

# THE CONFERENCE ADJOURNS

## Appointments For 1915 Announced at Close of Session.

### Final Session Marred By Personalities Growing Out of the Nettles Case—Serious Charges Made Against Preachers.

From The Daily Item, Nov. 30.

The South Carolina Conference today decided to locate Rev. Stephen A. Nettles, for years editor of the Christian Advocate, and not to allow him an active pastoral charge in either of the South Carolina Conferences. The vote on the resolution was 76 to 65 and Bishop Denny held that Nettles was therefore not entitled to a pastoral charge.

The resolution was offered by R. C. Boulware, A. H. Best, J. T. McFarlane, J. L. Harley, J. J. Stevenson, A. V. Harbin and G. C. Hutchinson and was as follows: "We the undersigned members of the South Carolina Conference move that Rev. S. A. Nettles be located on the ground of unacceptability." The adoption of this resolution means that Rev. Nettles still remains a member of the conference, but that he is not given any charge. The vote came after a lengthy debate and one that showed signs of becoming warm at several points, but was kept rigidly within parliamentary bounds by Bishop Denny, who held the speaker down to strict observance of parliamentary rules and thus prevented anything personal in the argument.

S. A. Nettles, after there had been repeated expressions of members of the Conference to have him speak in his own defense, made a few remarks on his own behalf, but declined to make a plea for forgiveness, as he had been asked to do by his brethren of the Conference.

Immediately after the vote was taken and he found that the Conference had decided to locate him, Mr. Nettles asked to be allowed to make charges against a number of members of the Conference for lying. He named Rev. W. I. Herbert, before he was stopped by the Bishop, who stated that the charges must go before his presiding elder and be investigated before they could come before the Conference. One of the reasons assigned for locating Rev. Nettles was that he had used unbecoming language toward his associates, having called at least two members of the Conference liars during its session, according to statements made in the Conference this morning.

Before the appointments were read, Bishop Wilson made a short address, begging for harmony in the two Conferences saying that a spirit of peace and brotherly love should be shown by all and that all should strive together for the good of the church. Bishop Collins Denny thanked the people of the city and the members of the Conference for the courtesies which had been extended to him and the kindness shown him. He reiterated the words of Bishop Wilson calling for peace and harmony in the Conference and among its members. He said that he had tried his best in giving out the assignments to put each preacher in the Conference which was most acceptable to him. It was a very difficult matter to adjust in a manner satisfactory to all and if he had failed in any point, he asked the forgiveness of the members of the two Conferences.

The morning session was taken up in hearing reports of the various committees, the electing of committees to serve in the two Conferences during the coming year and in the discussion of the Nettles resolution. The last business of the Conference as usual, was the reading of the appointments by the bishop, a matter which is always of the greatest importance to the members of the Conference and awaited with interest all over the State.

A committee consisting of Messrs. H. B. Carlisle, J. A. McCullough, C. C. Featherstone, Charleston DuRant, E. C. Dennis and B. Hart Moss was elected to make provisions as to the division of Conference property between the South Carolina and the Upper South Carolina Conference.

It was decided that the Sunday school secretary should work for both Conferences, as there were not sufficient funds to keep two secretaries at active work in the field.

Rev. J. B. Wilson urged that all members of the Conference join the Brotherhood of the Conference and called for members. About fifteen new members were added to this organization.

J. Fuller Lyon of Abbeville was elected treasurer of the Upper South Carolina Conference and Henry B. Williams of Charleston was elected treasurer of the South Carolina Conference.

A vote of thanks was given the Rev.

E. O. Watson for his long and faithful service as secretary of the South Carolina Conference.

S. B. Harper was elected secretary of the South Carolina Conference and R. E. Turnipseed of the Upper South Carolina Conference.

Upon motion of Rev. Watson B. Duncan a vote of thanks was extended to the city of Sumter and its people for their hospitality, to the churches of other denominations in the city, and at the gratification of the Conference at the presence of Bishop A. W. Wilson. Part of the resolution referring to Bishop Denny in complimentary manner was stricken out at request of Bishop Denny, who declined to allow this part of the motion to remain.

T. H. Tatum of Bishopville was elected Conference lay reader, vice Charlton DuRant, who declined to accept the office.

P. B. Wells was elected secretary pro tem of the Upper Conference to make a list of pastors prior to the meeting of the 1915 Conference.

A list of the committee and board appointments was then read and plans made for their organization immediately after the adjournment of the Conference.

Rev. J. B. Traywick made a beautiful prayer and after a few words by Bishops Wilson and Denny, the appointments were read and the one hundred and fifty-ninth and last session of the old South Carolina Methodist Conference was held. In future there will be two Conferences and two places of meeting.

The feature of the day's session was the fight on the motion to locate Rev. Stephen Abraham Nettles and not to give him a regular pastorate. The fight showed that there were many warm friends of Rev. Nettles in both the South Carolina and the Upper South Carolina Conferences, but that these supporters of Rev. Nettles were in the minority. Many eloquent and able pleas were made in behalf of Nettles, but these did not prove sufficient to turn the tide in his favor. A. H. Best, J. L. Harley, two of the signers of the resolution, took the floor in urging its passage, but other than these there were none to push the motion. Mr. Best is of the Paeolet Circuit. He thought that in mercy to others the resolution should be passed. Rev. Harley is chairman of the Anti-Saloon League in this State and, while a personal friend of Nettles, favored the resolution as he thought it would be injurious to the church to continue Nettles in a pastorate. He thought this would be an act of mercy on Nettles, as he did not believe that Nettles would be acceptable anywhere, and that his usefulness had waned.

Rev. L. F. Beaty, chairman of the Sunday school board, made a strong plea for Rev. Nettles, who he said had sinned no doubt, but others also had sinned and he believed that Nettles was sorry for his mistakes of the past. Rev. P. B. Wells also made a strong plea for mercy, saying that while Rev. Nettles had not been acceptable to some as editor of the Southern Christian Advocate, it had never been shown that he had not proved acceptable in charge of a pastorate. Rev. Best went over charges against Rev. Nettles, which were threshed out last year at the Rock Hill Conference.

Rev. R. R. Dagnall made a motion to table the motion, but his motion failed. Revs. L. F. Beaty, Henry Stokes, P. B. Wells, B. G. Guess, S. O. Cantey, S. D. Vaughn, G. C. Leonard made pleas on behalf of Rev. Nettles, while Rev. J. C. Chandler and others asked for a statement from Rev. Nettles before they were willing to vote on the question. It was after there had been repeated requests that Rev. Nettles be heard from that he arose from his seat and addressed the chair for recognition.

As he rose to make his defense every person in the house leaned forward to hear what he had to say and his words were listened to with the greatest intencness. He told of how, as the son of a Methodist preacher and knowing the hardships of a Methodist preacher's life, he had received the call to preach and after it had come to him again and again, he went into this work. For 14 years he filled the pastorate to which he was sent and then for nine years he had filled the position as editor of the Southern Christian Advocate. He had during that time never had any difficulty with any member of the board, and every member was now his friend and standing by him. He real-

ized his faults and regretted them. No man could ever say that he had lied and he despised a lie. He had correspondence to prove every charge he had ever made, but thought that these charges should have been brought before the Conference. He still felt that he was called to preach and he was willing to do what he believed to be his duty.

J. H. Mendley stated that he also had had difficulty with Rev. Nettles in the settlement of his account. He thought that he had been overcharged, but was willing to pay for the sake of peace. At this point Rev. Nettles rose and asked if he might ask a question. He was granted the privilege and asked if Mendley meant to say that he had been charged what he did not owe. Mendley stated that he did not think that he had owed as much as he had been charged. Nettles then stated that he had letters from subscribers stating that they had turned over to Rev. Mendley money which the latter had not turned over to him. Mendley further stated that he had heard Nettles say that a certain man had lied, while he was discussing the settlement with Nettles. After some more discussion the vote was called for and Nettles was located.

#### Sunday Services.

Sunday morning there was preaching at all of the churches in the city, practically all of the pulpits being occupied by the visiting members of the Methodist Conference. Bishop Denny preached at Trinity Methodist church and Bishop Wilson at Broad Street Methodist Church. Sunday afternoon the memorial session of the Conference was held and memorial tributes were read to those members of the Conference who had died during the year. Sunday night the pulpits of the city were again occupied by the visiting preachers.

Bishop Denny took for his text "Whatsoever a Man Soweth, that shall he also reap" and for an hour and a-half held the undivided attention of his large audience. After the sermon, Bishop Denny ordained the class of three elders and twelve deacons, using one service and ordaining both at the same time. The ordaining of deacons and elders at one ceremony is something unusual it probably never having occurred before in the South Carolina Conference. Before the morning service a Love Feast was held, being presided over by presiding elder J. S. Beasley.

Sunday afternoon the memorial to Rev. W. B. Baker was read by Rev. P. B. Ingram; that of Rev. N. B. Clarkson by Rev. G. C. Leonard; that to Rev. Geo. M. Boyd, by Rev. R. E. Stackhouse. Pages in the minutes were inscribed to Mrs. Paul F. Kistler, Mrs. J. W. Murray and Mrs. J. K. McKain, preachers' wives who have died during the year. The meeting was presided over by Rev. R. E. Stackhouse.

Sunday night Rev. S. A. Steel, D. D., preached an eloquent sermon at Trinity Church to a large and interested congregation.

#### Saturday Afternoon and Night.

The session Saturday afternoon proved one of the most interesting of the Conference. Final plans for the division of the Conference were decided on and Trinity Church Charleston chosen as the meeting place of the South Carolina Conference for next year, and Bethel Church, Spartanburg, as the meeting place for the Upper South Carolina Conference. The Rev. W. C. Kirkland was elected editor of the Southern Christian Advocate when Rev. R. E. Stackhouse declined to serve, and Rev. R. W. Owen was elected field secretary of the Sunday school work in South Carolina to take the place of J. M. Way, who resigned to fill a larger field of operations with the South Atlantic Division of Sunday schools, which covers several States. The roll was called and the character of the ministers was passed upon, there not being one who failed to pass.

Saturday night the Epworth League meeting of the Conference was held. The address of the Rev. S. A. Steel, D. D., proved a most instructive literary offering to the conference. Dr. Steel took for his subject "The Book," referring to the great value of the Bible as a literary, historical and philosophical reference book. The meeting was presided over by Rev. Geo. C. Leonard, president of the Epworth League Board, and a few remarks concerning the work and value of the league were made by J. C. Smith, president of the State Epworth League Conference.

At the Saturday afternoon session much business was attended to. The character of all of the preachers was passed upon. The discussion of the final plans of division took up some time. There was some debate as to the names of the two conferences, the question being settled by the names already suggested in the Mead resolution, the eastern Conference being called the South Carolina Conference and the western Conference the Upper South Carolina Conference. There was no question of locating the ministers in the Confer-

ence which they preferred and this makes the announcement of appointments an even more interesting matter than usual.

Bishop Denny announced that Rev. R. R. Tucker had been received by transfer from the Tennessee Conference.

W. B. Wharton of the Epworth Orphanage requested the especial remembrance of the Conference at Christmas season.

The decisions as to places of meeting for next year were then made. C. P. Hammond of Spartanburg invited the Upper South Carolina Conference to meet at Bethel Church in that city next year and his invitation was unanimously accepted. R. S. Truesdale of Charleston then asked that the South Carolina Conference meet at Trinity Church, Charleston, the home of Methodism in South Carolina, next year and his invitation was also unanimously accepted.

T. N. Ivey of Nashville, editor of the Christian Advocate, asked the support of the two Conferences for his publication.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.

Charleston District—J. W. Daniel, Presiding Elder.

Allendale—B. G. Murphy. Appleton—W. A. Kirby. Beaufort—J. H. Noland. Bethel Circuit—J. D. Bell. Black Swamp—W. H. Ariail. Bluffton—Benj. L. Knight. Charleston—Bethel—S. B. Harper. Hampstead Square—G. C. Hutchinson. Spring Street—Marvin Auld. Trinity—D. M. McLeod, S. A. Weber, supernumerary. Young's Island—Paul K. Crosby. Cartersville—G. L. Ingram. Cypress—D. N. Busbee. Ehrhardt—B. J. Guess. Estill—W. V. Dibble. Furman—J. B. Kilgore. Hampton—J. T. Peeler. Hendersonville—J. P. Patton. Lodge—F. E. Hodges. Ridgeland—Geo. K. Way. Ridgeville—S. D. Vaughan. Summerville—J. P. Simpson. Walterboro—J. W. Welling.

