

Reports of Committees.

Aged Ministers.

We, your Committee on Aged Ministers, beg leave to report that in our opinion the cause of aged ministers of the Gospel should find a warm and enduring interest in every heart. The fact that many of them are feeble in health, broken down in constitution, and utterly unable to provide adequate support in their last years, should arouse such sympathy in the hearts of their younger brethren that means will be taken to make their closing life radiant with the kindness of those who are following them in the work of God. Surely it ought not to be considered a hardship to furnish those old soldiers of the cross a little of the "bread that perisheth" when they have, under God, been permitted to give to so many the "bread of everlasting life." It will not be long before they shall reach their Father's house, where poverty and infirmity shall never more be known, and the "abundant entrance" shall be theirs in all its rich profusion and glory. There are not many so far reported in this State, and it ought to be a very small matter with all our churches, and societies, and Sunday schools, to make the few steps left of life's pilgrimage the paths of comparative ease and comfort. And then we cannot imagine anything more pleasing and acceptable to God; for it is our cooperation with Him, who has said: "Even to your old age I am He, and to hoary hairs will I carry you." The old servant of his country is held in high esteem, the warrior, the statesman and the master of science—how much more these men who have given the best civilization, and that which in the best sense exalteth a nation." F. JONES, Chairman.

Deceased Ministers.

We find that seven of our Florida preachers have been called home since our last Convention, one year ago.

✓ Rev. Cooley Sumner Reynolds was born in Belfast, Alleghany county, N. Y., December 18, 1830, and died at Clearwater, Fla., June 21, 1901. He came to Florida in 1851, and has been prominently identified with the best interests of his adopted State ever since. He was one of the oldest newspaper men in the State, having edited papers in Ocala, Palatka, Tampa, Key West and Clearwater. He was married in Tampa in 1854 to Miss Judith Alexander, to which union were born seven children,

of whom three survive—Mrs. T. J. Sheridan, Sumner J. Reynolds and Mrs. Leroy Brandon.

During the Civil War Mr. Reynolds was tax assessor and collector of Maricn county. At the close of the war, with health ruined and fortune gone he came to Clearwater to pass the remainder of his days.

He won a warm place in the hearts of the people of this section, and was twice elected member of the State legislature from this county.

For fifty years he served the people as a minister of the Gospel, and probably married more people and conducted more funerals than any other preacher in South Florida. —Mr. Reynolds was a second cousin of Senator Charles Sumner, of Massachusetts, a great-nephew of Gen. Anthony Wayne, of Revolutionary War fame, and a great-grandson of Nathaniel McElvane, one of the patriots who helped to throw overboard a shipload of tea in Boston harbor before the Revolutionary War.

He was a man singularly free from prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness. While he was firm in his adherence to what he believed to be right, he never abused people who did not agree with him.

He founded the Clearwater Press, which was his last business and professional work, and since ill-health compelled him to relinquish it to other hands he retained the keenest solicitude for its success. His ideals were high and noble. He labored for what he believed to be the best interests of the people.

During the last years of his life he was a constant sufferer from physical ills and death to him was a welcome deliverance.

(The foregoing sketch of Bro. Reynolds was taken from a Clearwater paper.)

He was for some time, perhaps two years, pastor of the Ocala church. He was also clerk of the Alachua Association for three years.

Rev. Zachariah Dees was a son of Lemuel and Bettie (Davis) Dees, of North Carolina. The date of his birth is unknown. His conversion occurred when he was eighteen years old. His very limited education was received in the common schools of Hamilton county, Florida. He was twice married, first to Miss Lucinda Johnson and second to Miss Eliza C. Jones, of LaFayette county, who bore him sixteen children, ten of whom are still living. He was licensed to preach and ordained by Macedonia church, Suwannee county. The latter part of his life was spent in LaFayette county, and his pastoral work was done in that and surrounding counties, but no specific account of it has been pre-