

THE Methodist Book Concern has been in all the papers occasionally for months past, owing to certain alleged frauds and irregularities in connection with it. The Book Concern is the authorized establishment for the printing, publication, and sale of Methodist literature in America.

At the late Methodist General Conference, in consequence of the scandals so commonly circulated with the establishment, a special committee was appointed and instructed to enquire into and report upon the alleged frauds or irregularities. The following are the conclusions arrived at by the committee, as presented in their report to the Conference:

Your committee, therefore, after as careful an examination of all the evidence at hand bearing upon the subject submitted to us as it has been possible for us in the time at our disposal to give it, arrive at the conclusion that repeated frauds have been practiced upon the Book Concern.

These frauds are found in the manufacturing department, and are located chiefly, if not wholly, in the bindery. Mr. Hoffman was superintendent of this department at the time of the perpetration of these frauds, and the evidence indicates that for a series of years he carried on a system of frauds by which the Concern sustained very considerable losses, the amount of which it is impossible to indicate with accuracy.

1. We are of the opinion that the business methods of this department were formerly such as to afford opportunities for frauds and peculations by subordinates, which these investigations show have been taken advantage of.

2. Your committee concur with Mr. Kilbreth in the statement made by him in his report before us, in which he says that "in former years it is apparent that there was a great lack of system in the business transactions of the house as shown on the books, and a great deal of confusion and careless bookkeeping," as also in his further statement that "the business entries of the years 1862 and 1864, including also the bindery and periodical account of 1861, are totally inexcusable as specimens of accounts."

3. Your committee also find that the losses sustained by frauds and irregularities are not of such magnitude as to endanger the financial strength of the Book Concern, nor to materially impair its capital.

4. That there are no reasonable grounds or proofs to justify an assumption that any agent or assistant agent is or has been implicated or interested in any frauds which have been practiced on the Book Concern.

5. That the present method of accounts and modes of conducting the business are such as to insure reasonable and ordinary protection against frauds and irregularities, yet they are not altogether perfect.

6. In reference to the purchasing of paper through Mr. James F. Porter, we concur with Mr. Kilbreth, "that under all the circumstances of the case we unhesitatingly regard it as a decided business impropriety."

7. We deem it proper to refer to the transaction of the Book Concern with Messrs. Brown Bros. & Co., (see Mr. Kilbreth's Report, page 48,) because it was an unauthorized use of the credit of the Book Concern for the benefit of outside parties; and although there was in this case no loss to the Book Concern, and we may reasonably believe the motives which prompted to the act were to promote the interests of the Concern, and to accommodate the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, South, yet to guard against its influence as a precedent we call your attention to it as an error fraught with peril to the interests of the Book Concern which should not be sanctioned.

8. As to question seven, submitted for our consideration, whether the report of the agents for 1871 "is a fair exhibit of the assets and liabilities of the Concern," we report that no testimony was introduced before the whole committee on that subject, though several members of the committee examined such evidence at the Book Room as was available. As the exhibit is made up in parts of estimated values of real estate and other property belonging to the Concern, such estimates must depend largely for their reliability upon the good judgment of the persons making up such exhibit.

It is perhaps sufficient to say that your committee have no evidence before them tending to show that the exhibits should be different from what they are.

Appreciating the important duties

devolved upon us, and with an earnest desire to reach just conclusions, your committee have labored earnestly to discover the facts involved, and arrive at just conclusions embraced within the scope of the authority conferred upon us. We submit the foregoing as a summary of our conclusions.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. H. BONNER, Chairman.

A. D. WILSON, Secretary.

On the question of the adoption of the foregoing report as a whole, by your committee, the same was adopted unanimously, by a rising vote.

A. D. WILSON, Secretary.

Brooklyn, New York, May 30, 1872.

The eyes of other people are the eyes that ruin us.—Franklin.

"Ah, Jemmy, Jemmy," said the Bishop of Derry to a drunken blacksmith, "I am sorry to see you beginning your evil course again; and, Jemmy, I am very anxious to know what you intend to do with that fine lad, your son?" "I intend, sir," said Jemmy, "to do for him what you cannot do for your son." "Eh, eh! how's that, how's that?" To which Jemmy, with a burst of genuine feeling, said, "I intend to make him a better man than his father!"

NOTICE.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. That cash entry for the Townsite of Minersville, Beaver Co. Utah Territory, made April 6, 1872, embracing the following described lands, to wit: E 1/4 of N W 1/4 and N E 1/4 of S W 1/4 of Section No. 12, Township No. 30 South Range No. 30 West, containing 120 acres, has been made in trust for the inhabitants thereof, and is now ready to be disposed of in lots to any person or persons entitled thereto.

All persons claiming to be owners or possessors of any portion of said entry, will take due notice and make the application as provided in the statutes of Utah. J. R. MURDOCK, Probate Judge.

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NOTICE.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. That where-as I will appear on Monday the 8th day of July, A. D. 1872 at 10 o'clock a. m., at the U. S. Land Office, in Salt Lake City, U. T., to make cash entry for the Townsite of Gosner, Utah Co. Utah Territory, embracing the following described Lands to wit: T. 8 S. E. of S. E. 1/4 Sec. 11, S. W. of S. W. 1/4 Sec. 12, N. W. of N. W. 1/4 Sec. 13, N. E. of N. E. 1/4 Sec. 14, Township 10 South of Range 1 West, containing 160 acres. To make the proof required by law and show that I am entitled to have the entries made under an Act of Congress for the relief of the inhabitants of Cities and Towns upon the public lands. Approved March 2, 1867, and also an Act amendatory thereto, Approved June 8, 1868, for the use and benefit of the inhabitants thereof, at which time and place any person or persons can appear and show cause, if any there be, why such entry should not be made.

GEO. W. BEAN, Probate Judge.

Provo City, June 8, 1872.

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