Florence District—W. A. Massebeau, Presiding Elder.

Bennettsville—Peter Stokes. Bennettsville Circuit—M. W. Hook. Brightsville—G. W. Davis. Bethlehem—J. T. McFarlane. Cheraw—G. T. Harmon, Jr. Chesterfield—J. L. Tyler. Darlington, Trinity—L. L. Bendenbaugh, W. L. Wait, supernumerary. Epworth—Henry T. Morrison. Darlington Circuit—R. W. Humphreys. East Chesterfield—T. B. Ower. Florence, Central—T. G. Herbert. Hartsville—T. E. Morris. Jefferson—J. A. White. Lamar—Hamlin Etheredge. Liberty—Paul T. Wood. Marlboro—J. R. Sojourner. McBee—S. W. Henry. McColl—J. T. Fowler. Middendorf—W. V. German, supply. Pageland—J. A. McGraw. Timmonsville and Pisgah—J. H. Graves. Timmonsville Circuit—G. T. Rhoad. Conference Secretary of Education—Peter Stokes.

Kingstree District—H. B. Browne, Presiding Elder.

Andrews—W. O. Henderson. Cades—L. E. Peeler. Cordesville—W. H. Perry. Georgetown, Duncan Memorial—H. J. Cauthen. West End—R. R. Tucker. Greeleyville—W. P. Way; H. W. Whitaker, supernumerary. Hemmingway—P. B. Ingram. Honey Hill—J. C. Davis. Johnsonville—S. C. Morris. Jordan—J. O. Burnett. Kingstree—D. Arthur Phillips. Lake City—W. H. Hodges. McClellanville—G. A. Teasley. Pinopolis—W. T. Bendenbaugh. Rome—P. A. Murray. Selters—J. W. Bailey. Sampit—G. C. Gardner. Seranton—J. B. Prosser. Summerton—G. C. Derrick. Turbeville—P. K. Rhoad.

Marion District—R. H. Jones, Presiding Elder.

Aynor—J. E. Ford. Blenheim—J. S. Bensley. Britton's Neck—P. H. Bain, supply. Brownsville—L. T. Phillips. Bucksville—W. A. Youngblood, supply. Centenary—R. R. Doyle. Conway—E. L. McCoy. Conway Circuit—W. R. Phillips. Clio—A. D. Betts. Dillon—A. J. Cauthen. Floods—F. S. Hook, supply. Galvinstown—H. W. Shealey. Latta—F. H. Shuler. Latta Circuit—D. H. Everett. Little River—J. E. Cook. Little Rock—P. L. Glennan. Loris—D. D. Jones, H. L. Singleton, supernumerary. Marion—E. E. Turnipseed. Marion Circuit—M. M. McLendon. Mullins—E. S. Jones.

Mullins Circuit—M. F. Duker. Little Pee Dee—E. H. Beckham. Waccamaw—E. F. Scoggins. Sunday School Field Secretary—W. C. Owen, Dillon Quarterly Conference. Editor Southern Christian Advocate—W. C. Kirkland, Mullins Quarterly Conference.

Orangeburg District—M. L. Banks, Presiding Elder.

Bamberg and Bamberg Mills—E. O. Watson. Barnwell—J. W. Ariail. Branchville—T. J. White. Cameron—T. W. Godbold. Denmark—H. G. Hardin. Edisto—C. B. Burns. Eutawville—To be supplied. Grover—T. A. Shealey. Harleyville—R. C. Boulware. Norway—A. S. Lesley. Orangeburg: St. Pauls—W. B. Duncan; W. S. Stokes, supernumerary. Elliott Street—J. S. Rice. Orangeburg Circuit—W. A. Beckham. Orange—J. J. Stephenson. Providence—T. L. Belvin; J. F. Way, supernumerary. Rowesville—J. A. Graham; G. W. Duker, supernumerary. Smocks—J. C. Counts. Springfield—E. P. Hutson. St. George—W. E. Wiggins.

