Minutes* report a decrease of one hundred and sixty-eight, which is large decrease on a circuit which had reported four hundred and seventy-two the preceding year. This decrease is more than one-third the whole number; but I have supposed that a part of Rushville circuit was taken from this charge, and perhaps other parts of it were detached and united to other circuits, so that there may not have been any real decrease.

Thomas Hewson, who has been named as a convert from infidelity and a subsequent apostate from the truth to that form of infidelity called Universalism, was placed in charge of Flat Rock circuit; and James Garner, who had just been received on trial, was appointed his colleague. Garner was the some of that worthy local preacher who first organized this circuit in the winter of 1820-21. Garner was a modest, diffident young man; but such were his piety and gravity, that the people were fond of him. These brethren labored with much zeal, and great was their success; for the circuit rose from three hundred and eighty nine to six hundred and forty-two, being an increase of two hundred and fifty-three. If

Hewson had eyes to see as he then saw, and a heart to feel as he then felt, how soon we would hear of his renunciation of infidelity, and a cordial embracing of the truth. I know some may object to the ground assumed in calling Universalism infidelity; but after thinking on the subject for years, I am fully satisfied that that system of doctrine which rejects the Bible account of future rewards and punishments, should not be regarded and treated as a system having any claims to Christianity. We should treat the persons bewitched by this dreadful and destructive delusion with tenderness and respect; but the delusion should be regarded as downright deism, and equally destructive of men's souls.

James Armstrong, who has been named as the zealous preacher two years on the Charlestown circuit, was now placed on the Indiana district as the successor of the wise, the good, but now deceased William Beauchamp. Armstrong was a flaming torch on the district, and many souls were added by his instrumentality.

James L. Thompson was pretty well received on Charleston circuit, but from some cause he did not enjoy himself very well. Jacob Varner, his colleague, was one of those very conscientious and precise men, who are better calculated to make men loathe religion and shun the ministers than to do good. Men should be conscientious but not have a fastidious and sickly conscience. He had a feeble constitution, and was somewhat sickly, and had many queer notions. The conference at the end of the year, discontinued him; and what has become of him, I know not. When brother Bigelow was presiding elder on the Chilicothe district, he was within his bounds. I pitied him, and plead for him; but when I followed him on the circuit, I was satisfied the conference did right in discontinuing him, as every conference ought to do with every man who is greatly peculiar; for they that will be odd from the rest of mankind, ought not to be traveling preachers, so as to trouble others with their oddities. Thompson's discouragements and Varner's whims made the year rather a heavy one for the circuit; but Thompson left many warm friends when he was appointed to another circuit. The tendency on

the circuit was still downward, but not so much as the two preceding years; for the decrease was only sixteen.

How Hester and Willey passed the year on Corydon, I am not informed. Willey located at the end of the year. The increase on the circuit was only ten.

In noticing Salem circuit, one of the parts of the former Blue River circuit, there will come before us two new men. Samuel Low was a shoemaker, who once lived in Madison, Ia.; but at that time he was neither a Presbyterian or Congregationalist. I do not recollect where he located himself after he moved from Madison; but he became convinced that the Wesleyan doctrines were the real doctrines of the holy Scriptures, and he renounced his former views, and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was a man whose mind was considerably above mediocrity, and he became an able preacher; and if his health had been good, so that he could have endured the toils and privations of a traveling preacher, he would have been a man of much eminence. He traveled usefully and successfully a few years, and then became superannuated, and went into the mercantile business, and subsequently located. For years he seemed to prosper in the business; but the dreadful crash in 1837 and subsequent years prostrated him in property. When I knew him in the Wabash country in 1837-8, he was about winding up his business; and it was found he had failed, and become poor. He was then a very popular local preacher, but had been much more so before he became embarrassed in his temporalities; for let a man be ever so honest, it will injure him with the public if he fail in business. The feeling of the public which blames a man, if he fail, is a good feeling; for although it may sometimes afflict an innocent man, this is a less evil, than that low state of moral feeling which would countenance the reckless bankrupt. Low afterward moved to Illinois and died.

Richard Hargrave was the son of a preacher in that connection which was formed by James O'Kelley, who withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1793. I believe Richard began to preach in the same denomination; but his inquiring mind, which was inclined to sift everything to the

bottom, led him to examine the doctrines of the O'Kelley Church, and he found most of the preachers were Arians, who rejected the doctrine of Christ's divine nature, and equality with the Father. Richard became convinced that their views on this important point were erroneous, and he renounced his connection with the Church in which he had been reared, and sought a new home in the pale of an orthodox Church. As he began early to examine doctrine, his mind became accustomed to close investigation; and the consequence is, there are few men who more thoroughly understand, and can more ably defend the doctrines of the Church than Richard Hargrave. He is yet in the work, and preaching the doctrines of truth with ability. What success these brethren had I have no means of ascertaining, as I do not know how many members fell to the Salem part of the Blue River circuit when it was divided; but from the known zeal of the men, it is fair to infer that they had a good work on the circuit. They reported, at the end of the year, four hundred and fifty-five members.

Edward Smith, who was now sent to the Paoli part of the Blue River circuit, was on his second year in the conference. At the close of the year, he was admitted into full connection, and ordained deacon; and as the country did not agree with his health, he was transferred to the Baltimore conference. He was a man of talents for his age in the ministry; but from some cause the Baltimore conference did not thank the Illinois conference, or the superintendents, for the transfer. Smith and the conference did not get along very harmoniously, and he was transferred to the Pittsburg conference. In the fall of 1839, he visited the Indiana conference, and a vote was passed by the conference, declaring that it would cordially receive Smith, if the bishop who attended the Pittsburg conference would transfer him. The writer tried to get the conference not to pass the vote, by asking Smith some questions about his ability for the work, as he was an afflicted man. Before the General conference met in May, 1840, Smith had become a flaming, ultra abolitionist; and as the Indiana con-

ference was neither pro-slavery nor abolition, but was in peace on that subject, the delegates of the conference let the superintendents know that they were fully persuaded that the conference would now be unwilling to receive Smith, or any other man, who was an agitator on that subject. The transfer was not made, and the Pittsburg conference had their hands full of trouble with this troublesome man. I believe he is now in his proper element in the True Wesleyan Church, falsely so called, which was born in agitation, and by agitation it lives, and so morbid is its appetite that without agitation it would have died. Bad as slavery is, the plan which this Church would adopt to remove the evil, would make bad matters worse. If Edward Smith does not make his new friends trouble yet, it will be because he is acknowledged king of the forest. Smith was a good and successful preacher when he was little in his own eyes; and he reported, at the end of the year, four hundred and twenty-two members on the Paoli circuit. The last year the Blue River circuit had seven hundred and fifty-five members; and this year the Salem and Paoli circuits have eight hundred and seventy-seven, being an increase of one hundred and twenty-two. This part of the work prospered this and the last year, and for some years to come.

Our two original circuits, White Water and Silver Creek, have now multiplied into fourteen separate charges, numbering seven thousand eight hundred and twenty-six in their membership. This year, about half the charges had an increase of seven hundred and thirty, but the other half had a decrease of three hundred and forty-seven, leaving a net increase of only three hundred and eighty-three in the extensive region of country over which we have traveled. We long to see better days, and they are coming gradually, as we shall soon see.

ALLEN WILEY

Brookville, Ia., June 10, 1846.

Western Christian Advocate, Cincinnati, Friday, July 17, 1846.

No. XXVII

1825-26.—After an interval of five years, Benjamin Lawrence was again sent to Greenville circuit, but he seems not to have had his usual success for there was a farther decrease of twenty in the membership, so that this circuit in the last and present year lost ninety-five, reducing it from four hundred and sixty-eight to three hundred and seventy-three.

Daniel D. Davidson was continued on the Oxford circuit. Of Davidson I know but little, only that he is a respectable member of long standing in the Ohio conference. He had for his colleague Robert M. Spencer, who was a popular and useful local preacher. Robert was a good boy, who was powerfully converted in a revival when Alexander Cummins was in the city station in the spring of 1817. He was admitted on trial in the autumn of 1823, so that he now entered on his third year in the ministry. He was pious and studious, so that he has become somewhat eminent. He is yet in the work, and has a good standing in his conference. These brethren had but small success; for there was an increase of only four in the circuit.

John Strange remained on the Madison district, and Samuel Basset was placed in the station. Madison circuit, George K. Hester; Lawrenceburg, James L. Thompson; White Water, James Havens; Connersville, Nehemiah B. Griffith; Rushville, Stephen R. Beggs; Indianapolis, Thomas Hewson; Flat Rock, James Jones and Thomas S. Hitt. The Indiana district was now called Charlestown, and James Armstrong continued on it; and on Charlestown circuit, Allen Wiley and George Randel; Corydon, Samuel Low and George Locke; Salem station, William Shanks; Salem circuit, John Cord; Paoli, John Miller.

Strange remained zealous, popular and useful and was the means of much good to the Church within the bounds where he traveled, especially to the frontier parts; for he loved the woods, and almost hated cities.

The Church in Madison, having been without a preacher the preceding year, was very anxious to be well supplied this year; hence several brethren attended the conference, that

they might see the preachers, so as to choose their man; and, if possible, prevail on the appointing power to grant them their choice. After looking round several days, they selected Samuel Basset, who was a single man, and could board with them, and not cost them much, as they were weak in membership, and not abundant in means. Basset had been five years in the work, but a part of the time he had not been able to labor regularly. He was a man of some years and experience, and withal a man of good appearance, so that it was not to be wondered that the Madison brethren made the choice which they did. The brother was a good man, and could preach some; but he was wanting in decision in the administration.

The Church was not in the most healthy and peaceable state, and he would consult with one brother about the meaning and application of the Discipline, and he would think that his views were correct; and, perhaps, the next brother with whom he would consult would be of an entirely different opinion; and so would the preacher be, not that he was a deceitful conformant to the opinions of all men, but he had no mind of his own. The poor man was perpetually on the chase to find out what was right; and, after all, he did but little. The people used to say, they would rather he would decide wrong, than not to decide at all. Things passed on in a lame state, and the brethren became convinced, for the time being at least, that they had better let the appointing power choose their preacher, than to choose for themselves.

This is not the only time, by very many, when the anxiety of the people to select their own preacher has been attended with sad disappointment. In the spring, the preacher on the Indianapolis circuit left the work, and Strange took Basset from Madison to that circuit, where he did well, and placed Calvin W. Ruter in Madison the balance of the year. Ruter was on the superannuated list, and lived at New Lexington, about seventeen miles from Madison. His health had improved some, and he served the Church as well as he could, living so far off. Things prospered under his labors and administration; but such was the downward tendency the preceding year,

and the beginning of the present year, that there was a decrease of nine in the station. Basset closed his year, as we shall see, on another charge, and then located; and what has become of him, I know not. He was a good man; and as a junior preacher might have been useful, if his health had been good; but he was a broken down man, who deserved more sympathy than he received from the people of his charge.

There was nothing of special interest on the Madison circuit this year. Hester, the preacher, was a good man, and beloved by the people; but he had determined to locate at the close of the year; and the consequence was, he could not throw his whole soul into the work as he could have done if he had intended to travel always. There was a decrease of twenty-seven in the membership at the close of the year.

Lawrenceburg circuit received James L. Thompson with much kindness, and he became, to some extent, a favorite with the people; but there was no special work on the circuit, and there was a decrease of thirteen in the numbers. I do not now recollect whether Strange employed any person to travel with Thompson or not.

I have before mentioned James Havens as being in the prime of life and the vigor of his days, and he was then a man of mighty energy; but with all his energy and zeal, there was a decrease on the White Water circuit of twenty-one. Whether Havens had any help on the circuit or not, I do not know; but I think not.

The ardent Nehemiah B. Griffith was successful on the Connersville circuit; for there was an increase of one hundred and thirty-eight, which was doing well in this charge, which had only four hundred and twelve members the year before.

The preacher on the Rushville circuit was the son of James Beggs, of Clark's Grant, mentioned before as a prominent man in the early territorial legislature of Indiana. I think Stephen was converted in the revival when Ruter was on the circuit; but of this I am not certain. He was received on trial by the Missouri conference in the fall of 1822, and is yet remaining in the work, and is now a member of the

Rock River conference. Stephen was not a strong sermonizer, but he was zealous and very successful in winning souls. Strange used to think much of him. I used to think much of his success was in consequence of the prayers of his very pious mother, who loved and prayed for him very much. I am sure, if all the preachers knew that their pious friends were praying daily for their success, they would feel an energy, and exercise a faith to which many of them are strangers. I doubt whether Stephen is as successful now as he was before his sainted mother went to heaven. The Rushville circuit rose under his ministry from two hundred and sixty-eight to three hundred and seventy-four, being an increase of one hundred and six. Strange's popular eloquence made him very useful in this new purchase, as most of Rushville circuit was then called. He and Beggs loved one another very much; for I well remember how Beggs wept, and Strange sympathized, when they parted at conference as Beggs went into another district.

The zealous and successful Thomas Hewson began his work as usual on the Indianapolis circuit, and would have been very useful if he had not yielded to temptation. His family was afflicted, and the people did not give him that support which they ought, and he became discouraged and fretful, and his former bad temper revived, and he left the work and went to Bloomington and studied medicine; and then went to Illinois to be a physician, where he remained sometime, declining in piety, and then returned to Indiana. He then went to Cincinnati, a fractious and cross-grained man, who could have no hope of salvation on the orthodox ground of Paul, "Without holiness no man shall see God," and he, to find rest to his troubled conscience, became a Universalist, as I have before mentioned. Had he not lost his piety, he would never have become what he is in his creed. I suppose the whole history of the Church will not present one case where an orthodox Christian, in the lively enjoyment of religion, became a Universalist. After Hewson left the circuit, Strange supplied it with Basset, as I have before mentioned. With all the disadvantages of Hewson's leaving, the circuit

had considerable prosperity; for it rose from three hundred and four to three hundred and seventy, being an increase of sixty-six.

Neither James Jones nor Thomas S. Hitt traveled Flat Rock circuit, to which they were appointed. Just after conference, Jones had a lovely little boy drowned, which so affected him and his wife, and so excited the sympathies of the people, that Strange was desired to make the Rising Sun a station, and let Jones be the preacher, as he lived there. Strange complied with their request; but the plan was not attended with much success. Jones located at the close of the year and so remained for several years. Hitt's health, which had been bad, still grew worse, so that he was not able to attend to any regular work, but traveled at large for the benefit of his health. I have forgotten what preacher or preachers Strange employed on the circuit. Whether there was an increase or decrease, I do not know, as the *Minutes* report the same number as the preceding year, which is common when there is no regular report from a circuit. Judging from the decrease the next year, I should suppose the circuit began to decline.

Armstrong was still powerful in revival influence on the Charlestown district. It does not become me to say much about the preacher in charge of Charlestown circuit; but the people received him kindly, and perhaps overrated his piety and talents. He spent the year comfortably to himself, and profitably to his people. Two weeks after he went to the circuit, there was a camp meeting, three or four miles from Charlestown, in the Robinson settlement, mentioned before. He preached at this camp meeting with much reluctance, but with much liberty, at eleven o'clock on Sabbath, which was the first time he had done so for many years, as he tried to shun popular appointments, as stated in a former number. This meeting opened his way, and gave him access to a strange people, who were to him a loving people. He trusts this and the succeeding year will give him many stars in his crown in the day of his rejoicing. He knows of one traveling preacher, who has been many years in the work, who was a

seal to his ministry on this circuit. He refers to William L. Deneen, of Illinois.

Randel, his colleague, was an Englishman, who had fled from England to get clear of his call to the ministry. He was an illiterate man, but had more than ordinary preaching abilities. He had a wonderful memory to retain all he ever read or heard. He has told me that he could repeat, almost word for word, sermons which he had heard years before in England. I once heard Strange say, that George Randel was the best preacher he had ever heard, to be so ignorant as he was. His preaching passed well with the people on the circuit; but he was not of much account in the class-room, or the altar. I loved George much, and tried hard to make him a good American traveling preacher; and had it not been for his terrible temper, which spoiled everything, I think I could have succeeded.

I have before stated that the circuit had a downward tendency, and needed much pruning, which was attended to in the forepart of the year, so that there was a very great shrinkage; but the pious people who had been groaning under the burden of dead weights, sustained the preacher in the administration of Discipline; and before the year closed, there was a state of much prosperity, nearly all around the circuit. There was one exception, and that was in the town of Jeffersonville, caused by a small matter well intended. The presiding elder had been there before the preachers; and, to open their way, had raised the expectation of the public so high, that they could not meet it, and the people felt disappointed, and did not estimate them at their real worth for many months. The decrease after all the pruning was only four.

The year closed with a gracious camp meeting on the ground where the one was held the fall before. At the third quarterly meeting, there were some misgivings about having any camp meetings, as such meetings had become burdensome to the people in their vicinity. The preacher in charge told the quarterly conference, that if they would sustain him, he would remedy the evil, as he had once done on White Water circuit, by a positive announcement that there would be no

provision made for persons without tents. This plan seemed to alarm some, and they thought we would have scarcely any congregation. Armstrong took a bold stand in favor of the preacher's plan, and the quarterly conference voted in favor of the measure; and the result was, the congregation was as large on Saturday evening, as it was on Sunday at the middle of the day the preceding year; and no family was burdened with foreigners, because they made arrangements before they left home to encamp on the ground. The meeting was glorious, and some seventy, if I remember correctly, gave their names as applicants for union with the Church.

The *Minutes* place Samuel Low and George Locke on the Corydon circuit in such a way, as to indicate that the former had charge of the circuit. But when the bishop transferred Locke from Kentucky, sometime after the close of the Illinois conference, he gave him the charge, as he was much older in the ministry than the other. These were men of God, whose praise was in all places in their work. They labored in harmony; and the Head of the Church owned their labors. Locke lived in New Albany, where he and his wife were great blessings to the Church, which grew very much. Indeed, the whole circuit was much elevated in its religious character. The circuit embraced Harrison, Floyd, a part of Clark, and perhaps a part of Washington counties. The increase, this year, was one hundred and fifty-four.

This year, Salem was made a station, and William Shanks, who lived a few miles from it, was placed in it. This was a temporary arrangement, and mere matter of experiment; for up to this time, and for several years afterward, the society in Salem was very small. Many of the early settlers and prominent citizens of this town were unbelievers in the truth of divine revelation, so that Christianity had hard struggling for its very existence in the town. It was supposed that if Shanks could preach there once or twice every Sabbath, there might be a favorable impression made on the public mind; but

the expectation of the friends of the measure were not realized; but doubtless some good was done.

Previous to this time, one man who had been an infidel, and who was a man of talents, was powerfully converted, and became, first, a local, and then a traveling preacher. I mean Ebenezer Patrick, who was an active and useful man in his day. The reader will find, in the *Minutes* for 1844-5, page 588, an account of brother Patrick. William Shanks had been a member of the Baltimore conference, where he traveled five years, from 1812 to 1817, when he located. This year he was admitted into the Illinois conference with a kind of special contract, so that when he was able and labored, he was to receive support from the Church; but when on the superannuated list, he was to support himself. He was a man of respectable standing and talents, who will come before us again. How many members he received in Salem, I know not, as the number is included in that of the circuit.

The good John Cord has been mentioned at some length before, and I will not enlarge here. He had some success on Salem circuit this year, for there was an increase of thirty-six. Perhaps some of this increase was in Shank's work.

John Miller, who was placed on the Paoli circuit, was pleased with the natural and moral aspect of his charge. He was at the camp meeting on Charlestown circuit and labored acceptably, and told me that his circuit was among the most healthy parts of the country, and that he had not had what we usually call a revival; but that there was a most delightful growth in the piety and numbers on the circuit. The circuit rose, this year, from four hundred and twenty-two to six hundred, being an increase of one hundred and seventy-eight. How much better is this state of things than our land-flood revivals, which are succeeded by blighting droughts! It will be found, the next year, the good work still went on. In giving the summary of this year, we still have the painful task to record that six out of the fourteen charges decreased, but

the decrease was comparatively small, being only ninety-four, while the other eight had an increase which amounted to six hundred and eighty-two, being a net increase of five hundred and eighty-eight. This prosperity was better than that of some years past, but not equal to what had been enjoyed many years before.

ALLEN WILEY

Brookville, Ia., June 19, 1846.

Western Christian Advocate, Cincinnati, Friday, July 31, 1846.

No. XXVIII

1826-27.—Amos Spark was admitted on trial by the Ohio conference and placed on the Greenville circuit. What success he had cannot be ascertained from the *Minutes*, as the number is the same that it was last year, from which I infer that there was no report made to conference concerning the circuit. As I do not find Spark's name on the *Minutes* the next year, I suppose he asked a discontinuance. This year we take leave of Greenville circuit, as that part of it which was in Indiana will be absorbed in Wayne circuit, hereafter.

John C. Brook and Isaac C. Hunter were the preachers for Oxford circuit. Brook I have before noticed as supplying this same circuit, when family affliction compelled William Hunt to retire from the circuit, in 1812. Brook has been for many years a superannuated preacher of the Ohio conference. Hunter was a man of talents, and became somewhat eminent. He died a few years since, while filling the office of presiding elder on the Marietta district. He was nearly forty-four years old at his death, and had given the best of his life to the Church. The reader will find an account of him in the *Minutes* for 1842, page 315. These brethren had some success; for there was an increase of twenty-three on the circuit, which had been nearly stationary the last three years.

John Strange still remained on the Madison district, and was still useful. Madison station, Calvin W. Ruter; Madison

circuit, James Scott and Daniel Newton; Lawrenceburg, James L. Thompson and George Randal; White Water, James Havens and John T. Johnson; Connersville, Robert Burns; Rushville, Nehemiah B. Griffeth; Indianapolis, Edwin Ray; Flat Rock, Abner H. Chever. James Armstrong was still the zealous presiding elder on the Charlestown district. Charlestown circuit, Allen Wiley and James Garner; Corydon, George Lock and Samuel Low; Salem, William Shanks and John Hogan; Paoli, William H. Smith and Smith L. Robinson.

The last number informed the reader that Ruter filled the Madison station a part of the last year; and he was now made supernumerary, and sent to this station, where he was well received and useful. There was a remarkably pleasant meeting held in this charge this year in the open air at the end of the meeting-house. The friends fixed forks in the ground, and placed poles on them, and then covered a space about sixty feet by eighty with brush, with leaves on so as to make a good shade, where they had public worship four times every day and night for several days. As camp meetings are going out of use, it would be well if our friends would make such arrangements as this for all their summer quarterly meetings, as our houses will not hold the people in our populous circuits.

Not long since I preached at the quarterly meeting for Brookville circuit, when the house held about one-third of the people, and the others had to stand round the house and hear as well as they could, or go away and not hear at all; and the consequence was, the preacher and people felt unpleasant, and little or no good was done. With such an arrangement as this all could have heard. As Ruter's charge was between my home and my work, and as I preached in the station fifteen times that year, I had a correct knowledge of the state of things, and can say the society was healthy and prosperous. The increase was thirty-eight; for the station rose from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and sixty-eight. This was a small society to support a married man.

James Scott, who appeared before us at an early day on the Indianapolis circuit, and who located at the end of that year, was readmitted and sent to the charge of Madison cir-

cuit. Daniel Newton, his colleague, had just been received, and had no experience as a traveling preacher. He was a man of feeble body, and a similar mind, who meant well; but had hardly any energy or zeal. This was not a prosperous year for the circuit. There was something of a revival in Rising Sun; but it passed away as a morning cloud. There was a camp meeting near the close of the year on the camp ground near Simeon Slawson's, at which some good was done; but some fellows of the baser sort interrupted the meeting. Samuel C. Cooper, of the North Indiana conference, was at the meeting, and he took them in hand and suppressed their mischief. My son, Melville, was converted at this meeting in his fourteenth year. He lost ground in religion, but was reclaimed, and became a minister, and traveled three years and died; and his body now sleeps about two or three hundred yards from where he was first converted. The circuit decreased twenty-eight in its membership.

Thompson and Randal began well on Lawrenceburg circuit; but family affliction kept Thompson at home a long time, and there were many disappointments, and the people became dissatisfied, and turned their regards almost wholly to Randal, who took no pains to explain the reason of Thompson's disappointments; but when Thompson could leave home, and explained the reasons of his absence, many blamed Randal, and the circuit became divided into two parties—a Thompson party, and a Randal party; and instead of paying the quarterly support in the regular way, the friends of the one would make him presents, and the friends of the other would do the same, so that each preacher probably received nearly his full support, while the steward's books reported but a small amount. How Strange fared in this state of things, I do not know; but the probability is, he received his share of presents too. When things began to react in Thompson's favor, Randal became chafed in his dealings, and located at the end of the year with much sourness in his heart. The reader will readily conclude, that the circuit fared badly under the circumstances named; and there was a decrease of twenty-nine. I mention these disagreeable matters as a warning to all

preachers and people, not to countenance such an iniquitous course as was pursued this year on the circuit. Having gone the next year to the circuit, I know the mischief which it did to the circuit.

White Water circuit now revived under the powerful labors of James Havens, and Constant B. Jones, who was employed by Strange to assist Havens on this heavy circuit. Johnson, whose name stands on the *Minutes* in connection with this circuit, had just been received and had not such experience and talent for preaching, and he had no energy at all; and the people were so much dissatisfied, that Strange moved him to Flat Rock circuit, where he was better received and he finally became a man of respectable talents as a preacher, and before he left Indiana, he was a man of considerable popularity about Vernon, where he lived. He will come before us again. The increase on the White Water circuit this year was one hundred and six; and the circuit now numbered one thousand and twenty-seven, and was deemed sufficiently strong to divide at the next conference.

Robert Burns, who was sent to Connersville, had been a local preacher of some years' standing in Ohio and Indiana. He was admitted on trial this year, and still belongs to the traveling connection, having been located a short time. He is now superannuated. He was very well received, and was successful. The increase this year was sixty-four, and the circuit now numbered six hundred and fourteen.

Griffith had a good year on Rushville, and his increase was one hundred and eight; and the circuit now numbered four hundred and eighty-two. He had help on the circuit a part of the year; for Strange employed John Hardy to travel. John was the son of the venerable Charles Hardy, mentioned in a former number, as having been a traveling preacher about sixty years ago. John was zealous and useful. He will come before us next year.

Edwin Ray, the preacher on the Indianapolis circuit, was the son of John Ray, who lived in Kentucky at that time; but he subsequently moved to Indiana, as he was utterly unwilling to die and be buried in a slave state. He had most ardently

opposed slavery all his life. The first mention of John Ray, which I find on the *Minutes*, is in 1792, when he is said to remain on trial, so that he must have commenced in 1791; but his name is not on the *Minutes* for that year, as received on trial or appointed to any work. I cannot harmonize the *Minutes*, unless he was employed by an elder; and the time he was so employed made a part of his probation. The account of his death in the *Minutes*, volume, second, page 572, says he began to travel in 1790; but I think this date is a mistake, unless there are private documents which show that he was employed by an elder then. He traveled ten years, and then located, and so remained eighteen years, when he commenced traveling again, and continued to do so as long as he was able. He was transferred to the Indiana conference, of which he died a member and is buried about four miles north of Greencastle, near a country chapel. When I saw the place, there was no monument to tell where this early servant of the Church lay.

Edwin was a talented, good, unsuspecting young man. He commenced traveling in the fall of 1822, when he was a few months over nineteen years old. He traveled two years in Kentucky and was then transferred to the Illinois conference, where he filled five appointments, and his health failed, and he was superannuated, and he settled near Indianapolis, with a view of farming; but in the spring he consented to leave home, a distance of some eighty miles, to preach in Terre Haute, which was constituted a station. His health having improved some, he was appointed the next year to that charge, where he closed his work, and started to Indianapolis with his family; but he had only gone ten miles, when he was confined, and shortly after died, and was taken from the evil to come, to which he would have been exposed in his feeble state of health. The reader will find an account of him in the *Minutes*, volume second, page 160. He had a revival in all the charges in which he labored in Indiana; and there are now some worthy and talented preachers in Indiana who are the fruits of his labor, two of whom have filled important ports in the Church. I refer to John Kerns and John C.

Smith. He had glorious times on the Indianapolis circuit, which was large and beyond his strength, for here his constitution began to give way. The increase on the circuit was two hundred and eighty-five, which was within eighty-five of doubling the circuit; for it rose from three hundred and seventy to six hundred and fifty-five. Much of this revival was in the town of Indianapolis, where our Church had not been very prominent. There was a good camp meeting some two miles southeast of the town, at which much good was done. This year the Church made arrangements to build a good meeting house in the town near what is called the Governor's Circle, but I believe they did not succeed in inclosing it until the next summer; for it was not finished when I first preached in it in the fall of 1828. The house was a good brick house, and of ample size for the then population; but has become too small, and is being superseded by a more noble structure of the same ground.

Abner H. Chever was a man of good sense, and had just been received on trial, when he was sent to Flat Rock circuit, in the bounds of which he lived. His preaching was not of the popular kind, neither was it of a revival cast. Johnson, his colleague, a part of the year passed better than he did on White Water; but his preaching was not calculated to promote a revival, and the circuit declined sixty-four in its membership.

Armstrong was sent to the Charlestown district the third year, where he labored with his usual zeal and success.

This was another year of comfort and success to Wiley, where he had for his colleague the good James Garner, mentioned in a former number, in connection with Flat Rock circuit. The Lord gave prosperity and the circuit increased sixty-nine in its membership, which was the first year of increase in the last five years. The circuit now numbered one thousand and forty-nine. Sometime in May of this year, there was a good camp meeting held about ten miles west of Madison, near Ramsey's mills, in which the Charlestown circuit and Madison station united. The arrangement was to have Strange and Armstrong and the preachers of both charges,

and as many other good preachers as could be had at the meeting; but Armstrong's arrangement kept him away; but there was much help of a good and popular kind. The meeting was a popular one, at which much good was done; especially in the increased piety of the members in both charges. To human view, much more good would have been done if the meeting had not been interrupted by a thunder gust on Sunday evening, which prevented any public service. O, what a scattering there is of the preachers who were at that meeting! Strange and old brother Morrow are gone to heaven, Hitt to Wisconsin, Garner and Johnson to Illinois, and others to other places. Ruter, Wiley, Gamaliel Taylor, Hester, and perhaps others remain in Indiana and will not likely ever all meet again.

The increase of the membership on Charlestown circuit was not the only good which was done. The circuit, with all its members and wealth had not been a good one of late years for support. Wiley only received about one hundred and twelve or fourteen dollars each year he was on it; but this matter was so fully laid before the people in the course of this year, that it is presumed his successors received their full quarterage. The year was closed with a good camp meeting, and the whole circuit was in a prosperous state; for a glorious revival came the next year, as we shall see.

Locke and Lowe did not abate in their zeal and labors on Corydon and success still attended their efforts, and the circuit still went on in its religious improvement, and had an increase of one hundred and forty-three. The circuit now numbered nine hundred and forty-nine.

Salemtown and the surrounding circuit were again united, and William Shanks placed in charge of the whole, and John Hogan, who had been recommended by the quarterly meeting conference of the Baltimore station, and who had traveled to the west with Bishop Soule, was received by the Illinois conference, and was Shanks' colleague. John had been reared a Catholic, but had been soundly converted to the Lord; and by necessary consequence had been converted from Catholicism to Protestantism. He was a useful young man, who

traveled four years and located, and went into business in the western part of Illinois; and the last I heard of him, he was prospering, and was a man of considerable influence. According to the *Minutes*, the circuit did not prosper this year; for there was a decrease of one hundred and sixty-five. See some remarks on the numbers of this circuit at the close of our account of it for the next year.

William H. Smith, the preacher in charge of Paoli circuit, commenced traveling in the fall of 1822, and is yet in the work; but his health is such, that he has had to be superannuated several times. Perhaps there are few men who have seen more hard frontier service than he. He was, and still is, more zealous than his constitution can bear; and the prospect is, that he must be a feeble and suffering man all his days. When he had health, he had success. His colleague had just been received on trial. He had a vigorous mind, and he was untiring in his application, and energetic in all he did, so that he became eminent as a preacher for one of his years. He continued traveling in different parts of Indiana and Illinois until the fall of 1835, when he was stationed in Terre Haute, where he resolved on rearing and sustaining a female school of a high order. He made some progress in building for that purpose, and had obtained an amiable and promising young lady from the east to teach the school; but in a few days after her arrival she died. Just before the conference, he went to see some of his friends in Kentucky or the south of Indiana, and came to conference afflicted in his eye, for he had but one, having lost the other when he was a child. His main theme of conversation and consultation with his friends was about his school, on which his heart was set; but innocently so. Before the conference closed, his eye became inflamed, and the inflammation extended to his brain; and a few days after the conference closed, and most of the preachers had left Indianapolis, he died; and his body now sleeps by the side of John Strange's body in the old Indianapolis grave-yard. There is a short account of him in the *Minutes*, volume second, page 572. Smith and Robinson labored hard, and success attended their exertions, and they had an increase of two hun-

dred at the end of the year. The circuit now numbered eight hundred.

This year was one of more prosperity than some former ones; for nine charges had an increase of one thousand and thirty-six, while four decreased two hundred and eighty-six leaving a net increase of seven hundred and fifty, and from one circuit we have no certain account.

ALLEN WILEY

Brookville, Ia., June 17, 1846.

Western Christian Advocate, Cincinnati, Friday, September 4, 1846.

No. XXIX

1827-28.—John P. Taylor and Benjamin Lawrence traveled Oxford circuit this year, and they had an increase of nine in their work. This year I take my leave of Oxford circuit, as the next fall the Indiana preachers occupied all its territory which was in Indiana. I also take my leave of Benjamin Lawrence, who has been before us so often; and I merely introduce John P. Taylor, and then take my leave of him. He and the writer were examined and admitted into full connection at the same time, in Cincinnati, in the summer of 1819. Taylor was a regularly read physician, and was a man of a good general education, and passed his examination well. He was a talented, eloquent, and popular preacher; but not very energetic. His health failed, and he was superannuated; and he and another superannuated preacher named Wilson, now I believe of one of the Texas conferences, commenced the mercantile business, which, I suppose, neither of them understood, and the consequence was a failure. Taylor was respectably connected in his family relations, and had been a man of honorable standing; and such was his mortification, that he absurdly sought relief for his troubled mind in a course of backsliding, and he was expelled by the Ohio conference in 1836. He moved to Indiana and was reclaimed, and I believe he now lives in a village in Henry county, Ia., and

stands as an acceptable local preacher. O, that men would take warning, and never enter into business for which they are not qualified.

John Strange still remained on Madison district. Madison station, Edwin Ray; Madison circuit, James Garner and Abner H. Chever; Lawrenceburg circuit, Allen Wiley and Daniel Newton; Lawrenceburg station, James L. Thompson; White Water circuit, Thomas S. Hitt and James Scott; Wayne, Stephen R. Beggs and William Evans; Connersville, Robert Burns; Rushville, James Havens; Indianapolis, Nehemiah B. Griffith; Columbus, Constant B. Jones; Vernon, Henry Buell; James Armstrong was the presiding elder for the Charlestown district. Charlestown circuit, George Locke, Calvin W. Ruter, sup., and Enoch G. Wood; Corydon, John W. M'Reynolds and Samuel Low; Salem, William Shanks and John Hardy; Paoli, William Moore and James M'Kean.

Strange was now on his fourth and last year on the Madison district, and still retained his eminent standing and usefulness. Ray, the preacher in Madison, was well received, and labored with success in his charge, and he occasionally attended popular meetings in the surrounding country, and God gave him seals to his ministry in almost every place where he labored. The increase in the station was thirty-four, and the charge now numbered two hundred and two.

Garner and Cheever, although good men, and good preachers, were not men of the most popular and successful talents, and the circuit rather declined, so that there was a decrease in the Madison circuit of thirty-four.

This year witnessed a most novel arrangement in the Lawrenceburg work. James L. Thompson had been two years on the circuit, and the people, especially those out of Church, wished to retain him longer; and it was proposed to the bishop to make a station to include old and new Lawrenceburg, Elizabethtown, and Hardinsburg. The preachers on the circuit were to preach in these towns regularly and receive the regular quarterage, and Thompson to fill the intervening Sabbaths and have the pastoral charge of the societies, and be supported by the people out of Church. It was expected that these towns

would return to the circuit at the end of the year; for the arrangement was considered as only temporary. Doubtless the reader will say, that this arrangement was wholly unconstitutional; for by changing the towns into a station every two years, the same man could have been kept in the same work all his life; for at the close of the station arrangement, he might have gone on the circuit. When the first quarterly meeting came on, and Strange attempted to organize a quarterly conference for the station, the question arose, Are the preachers on the circuit, who preach to the people in the station and receive their quarterage, members of the station quarterly conference? For they have no pastoral charge in the station. This was a perplexing matter, and many of the principal members were so dissatisfied with the whole arrangement, that Strange thought it best to place the societies in the towns under the charge of the preacher in charge of the circuit; so that Thompson labored the whole year without any charge, and was supported by the people out of Church at least so far as regular quarterage funds were concerned. How far those funds were diminished by this novel thing, none can tell. On our way from conference, Bishop Roberts rode up to me and said he wished me not to let this singular arrangement hurt my feelings; and said he was informed that Thompson's finances were in such a state, that he had to be accommodated in that way, or he must leave the work. I told him that I would try not to be afflicted; but I said I knew people would be dissatisfied, as they always had been utterly unwilling to have more burden than one married and one single preacher on that work, and except when Lambdin had been employed by the presiding elder that had been the plan; but now there were three families, and two of them heavy, sent there to be supported. This seemed to surprise him, for he thought Newton was a single man. He then inquired of Strange to know why he had been deceived in that matter, when Strange said I told you distinctly that Newton was a married man, but I believe you as distinctly forgot it. The bishop then said, if I had known that I should not have made such an arrangement.

Strange had two ends in view in favoring the plan stated. Although we were warm friends, we took different sides on Newton's case at conference. Strange plead that he might be dropped, and I that he might have a longer trial; and the conference continued him. I supposed there were parts of the work where he might be useful, but never dreamed of him being placed on one of the first circuits in the conference; but Strange thought he would afflict me a little by letting me have the burden of the man for whom I plead. He also thought that the people would reject him, and in that way we would get clear of him; but the people respected the authority of the appointing power too much to rebel, however little they might approve of the appointment. There we were, three families to be supported, or go without support. I received about one hundred and twelve or fourteen dollars, and Newton something less, for he had a less family than I had; and that year, for the first time I insisted on abiding by the rule in that matter. What Thompson received, I do not know; but I think it probable as much as both the preachers on the circuit.

If I were to say I did not feel oppressed, I should be insincere. I did feel that I was oppressed; and now, although the feeling is gone, my judgment is, that it was a case of oppression, such as I have never known before or since. In view of the appointment which Heaven foresaw that I was to receive the next year to the district, I have since regarded this painful matter as providential, and intended to teach me to feel for my brethren in their embarrassments, as I could not otherwise have felt. This historical fact will enable the superintendents and others to see why I look more to these matters than some others in stationing the preachers. Strange said, if he had not known me and Thompson to be peaceable men, he would not have favored this strange arrangement. This consideration, however, should never induce the appointing power to place men in a situation to be severely tempted. In this matter, the goodness and kindness of Bishop Roberts' heart had the ascendancy over his better judgment, for although there was not a violation of the letter of a fundamental law, yet in the spirit, and tendency it was most assuredly a

violation; and had any one complained to the General conference, I have no doubt that that body would have deemed it such. The preachers moved on as well as they could do, for they felt trammelled, and they did not do much good, and the whole work did not return as many members as were returned the year before; for there was a decrease of twenty-six. At the end of the year, Newton retired from the work; and what has become of him, I do not know. I have stated the facts of this year as an admonition to those who made appointments.

Thomas S. Hitt and James Scott were acceptable on the south part of the White Water circuit. This part retained the old name when the circuit was divided. How successful they were we do not know, as we do not know how many of the thousand and twenty-seven members returned the year before fell to their share. They reported five hundred and seventy-seven.

Beggs, the preacher in charge of Wayne circuit, has been noticed before. His colleague was a young man of great firmness, but of no preaching talents, and of but little zeal. He will come before us again. He traveled a few years, and located; and where he is now, I do not know.

These brethren labored faithfully, and returned seven hundred and twenty-four members, so that the increase on the two circuits made out of the old White Water circuit, was two hundred and seventy-four. I suppose Wayne circuit had more increase than White Water, but the actual increase is not what it appears to be; for that part of Greenville circuit which lay in Indiana was detached, and incorporated with Wayne circuit, so that it cannot now be known what the actual increase was.

Robert Burns, who was in charge of Connersville circuit, was on his second year in the traveling connection and also on the circuit where he passed well. Strange employed a man named William Taylor to travel with Burns. Taylor was a man of some parts, and had some zeal as a preacher; but in other things, he was a worthless man. He was afterwards admitted on trial; and at the Indiana conference, in 1832, was about to be continued, when I arose and said I wanted an

unequivocal answer to a question which I was about to propose. I then asked, Is not this man a most outrageous lazy man? This question led to developments of the most shameful character. It was stated, that when he came home his wife led the beast to the stable and fed it, and when he was about to start she saddled it and led it to the house for him, and that she had often to cut the wood and generally make the fires, even when Taylor was at home. The consequence of these disclosures was, that the conference dropped him instant. He was subsequently received on trial by the Illinois conference, but was afterward expelled from the Church. I have known several men, who were shamefully lazy, enter the ministry, and seem to have some ministerial zeal, but generally they have fallen, and not unfrequently by shameful deeds. Let lazy persons take heed, or Satan will get them all; and take heed, ye conferences, that ye receive not men into your ranks who are too lazy to work with their hands, and make a living for themselves and families.

James Havens was now sent to Rushville circuit, within the bounds of which he had purchased land and settled his family, and they have remained in that vicinity ever since. He had not much success in that large and then muddy circuit; for there was a decrease of eighty-seven. I have before described this circuit, or I would now show the reader what kind of a field this man had this and the next year. In view of the hard times through which he has passed for many years, is there anything wrong, if he should be favored a little in his appointments in the days of age and decline? I pity the heart of the man who can envy him.

The zealous Griffith labored hard on the Indianapolis circuit and had good success in his labors; for the circuit increased sixty-five. This increase, after an increase the previous year of two hundred and eighty-five, was as much as we could expect; for generally our great ingatherings have a most painful reaction. Griffith did not suit the taste of the people in the town quite so well as in the country, but he passed respectably even in the town. Strange employed a young man named John Van Cleve to travel a part of the

year on the circuit with Griffith. Van Cleve was received on trial in the fall, and is yet in the work in Illinois, and has become a man of some eminence among his brethren.

The vague name of the Flat Rock circuit was now lost from the *Minutes*; but we have in its place the names of Columbus and Vernon circuits. Constant B. Jones, who had been the helper of James Havens a part of the preceding year, was now received on trial and appointed to Columbus circuit. Jones was well received, and had some success in his labors, how much I do not know; for I do not know how many of the members fell to his share of the divided Flat Rock circuit. He returned five hundred and sixty members.

Henry Buell, who had been one year in the work, was sent to the Vernon part of the old Flat Rock circuit. He had some revivals, but what was the amount of his success cannot be ascertained, because it is not known how many members fell to his share. He returned three hundred and eleven. The two circuits now numbered eight hundred and ninety-three, which was a good increase. Buell was another indolent man, who seemed for some years to have much zeal, and made much intellectual and ministerial improvement. He, however, got into difficulties in the Wabash country, and was expelled from the Church. The last I heard of him he was living in an obscure part in the south of Missouri, or north of Arkansas, and preaching Universalism. The reader must perceive how readily backsliders and apostates fall into the devil's doctrine, "Ye shall not surely die."

Armstrong was now on the Charlestown district his fourth and last year. He was still zealous and successful to the last.

The preachers on the Charlestown circuit labored with zeal and great success. Ruter had been appointed to Salem circuit, but as he was only supernumerary, and not able to do much, the appointment was changed, and he appointed to Charlestown, where he did what he could. Wood was then young, and ardent, and successful. The circuit rose from one thousand and forty-nine to fourteen hundred and forty-one, being an increased of three hundred and ninety-two. If the circuit had then been divided into two or three

circuits, there would not have been the shrinkage that followed in the few succeeding years; for when preachers have more members than they can well take care of, they are not so zealous to enlarge their bounds and increase their numbers.

This year the General conference elected Charles Holliday, of the Wabash district, Book Agent, in consequence of which Locke, in the midst of his success, was taken from Charlestown circuit to fill the vacant district. I think Armstrong employed Cornelius Ruddle, a popular local preacher, to fill Locke's place on the circuit so that the work received no check. Ruddle will come before us again next year.

John W. M'Reynolds, the preacher in charge of Corydon circuit, had been received on trial by the Tennessee conference in the fall of 1820; and after traveling two years he located, and so remained until the summer of 1825, when he was again admitted to the traveling connection. By marriage, he had become the owner of several slaves; and I remember the conference made strict inquiry whether he had manumitted them. He continued to travel several years, and fill important appointments, when personal and family afflictions compelled him to superannuate, and so remain until the fall of 1841, when he located. He was an excellent man, who has had a large share of family affliction. I believe he now lives in Paris, Ill. Samuel Low was on the circuit the third year, which the rule permitted, as he was supernumerary. The circuit did not prosper this year as in the two preceding years; for there was a decrease of eight in the membership.

William Shanks, before mentioned, was again sent to Salem circuit; and the *Minutes* place John Hardy, before mentioned in connection with Rushville circuit, as the colleague of Shanks. John, however, never went to the circuit; for his brother died, and he was unwilling to leave his aged and venerable father. He remained several years a good plain local preacher, and died and went home to rest, and was taken from the evil to come; for he, like many others, had become a merchant, for which he was not qualified, and left his estate embarrassed. What preacher Armstrong employed to help Shanks, I have forgotten, if I ever knew. The *Min-*

utes report an increase this year of three hundred and twenty-six. There seems something strange to me about the numbers on this circuit. Last year it lost one hundred and sixty-five, and this year it gained more than three hundred. I should judge there is some typographical error in the case. There may have been changes of appointments; for there was constituted a circuit last year called Washington, which may have encroached on the Paoli circuit, and the Paoli on the Salem, and this year there may have been some changing back again; but this is mere conjecture, and I leave it. If Salem circuit had the increase named, there must have been glorious revivals within its bounds.

William Moore, the preacher in charge of Paoli circuit, was a good man, about whom I know but little. He was received on trial by the Missouri conference in the fall of 1823, and continued to travel until some time in the year 1832, when he died at Charlestown, Clark county, Ia. His travels were extensive, being in Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana. He was never eminent; but, to some extent useful. His widow is reckoned among the deserving claimants on the Indiana conference from year to year. James M'Kean had been received that year, and was young in the ministry. He is yet in the ministry as a traveling preacher, in the Rock River conference. At that time both the brethren were men of moderate talents but their labors were successful to some extent; for there was an increase of one hundred and fifty on the circuit.

Our summary, this year, is a cheering one; for nine circuits and one station had an increase of fifteen hundred and seventy-six, while only four had a decrease, amounting to one hundred and fifty-five, leaving a net increase of fourteen hundred and twenty-one. Thanks to the Holy One for his goodness to his servants, in turning their comparative adversity into a stream of prosperity.

ALLEN WILEY

Brookville, Ia., June 17, 1846.

Western Christian Advocate, Cincinnati, Friday, Sept. 11, 1846.

No. XXX

1828-29—The Illinois conference met this year on the 9th of October in Madison, Ia., which was the first time that conference was held in that town. The weather was remarkably warm and dry, so that our friends covered a large space at the end of the meeting-house, which made a delightfully cool place, in which to worship. Large crowds attended the ministrations of the strangers, who preached to them with much ability and to edification. Bishop Roberts preached on Sabbath forenoon from a favorite text in Jeremiah, ninth chapter, twenty-third and twenty-fourth verses. The sermon was a good one, but was below what the Bishop usually accomplished on such occasions. John F. Wright, of the Ohio conference, preached, in the afternoon; and in a plain, natural way, wonderfully interested the congregation. Thomas A. Morris, who was then about being transferred from the Kentucky to the Ohio conference, preached one night, and the people were delighted with the performance. At that conference, Armstrong said to me, "I set that man down for one of our future bishops." This shows Armstrong's discrimination; for I should then as soon have thought of a hundred other men. In little more than seven years and a half, Armstrong's declaration to me, which he charged me to mark, was realized by the election of the brother named to the office of general superintendent; but Armstrong did not live to see it.

This year, the Madison district had a new presiding elder, in the person of Allen Wiley, who ardently loved his brethren in the ministry and the people of his and their charge, and did the best he could to promote the prosperity of the district. He hopes to meet the men with whom he was that year associated, six of whom, at least, are gone to a world of spirits. The appointments were: Madison station, Edwin Ray; Madison circuit, Cornelius Ruddle and Abner H. Chever; Lawrenceburg, Nehemiah B. Griffith and Enoch G. Wood; White Water, James L. Thompson; Wayne, Robert Burns; Connersville, William Evans; Rushville, James Havens, sup., and

John Kerns; Fall Creek, Charles Bonner; Indianapolis station, James Armstrong; Columbus circuit, Asa Beek.

The people on Charlestown district were expecting and wishing Strange to be sent to that field of labor; for those who knew him admired him and those who had heard of him expected to admire him; and their wishes and expectations were met by his appointment to the district. The other appointments were: Charlestown circuit, John W. M'Reynolds and James Scott; Corydon, Thomas Davies and Stith M. Otwell; Salem, John Hogan and Michael S. Taylor; Paoli, Daniel Anderson; Vernon, John T. Johnson.

When Edwin Ray was reappointed to Madison, he hung suspended between life and death with a violent fever, so that he was made supernumerary, with the expectation that the elder would have to supply the place. Ray was unable to do anything until the first quarterly meeting, and the charge was filled by R. Hargrave, who was superannuated by the conference. The people admired his talents; but the length of his sermons was objectionable.

Madison station had been somewhat convulsed by what was called the Radical controversy, and Ray preached some on the subject, but to little profit; and, finally, a number of our friends withdrew, and formed a separate church, which flourished or seemed to flourish very much, so that they grew to be some three hundred strong, as one, who was with them has since told me. They built a good meetinghouse on Third street, where they worshiped some years; but after a season they began to decline, and the larger part of the valuable members who had left us returned; and at some times our Protestant brethren did not keep up any regular public worship in the house; and the Third street charge of the Methodist Episcopal Church had the occupancy of the house more than two years. I believe the Protestant Methodists are trying to resuscitate their church in the town; but it will be as the former effort, an entire failure; for their former want of permanent success will hang as a heavy incubus on any future attempt.

With all the convulsions and withdrawals of this year, we

had most excellent meetings, and the station increased forty-five in its membership, and the year closed pleasantly, and Ray left with many good friends, and seals to his ministry.

Cornelius Ruddle, mentioned before in connection with Charlestown circuit, was received on trial, being more than fifty years old, and placed on Madison circuit. He was a man of great energy and popularity—had very little variety in his public performances; but his charming voice, and vehement and pathetic manner, would make an old sermon warm the hearts of those who had heard it many times. He traveled the year out, and then married and retired from the traveling ranks, as he was a man of much suffering from a painful disease. He was, to some extent, useful on the circuit. Chever, his colleague, was only nominally a preacher; for he was so afflicted that he did not preach once during the year, and he so entirely lost his voice that he did not preach for many years, if he ever did. What has become of him, I know not.

Samuel Brenton, now of the North Indiana conference, was then a young exhorter in the Indianapolis charge. He was of excellent parentage, and gave some promise of usefulness; and I sent him to travel with Ruddle, until I could procure a suitable preacher. Early in the spring Strange sent me Lorenzo D. Smith, a young man who had been recently licensed to preach in Greencastle circuit. Smith was sent to take Brenton's place. He was young and timid, but a talented young man; and if he had been uniformly stable in his purpose to do only the work of the Lord, he would have been a man of much eminence. He will come before us again.

