

MINUTES

OF THE

ANNUAL CONFERENCES

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

FOR THE YEARS

1773-1828.

VOLUME I.

NEW-YORK:

PUBLISHED BY T. MASON AND G. LANE,

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## TO THE READER.

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THE Annual Minutes of the Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church contain the statistics of the church in detail. They are therefore both entertaining and useful. All who feel an interest in the prosperity of Methodism in this country derive much satisfaction from perusing these documents; and, as a source of authentic information respecting many things connected with the history, polity, and usages of the church, they are indispensable. But being published in pamphlet form, they are liable to be lost; and it requires no small trouble, when a consecutive series is needed for any purpose, to procure one. For these reasons the idea of publishing them in a volume was early conceived by John Dickins, first book agent in this country, who, in 1794, issued a volume embracing all the Minutes from the commencement of Methodism in America, a period of about twenty-one or twenty-two years.

In 1813 a volume was published by D. Hitt and T. Ware, book agents. But this work is out of print, and the desire of many to have the whole from the commencement to the present period seems to call for the publication now offered.

In addition to the benefit of having at hand a work of reference to which resort may be had for settling any disputed or doubtful question relating to the statistics of the church, the volume now offered to the public may be recommended as a useful reading book. The biographical sketches of deceased preachers, of which there are many in the work, are highly interesting, and cannot, we think, be read without profit.

The readers of the Minutes should bear in mind, that they are dated, severally, at the time of their publication; and the matters recorded in each relate to the year closing at that period. This is necessary to avoid mistakes in regard to dates.

## MINUTES

OF SOME CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE PREACHERS IN CONNECTION  
WITH THE REV. MR. JOHN WESLEY.

PHILADELPHIA, MAY 25, 1774.

Quest. 1. *Who are admitted this year?*

William Watters, Abraham Whitworth, Joseph Yearbry, Philip Gatch, Philip Ebert—5.

Quest. 2. *Who are admitted on trial?*

William Duke, John Wade, Daniel Ruff, Edward Drumgole, Isaac Rollins, Robert Lindsay, Samuel Spragg—7.

Quest. 3. *Who are assistants this year?*

Thomas Rankin, Francis Asbury, Geo. Shadford, Robert Williams, John King, Abraham Whitworth, Daniel Ruff, William Watters, Philip Gatch—9.

Quest. 4. *Are there any objections to any of the preachers?*

They were examined one by one.

Quest. 5. *How are the preachers stationed this year?*

New-York, Francis Asbury, to change in three months.

Philadelphia, Thomas Rankin, to change in three months.

Trenton, William Watters.

Greenwich, Philip Ebert.

Chester, Daniel Ruff, Joseph Yearbry, to change with Wm. Watters and P. Ebert.

Kent, Abraham Whitworth.

Baltimore, George Shadford, Edward Drumgole, Richard Webster, Robert Lindsay.

Frederick, Philip Gatch, William Duke.

Norfolk, John King.

Brunswick, John Wade, Isaac Rollins, Samuel Spragg.

All the preachers to change at the end of six months.

Quest. 6. *What numbers are there in Society?*

New-York	-	-	-	-	222
Philadelphia	-	-	-	-	264
New-Jersey	-	-	-	-	257
Chester	-	-	-	-	36
Baltimore	-	-	-	-	78
Frederick	-	-	-	-	175
Norfolk	-	-	-	-	73
Brunswick	-	-	-	-	218
Kent	-	-	-	-	150

Preachers 17. 2073

This Conference agreed to the following particulars:—

1. Every preacher who is received into full connection is to have the use and property of his horse, which any of the circuits may furnish him with.

2. Every preacher to be allowed six pounds, Pennsylvania currency, per quarter, and his travelling charges besides.

3. For every assistant to make a general collection at Easter in the circuits where they labour, to be applied to the sinking of the debts on the houses, and relieving the preachers in want.

4. Wherever Thomas Rankin spends his time, he is to be assisted by those circuits.

## MINUTES

OF SOME CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE PREACHERS IN CONNECTION  
WITH THE REV. MR. JOHN WESLEY.

PHILADELPHIA, MAY 17, 1775.

Quest. 1. *What preachers are admitted this year?*

William Duke, John Wade, Daniel Ruff, Edward Drumgole, Isaac Rollins, Samuel Spragg—6.

Quest. 2. *Who are admitted upon trial?*

John Cooper, Robert Lindsay, William Glendenning—3.

Quest. 3. *Who act as assistants this year?*

Thomas Rankin, Francis Asbury, Geo. Shadford, James Dempster, Martin Rodda, Edward Drumgole, William Watters, Philip Gatch, Daniel Ruff—9.

Quest. 4. *How are the preachers stationed?*

New-York James Dempster.