Sumter District—H. W. Bays, Presiding Elder.

Bethany—O. N. Rountree. Bishopville—G. E. Edwards. Camden—C. B. Smith. Camden Circuit—A. C. Corbett, supply. Elloree—J. L. Mullinnix. Fort Motte—W. C. Glennon. Heath Springs—J. B. Weldon. Kershaw—S. D. Bailey. Lynchburg—S. J. Bethea. Manning—G. P. Watson. Oswego—J. P. Inabnit. Pinewood—R. M. DuRose. Providence—J. E. Carter, supply. Richland—W. S. Myers. St. John and Rombert—J. P. Ataway. St. Matthews—G. F. Kirby. Sumter, Trinity—R. S. Truesdale. Broad Street—J. M. Rogers. Sumter Mission—W. G. Elwell. Wateree—J. L. Morgan, supply. Transferred—J. B. Mahaffey to Tennessee Conference.

UPPER SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.

Anderson District—T. C. O'Dell, Presiding Elder.

Anderson: St. John's—J. W. Speake. Orville and Toxaway—W. T. Belvin. Bethel—S. W. Danner. Antreville—E. M. Robertson. Calhoun Falls—George Gary Lee. Clemson—J. M. Steadman. Central—Elzie Myers. Honea Path—S. T. Blackman. Lowndesville—J. C. Chandler. McCormick—J. P. Anderson. Pelzer—J. H. Danner. Pendleton—W. M. Owings. Seneca Circuit—N. G. Ballenger. Starr—J. L. Singleton. Townville—R. H. Lupo. Walhalla—J. L. Stokes. Walhalla Circuit—H. A. Whitten. Westminster—D. O. Spires. Williamston and Belton—S. H. Booth; G. T. Harmon, supernumerary; W. S. Martin, supernumerary.

Cokesbury District—W. P. Meadors, Presiding Elder.

Abbeville—S. O. Cantey. Abbeville Circuit—J. N. Isom. Butler—A. M. Gardner. Broad River—D. P. Boyd. Cokesbury—J. H. Connelley. Greenwood—Main Street—L. P. McGee; R. A. Child, supernumerary. Greenwood Mills—J. Earle Steadman, supply. Greenwood Circuit—G. F. Clarkson. Kinards—W. H. Murray. McKendree—To be supplied. Newberry—Central—F. E. Dibble. O'Neale Street and Jalapa—Gobe Smith. Newberry Circuit—W. R. Bauknight. Ninety-Six—R. F. Morris. Parksville—D. H. Covington, Jr. Phoenix—J. H. Manly. Prosperity and Zion—E. P. Taylor. Princeton—R. E. Sharpe. Saluda—O. A. Jeffcoat. Waterloo—J. T. Miller. Whitton—J. M. Friday. Lander College—Jno. O. Wilson, President. Main Street Quarterly Conference. Assistant Sunday School Editor—L. F. Peaty, Main Street Quarterly Conference.

Columbia District—J. W. Kilgore, Presiding Elder.

Aiken and Williston—A. E. Driegers. Aiken Circuit—J. M. Meitze. Batesburg—J. E. Mahaffey. Columbia: Main Street—R. E. Turnipseed. Washington Street—S. A. Steele. Green Street—D. W. Keller. Whitey Street—D. R. Roof. Prookland—J. A. Campbell. Shandon—L. D. Gillespie. Edgewood—L. L. Thompson, supply.

City Mission—John Paul. Waverly and College Place—A. L. Gunter. Edgefield—J. R. Walker. Fairfield—J. A. Bledsoe; E. W. Mason, supernumerary. Gilbert—D. E. Jeffcoat. Graniteville and Vaucluse—C. S. Felder.

Johnston—J. H. Thacker. Lantzley—D. A. Lewis, supply. Leesville—C. E. Peele. Leesville Circuit—J. E. Rushton. Lexington—J. G. Farr. Lexington Fork—F. G. Whitlock. Middleburg Mission—W. D. Quick, supply.

North Augusta—R. O. Lawton. Ridgeway—J. P. Winningham. Swansen—J. W. Neeley. Upper Richland—J. K. Inabnit. Wagener—W. T. Patrick, supply. Columbia College—W. W. Daniel, President, Washington Street Quarterly Conference.

Epworth Orphanage—W. B. Wharton, superintendent, Shandon Quarterly Conference.

Greenville District—P. F. Kilgore, Presiding Elder.

Clinton—W. A. Fairley. Easley—J. D. Holler. Fountain Inn—M. T. Wharton. Gray Court—T. W. Munnerlyn. Carlisle. St. Paul's—A. E. Holler. Hampton Avenue—E. R. Mason. West Greenville—S. L. Rogers. South Greenville—P. R. Kilgore, P. C., and A. M. Doggett, supply, junior preacher. Bethel and Poe—W. B. Garrett. Brandon and Judson—J. E. Strickland. Greenville Circuit—J. C. Huggin. Greer—W. J. Snyder. Laurens—J. R. T. Major. Laurens Circuit—W. H. Lewis, supply. Liberty—J. W. Elkins. Pickens—L. E. Wiggins. Pickens Circuit—L. W. Johnson. Piedmont—O. M. Abney. South Greer—Foster Speer. South Easley—W. L. Mullikin, supply.

Travelers' Rest—A. A. Rice, supply. Conference Secretary of Education—J. R. Major.

Rock Hill District—R. L. Holroyd, Presiding Elder.

Blacksburg—H. C. Mouzon. Blackstock—W. M. Hardin. Chester—J. C. Roper. Chester Circuit—W. T. Duncan. Clover—F. W. Dibble. East Chester—J. V. Davis, supply. East Lancaster—W. C. Kelley. Fort Mill—E. Z. James. Hickory Grove—H. B. Hardy. Lancaster—E. T. Hodges. Lancaster Circuit—C. W. Burgess. North Rock Hill—D. H. Ataway, supply. Richburg—W. S. Goodwin. Rock Hill, St. John's and West Main Street—P. B. Wells; W. H. Polk, Junior Preacher. Rock Hill Circuit—J. I. Spinks. Van Wyck—J. H. Montgomery. Wimsboro—J. B. Traywick. Yorkville—Henry Stokes. Missionary to Korea—L. Porter Anderson, East Chester Circuit Quarterly Conference.

Spartanburg District—R. E. Stackhouse, Presiding Elder.

Belmont—W. P. Meadors, Jr. Campobello—T. F. Gibson. Carlisle—W. B. Duncan, Jr. Cherokee—A. H. Best. Chesney—C. H. Hodges, supply. Clifton and Glendale—C. P. Carter, supply. Drayton and Beaumont—To be supplied. Enoree—J. K. Holman. Gaffney: Beaufort Street—G. C. Leonard. Limestone Street—J. W. Shell. Gaffney Circuit—R. L. Keaton. Inman—C. M. Peeler. Jonesville—W. B. Justus. Kelton—J. R. Copeland. Paeolet—C. M. Peeler. Paeolet Mills—A. V. Harbin. Reidville—S. T. Creech. Spartanburg: Bethel—A. N. Brunson; M. B. Patrick, Junior Preacher. Central—C. C. Herbert. Duncan—J. A. Cook. Union: Buffalo—J. M. Gasque, supply.

Green Street—W. F. Gault. Grace—J. E. Daniel. South Union—J. W. Lewis. Woodruff—G. G. Harley. Saxon and Textile Industrial Institute—J. H. Brown, P. C. and Field Agent.

Textile Industrial Institute—D. E. Camack, President. Saxon and Textile Industrial Institute Quarterly Conference. Superintendent Anti-Saloon League—J. L. Harley, Central Quarterly Conference. Commissioner of Education—W. I. Herbert, Central Quarterly Conference.

Belgium's Queen III.

Rotterdam, Nov. 23.—A news dispatch states that Queen Elizabeth of Belgium is ill in a hospital as the result of overwork in the Red Cross service.