There was a good camp meeting at the close of the year, where much good was done; and one man, now in the ministry was converted at it. Griffith and Wood attended this meeting on their way to conference, which met at the close of that year at Edwardsville, Ill., some twenty or twenty-five miles from St. Louis. These brethren, and George K. Hester, who came to see his friends with whom he had formerly traveled, were of much service to us at the meeting. This camp meeting was in a part of the country, which is now about the centre of Moorefield circuit, Madison circuit.

Griffith and Wood were flaming heralds in Lawrenceburg circuit who gave themselves wholly to the work, and great was their success. Almost every part of the circuit was in a state of religious excitement and many souls were converted. If I mistake not, Elijah Whitten of the Indiana conference, and James V. Watson, of the Michigan conference, were converted this year. There were some painful Church difficulties, but they did not seem to retard the work in the least. The last quarterly meeting was a glorious camp meeting near Mt. Tabor meeting-house, on the dividing land between Laughery and Hogan. The year closed with an increase of two hundred and fourteen on the circuit. This was like a refreshing shower to the thirsty land and parched vegetation; for the circuit had decreased the four preceding years, and two out of four prior to these four years there was a very small increase, and the other two a decrease, so that for eight years the prospects had not been very flattering. I doubt whether Griffith ever had another year equally successful in his lifetime; and I presume Wood has never been so successful since.

Thompson was well received on White Water, and was useful to the people. As we wished to occupy our territory which had been in Oxford circuit, we needed another preacher; and Providence sent us just the man we wanted. At the first quarterly meeting Richard S. Robinson came to us meek and lowly, wishing to be employed in the itinerant work. He came using his own feet as the means of conveyance carrying his all on his arm. He exhorted on Saturday night in a most pathetic strain, and the quarterly conference, which met on adjournment after the night meeting on other business, wished me to employ him; and I did so, and have never regreted it. A good but poor brother lent him an animal to ride until the friends collected donations to buy him a horse. Robinson is still in the work, and often looks back to those days, and speaks of them as an important era in his history; and he does not, like some vain persons when they see better days, seem ashamed of the days of his humiliation. He gratefully ascribes to the Church and his brethren, under God, all the standing and influence which he has in the world.

These brethren labored in most pleasant unity, and they had good times on the circuit and there was an increase of one hundred and eighty-nine in the charge. There was not, however, that much clear gain, as a part of the apparent increase came from Oxford circuit. Perhaps there was a very little net gain; but it was a year of peace and comfort.

Burns was sent alone to the heavy Wayne circuit, and it was desirable to have help for him, and it came in March in the person of Spencer W. Hunter, whom Strange sent from Greencastle at the same time he sent Smith, mentioned in connection with Madison circuit. Hunter was then a very little preacher, but he was good and zealous and useful in most parts of the circuit. This circuit then embraced Wayne and Randolph and perhaps a part of Henry counties. The north part of it was very muddy, as I found in the spring when I went to Winchester to attend quarterly meeting, which we held in a new courthouse. The year was a pleasant and successful one, and the increase was one hundred and nine. We had a good camp meeting at the time of the last quarterly meeting.

Evans, the preacher on Connersville circuit, was mentioned last year as one of the preachers on Wayne circuit. Isaac N. Elsbury, who had formerly traveled two years in the Ohio conference, was at the Illinois conference, and willing to travel, and the presiding elder sent him on immediately to travel with Evans. These brethren were steady to their purpose, and industrious, and they had a good work on the circuit. Our society in the town of Connersville was feeble, and had only three male members in it, who were Isaac Wood, a local preacher, since dead. He was uncle to Aaron, Enoch G., and Wesley Wood. Another was ——— Rutter, who has since moved west near Indianapolis. His house was the principal stopping place for the preachers. The third was Joshua M'Intosh, who had borne the heat and burden of the reproach of Methodism for years. He still lives there, and is now a local preacher, and no person attempts to mob him as it was once attempted when James Havens was at his house. This year there was a looking up in the town, and

the society grew some; and we have continued to look up and we have become so strong that the next Indiana conference is to meet there. If our church debt were paid, we would look higher up still; but, ah, there is an incubus! The *Minutes* report eighty-eight of an increase on the circuit, but there was more of an increase than that reported in the *Minutes*; for after the numbers were taken the preceding year, the appointments in Henry county, which were in Rushville circuit, were attached to Connersville, and several appointments which were in Rush and Decatur counties, and belonged to Connersville, were attached to Rushville circuit, by which means it gained and the other lost. Had it not been that Rushville was such a man-killing circuit, even after these changes, I should have vetoed the changes; for they were made after conference by those who had no authority to do so.

The last quarterly meeting was a camp meeting, which was rendered unfruitful by some unpleasant Church difficulties which were brought before the quarterly conference. It was strongly argued by strong men that a local preacher, who had been brought before a committee of local preachers, and acquitted, could be brought before the quarterly conference and tried there; but the chair decided that a man could not be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense. This decision displeased some, but the matter ended there; and the chair is of the same opinion still.

James Havens, who was on the supernumerary list, was placed in charge of the heavy Rushville circuit. He had for his helper a pleasant, good boy, who had been one year in the work. That boy was John Kerns, the present presiding elder on the Evansville district. Never shall I forget the emphatic manner in which Bishop Soule said, "Let no man despise thy youth," when he ordained John with others on the camp ground near Edwardsville, Ill., in the fall of 1829. Havens and Kerns were as loving as father and son, and they had good success in everything except getting money. I think Havens, with his heavy family of thirteen or fourteen children, received between seventy and eighty dollars, and

Kerns half that sum, and Wiley seven dollars and seventy-two cents as his share on the circuit. O, ye who are afraid your preachers will become rich and proud, look at these sums. Well, preachers and people ought to be thankful that times have improved some in money matters. These receipts were only a little more than thirty cents on the dollar for quarterage claims, without anything for house rent or table expenses. With all this pecuniary pressure and the bad health of Havens, we had glorious times, and the *Minutes* report an increase of two hundred and seventy-five. For reasons mentioned in connection with Connersville circuit, the real increase on the circuit was not so large as the *Minutes* report; but all that Rushville should be diminished, Connersville would gain, so that the two circuits increased three hundred and sixty-three.

Fall Creek circuit, named after Fall Creek, (so called from a considerable fall in the water course near Pendleton) to which Charles Bonner was sent, had been in connection with Indianapolis circuit, and was properly the northeastern part of that circuit. It extended to Buck Creek on the Michigan road on the east, and to Andersontown, the county town of Madison county, on the north, and to Noblesville on the west, and perhaps a few appointments on the west of White River. Bonner was on his first year in the conference, having traveled most of the preceding year under the direction of the excellent Charles Holliday, the presiding elder on the Wabash district. Bonner was a young, inexperienced, awkward, but most amiable and industrious man. He was popular with his people, for they loved him much, and he was useful, and made rapid improvement. One of the best camp meetings which I ever saw, to the number of people, was on this circuit near Pendleton. I suppose at no time were there more than one thousand people on the ground, and there were some fifty or more conversions, and about the same number of additions to the Church, which was about one-twentieth part of the whole congregation.

A part of the sermon at the middle of the day on Sabbath was devoted to the subject of baptism, and at the close of the

service some forty or fifty adults and infants were solemnly baptized. After the public baptism was over, the elder was informed that there was a poor afflicted man in a wagon, whose body was to considerable extent decayed by some kind of abscess or ulceration; but there was yet body enough to hold the soul, which could not stay much longer on earth, as disease was rapidly encroaching on the vital parts of the system. This poor Lazarus, with all his stench of disease, heard the sermon, and felt its force, and was desirous to be baptized before he died; and his wish was met in the wagon. His meek, penitent, weeping countenance is still fresh in my recollection.

If baptism were confined to immersion alone, this poor man must have died unbaptized; for I suppose the most zealous immersionist in the world would not have attempted to put the fragments of his decaying body under the water. To my mind, this fact is a powerful argument against the absolute necessity of immersion to constitute valid baptism; for if that be the case, this penitent believer must have died unsealed with God's sign of the Christian covenant; but if pouring or sprinkling be valid baptism, while the head and heart are alive, and reason and feeling continue, the penitent may be baptized. This poor man felt that it was valid; and in a few days left the remains of his loathsome carcass and went to rest. We do not know whether there was an increase or a decrease, as we do not know how many of the Indianapolis circuit members fell to Fall Creek. The report at the end of the year was four hundred and fifteen.

This year Indianapolis was called a station, but it had several appointments in the country, south of the town, connected with it. Some of these appointments were as much as ten miles distant. Armstrong was, if possible, more zealous and industrious than he had ever been; and it was a glorious year for Indianapolis. Several of the present prominent members joined that year; among whom I may name John Wilkins, Alfred Harrison and wife, Calvin Fletcher, and one of great worth and benevolence, whose stay with us was but a few months till he was removed by death: I mean James Paxton.

Five hundred dollars of the funds of the Preachers' Aid Society were given by him in his last will, and also a valuable addition to the church lot for a site on which to build a parsonage. He also gave a hundred dollars to the Methodist Bible Society, a branch of which was about to be formed at Indianapolis.

James Harrison, now of the Michigan conference, also joined this year; but he was not converted until the next year in the class-room. I have not time to name all on earth and in heaven who joined that year. Among those who are at rest, I might name Henry Porter, and others. Doubtless several members of the legislature were finally converted to the Lord, in consequence of impressions made on their minds in the winter of this year. How much increase or decrease there was in the whole of this charge I cannot tell, for the same reason mentioned in reference to Fall Creek. The return at the end of the year was three hundred and three, so that Indianapolis and Fall Creek together had a decrease of two members. I think it probable that the country appointments fell off some; for Armstrong was so taken up with the town work, and in getting the meeting-house finished, that the country work was not so well attended to as was desirable; and the consequence was, the people desired to be disconnected from the town the next year. In all cases where the preachers spend a disproportionate part of their time and labors in the towns, the country people become dissatisfied. I do not know how to account for the decrease when we had such glorious times, unless some of the appointments on the south part of the circuit, as it was the preceding year, were attached to the Columbus circuit, which, I think, was the fact. If this conjecture be true, the decrease is accounted for.

Asa Beek, the preacher in charge of Columbus circuit, was received on trial this year, and had but little experience in Church matters but he had zeal, and did the very best he knew how. The presiding elder employed a brother Lewis Blankinship to travel with Beek. Blankinship could not preach much, but he was a most ardent, affectionate man, who could sing, and exhort, and do much good. Great was

the success in taking in members this year; for the *Minutes* report an increase of two hundred and sixty-three. I have before supposed a part of the former Indianapolis circuit was attached to this. The last quarterly meeting was a middling good camp meeting, held in the bottom of Blue River, on the opposite side, and a little above Edinburg. With all the success of this year, it was one of much affliction; for Blankinship and Beek's wives both died near the close of the year. Had I been called on to preach Blankinship's funeral sermon, (as I should have been, if his family could have been at the camp meeting) I intended to take for my text, "He was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost, and of faith; and much people was added to the Lord." From this text, the reader may form an estimate of the man. Beek's wife was a good little woman, by whose death he was left desolate with three little children.

This district had, at the beginning of the year, five thousand one hundred and forty-eight members, and at the end of the year six thousand two hundred and thirty-three, being an increase of eleven hundred and thirty-five; and all this net increase, except the few who were in that part of Oxford circuit which was in Indiana. I will be safe in saying, there was more than a thousand of a net increase.

I will take a little of the reader's time in describing the metes and bounds of the Madison district at this time. It began at Madison on the Ohio River, and ran north to the Mississineway River on the north of Randolph county, and then went west to White River, and followed it down by Andersontown, Noblesville, Indianapolis, and Martinsville. It then went southeast to the East Fork of White River, called Driftwood, some distance below Columbus, thence to Madison, the place of beginning, embracing all the intermediate country, except a narrow slip extending from Paris, in Jefferson county, to Versailles, in Ripley county, called Vernon circuit. The next year Vernon was included in it, and Columbus left out. This year it had nineteen or twenty county towns, and the next year twenty or twenty-one. I say twenty

or twenty-one, for I do not know whether Muncy was then a county seat or not.

There are now, most of Madison district, all of Brookville district, all of Indianapolis district, in the Indiana conference, and the larger parts of the Centreville and Indianapolis districts in the North Indiana conference, made out of this one. Where we then had ten charges, we now have about fifty, and where we then employed some sixteen or eighteen men, we now employ about seventy or upwards. I make these statements now, for I may not continue these annals later than the fall of 1832, when the state of Indiana became a separate conference. Whether I shall or shall not continue these accounts of the work will depend on several contingencies. The work has increased on my hands far beyond my expectation when I began it. I have no hope of continuing it down to the present time in less than fifty or more numbers, and as each number costs me something near two days to compose it, and then prepare it for the press, all must see that the work is not light. If I lived near the printer, so that I could correct the proof, I would be saved the drudgery of copying for the press.

The eloquent Strange, as Armstrongs' successor on the Charlestown district, sustained himself well, considering his feeble health. He remained on the district three years, when it extended some part of the time from the Ohio River, from a little below Madison down to the lower part of Harrison county, out north to Logansport, embracing all the country between the Madison district and the Wabash district, which was contiguous to the Wabash River, and did not extend up the river much above Terre Haute, on the east side. It affects my nerves while I write, to think of a man as feeble as Strange and one who suffered as much as he did on horseback, riding so many hundreds of miles in continued acute pain. No wonder he died in the prime of life, for the mere traveling was enough to wear him or any other man down who had a feeble constitution, but he loved such large fields of labor; his brethren, however, should have seen that they were killing him,

and should have curtailed them, and diminished his toils, if that could have been done. They might have done the former, but the latter is doubtful. He, however, lamented his excessive labors in his last days, as most men have done who labor beyond their strength.

John W. M'Reynolds and James Scott have both been noticed before. They went on Charlestown circuit when it had rather passed its zenith of revival influence, and the reaction so common had now begun to come on, and there was a decrease of one hundred and ninety-six. I have said, if the circuit had been divided, so that preachers might have been pastors as well as preachers, this shrinkage would not have been realized; but this is a lesson which we were slow to learn, and we are now slow to practice it. Some seem to think the traveling preachers can never do their duty unless they are always on horseback, in the pulpit, or the class-room. All these three places are very appropriate for them, but they can never do half their work there in this day. When the country was sparsely settled, and the rides long, the people did not expect more than preaching and class meeting, but now they do expect more, and they will backslide unless the preachers visit them; and if we may judge from the way some of them talk, they backslide purposely because the preachers do not do their duty as pastors. Brethren, you should do your duty, and leave the people without excuse.

Davis and Otwell had some prosperity on Corydon circuit, for there was an increase of eighty-nine. Thomas Davis was a man of some years in the traveling connection. He commenced as early as 1815, and continued to travel, with the exception of one year, when he was local, until 1832, when he was expelled by the Indiana conference. I believe he joined the Protestant Methodist Church, and, as is common in the parts where I am acquainted, I presume without any confession of his fault. I have no quarrel with that Church; but the practice of gathering up the offals of other churches will most assuredly ruin it. What has become of Davis, I know not. Otwell was a most amiable young man of an excellent mind; but he was not of a revival cast. He continued in the traveling connection either effective or superan-

nuated, until 1843, when he died in great peace. There is an interesting account of him in the *Minutes* for 1843, page 422.

John Hogan, the preacher in charge of Salem circuit, had been on it before as the colleague of William Shanks. He now had for his helper Michael S. Taylor, who was transferred from the Kentucky to the Illinois conference. Taylor's name does not appear on the *Minutes* this year, as the transfer was made after the sitting of the Illinois conference, and the *Minutes* had been made up. Michael was a good helper. This was a year of much prosperity to the circuit, for I find the increase to be one hundred and thirty-four, so that Salem was now becoming a heavy circuit, for it numbered seven hundred and seventy-two.

Daniel Anderson, the preacher on Paoli circuit, was a man of much moral worth, who joined the traveling connection somewhat advanced in life, but was acceptable and useful while he traveled, which he did ten years, and was then superannuated one year, and then located. The last I knew anything of Brother Anderson was in the fall of 1841. He then lived near the road from Bloomington to Greencastle, and was a respectable local preacher; and the Lord converted several of his sons at a camp meeting in his vicinity, which the writer and Samuel C. Cooper attended as visitors.

There was a wonderful falling off from Paoli circuit this year, which I cannot account for, unless a part of the circuit was attached to some other work. The circuit decreased three hundred and twenty-four and it continued to decrease several years.

To equalize the districts, Vernon circuit was attached to the Charleston district, and had for its preacher John T. Johnson, who had made considerable improvement since his first beginning on White Water circuit. The circuit decreased eleven.

The five circuits which we have noticed in this district had not much prosperity this year. Two of them increased two hundred and twenty-three, while three of them decreased five hundred and thirty-one, so that the real decrease was three hundred and eight, unless a part of Paoli was attached to some other circuit out of the limits of my caption, which

confines me to southeastern Indiana. Our whole summary this year is not so good as the last. Out of fifteen charges, nine had an increase of fourteen hundred and six, while six had a decrease of five hundred and forty-four, leaving a net increase of eight hundred and sixty-two. These ebbings and flowings of our increase show either the fidelity or unfaithfulness of the preachers, or the instability of our people, or, God, to show that the work is his, does not give the race to the swift, or the battle to the strong. If we always had prosperity, we might impute too much to human agency.

ALLEN WILEY

Brookville, Ia., July 3, 1846.

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(To be continued.)