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MINUTES

OF THE

Synod of Mississippi

AT ITS

SEVENTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

YAZOO CITY, MISS., NOVEMBER 15-17, 1909.



RICHMOND, VA.:  
WHITTET & SHEPPERSON, PRINTERS.

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Synod took recess till 2:30 P. M.

At 2:30 P. M., Synod resumed business.

The Committee appointed to bring in resolutions as to Dr. W. A. Alexander made the following report, which was adopted:

The Synod of Mississippi has heard with profound sorrow of the sudden death of our beloved brother and faithful fellow-worker, Rev. W. A. Alexander, D. D. The information comes to us that he fell in the Union Railroad Station in the city of Memphis, while on his way from his home in Clarksville to the sessions of this meeting. He was in the midst of earnest duties with his mind full of the affairs of the university in which our representatives had made him a teacher seventeen years ago. Our hearts are full of the tenderest emotion. Our voices are muffled with unwonted solemnity and deep grief.

We use no extravagant language when we ask, "*Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?*"

William Addison Alexander was born in Kosciusko, Miss., January 19, 1857. He was a child of the covenant, a son of the manse. He had the best of home training. The personal instruction of a scholarly father prepared him for the University of Mississippi by the time he was fourteen years of age. There he conducted himself as a thoughtful, pious, industrious young student. He won the respect and admiration of faculty and students. In due time he was graduated with distinguished honor. After one year of teaching in the University he went to Princeton Theological Seminary where his wonderful powers of acquisition were soon discovered by his teachers. He took the full course and won great favor in the highest esteem of the Hodges, and their noble colleagues. Coming home to his native Presbytery he became pastor at Lexington and later in Yazoo City. Many of us remember that he was the cordial host of the Synod of Mississippi just twenty years ago, when we met in the city in which we are now guests. It was in this city that much of his work was done on the Digest which has been of so much service to the church. Brother Alexander's next pastorate was in Canton. It was while he was there that his brethren readily saw that he had gifts and attainments needed in our educational institutions. In 1892 he was unanimously called to the chair in the Theological Department, which he occupied to the day of his death.

We love to contemplate the remarkable character of our beloved brother. His was the blessed heritage of a pious ancestry. His father's father came from the Scotch-Irish settlements of the devout and conscientious Presbyterians of Sugar Creek Church in Mecklenburg county, N. C. By nature he was endowed with a mind of a very high order. He was a boy of wonderful application and through more than forty years he was an incessant student. Our words are weighed. He was a profound scholar. He was not only thoroughly equipped for his own chair to which he had devoted seventeen years of hard work. He was learned in other departments. He could have filled any chair in a Theological Seminary.

He was a scholar. He was more. He was a wise man. His counsels were constantly sought by his colleagues in the faculty and by the Board of Trustees. His counsels were sought and appreciated in the General Assembly of which he was Stated Clerk for the past eleven years. It was because his brethren knew him, that in 1898, in New Orleans, he was spontaneously elected to that important office. We doubt if there was ever a more laborious, painstaking, vigilant or faithful officer in any organization. His capacity for work was marvellous, and because he threw his great heart into all he undertook we saw great results.

Dr. Alexander was a tower of strength on the campus. He was the student's unfailing friend. Discouraged boys went to him for fatherly counsels and practical aid. They were never disappointed.

His home-life was that of a Christian husband and father. He was devoted to his beloved wife and three bright and promising children.

In the death of Dr. Alexander the Synod of Mississippi has lost a most valuable presbyter; the University has lost one of its most learned professors; the cause of Christian education one of its most efficient workers; the whole church has sustained a great loss. "Help, Lord, for the godly man ceaseth." To brothers, sisters, wife and three now fatherless children, we extend our tenderest sympathies.

We recommend that memorial service of Dr. Alexander be held at next meeting of Synod.

J. B. HUTTON,  
C. W. GRAFTON,  
S. C. CALDWELL,  
*Committee.*

Synod directed that a copy of the resolutions be sent to the family and to papers in Clarksville and Kosciusko. Brief testimonials to Dr. Alexander were made by Rev. W. B. Bingham, Rev. C. T. Thompson and other members.

The report of the Board of Trustees of Synodical College at Holly Springs was presented by Rev. R. L. Campbell:

The Trustees of Mississippi Synodical School, located at Holly Spring, would submit the following report:

A meeting was held at the college on May 2, 1909, at which all the members of the Board were present. A full and free discussion of the needs and condition of the Institution were discussed. The Institution was found to be in a most healthful condition, in its management and in its financial condition. The enrollment of the session of 1908-09 was 106 boarding pupils and 47 day pupils. The present enrollment up to date is 99 boarding pupils and 42 day pupils. Hence it will be seen that the enrollment is practically the same. We have there a strong faculty. Some changes have been made, in the chairs of English, Science, Violin, and the matron.

The outstanding indebtedness was found to be decreased to the amount of \$5,000.00.

It seems to the Trustees that the time has come for the Synod to take some action with reference to its promise to raise a scholarship fund.

R. L. CAMPBELL,  
*Chairman.*

Synod heard an address by Rev. T. W. Raymond, President of Synodical College, in regard to his work. Rev. C. Z. Berryhill and Elder J. H. Long also spoke on the same subject.

The report was referred to the Committee on the Synodical College.

Rev. S. C. Caldwell, Director of Southwestern Presbyterian University, made his report, which was referred to the Committee on Southwestern Presbyterian University.

The Special Committee on the address of Dr. W. E. Boggs was read by Dr. T. W. Raymond and placed on the docket: