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Texas Christian Advocate. METHODIST UNION. Dr. McFerrin Answers the Open Letter of Dr. George.

3. Many good and wise men think the body in its legislative and administrative capacity would be too large, too unwieldy...

The Rev. J. E. Embury writing, to the Christian Record, the organ of the African M. E. Church, speaks bitterly of the "outrages" recently perpetrated by Southern railroads...

What Can Be Done? Bishop Foster on a Grave Question. First, How not to do it. For a preacher to go into the pulpit not expecting to do it, not aiming to do it...

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Texas Christian Advocate

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Full Digest of Proceedings from Day to Day.

Ninth Day--Continued.

The following was read and referred to the Committee on Temperance: The Arkansas Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, do most respectfully memorialize the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to prepare and insert in the Book of Discipline a short chapter on Temperance, and also to authorize the appointment of one or more members of an Annual Conference to travel throughout the Southern States, to disseminate the temperance cause, wherever it is deemed important, and such persons are so recommended by the Annual Conference.

Dr. B. M. Messick, of the Louisville Conference, arose and said that he did not desire to raise a question with any one, but that he would ask, in behalf of Dr. A. H. Redford, permission to present in writing to the conference an answer to the speeches of Dr. J. B. McFerrin and Judge Whitworth. Dr. Redford asked that he be allowed to present the answer in writing and read to the conference. Dr. Walker, of the Virginia Conference--Does Dr. Redford ask this as a privilege? Dr. Messick--Yes.

Dr. Walker--Well, then, I hope this conference will not grant the request. We have read him at some length in his answer to the book committee and book agent, and it had made the proper defense then he ought not to move that the request be granted. The question was put and the request was not granted.

Resolutions.

North Texas Conference--By W. H. Hughes, J. W. Fulton, J. M. Binkley, M. H. Newby, Young Burgher and others relating to re-admission of expelled ministers.

Referred to Committee on Revision. Holston Conference--Resolved, That paragraph 8, in the answer to question 3, section 2, chapter 3, page 75, of the Discipline, be amended by striking out the following: "And to re-appointing such traveling preachers as may be members of other annual conferences."

Referred to Committee on Revision. Alabama Conference--Resolved, That the following changes be made in the Book of Discipline: "And to re-appointing such traveling preachers as may be members of other annual conferences."

Referred to Committee on Revision. Louisiana Conference--Resolved, That the following changes be made in the Book of Discipline: "And to re-appointing such traveling preachers as may be members of other annual conferences."

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Referred to Committee on Revision. Florida Conference--Resolved, That the following changes be made in the Book of Discipline: "And to re-appointing such traveling preachers as may be members of other annual conferences."

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Referred to Committee on Revision. Virginia Conference--Resolved, That the following changes be made in the Book of Discipline: "And to re-appointing such traveling preachers as may be members of other annual conferences."

ter 11, section 4, be amended by adding the following paragraph, to be inserted after the first sentence: "District trustees shall have authority to dispose of district property under the same restrictions governing trustees of church property, subject, however, to the approval of the presiding elder and district stewards, instead of the preacher in charge and the Quarterly Conference."

Referred to the Committee on Revision. Florida Conference: Resolved, That it be the duty of our Sunday-school editor to prepare and publish a catalogue of books suitable for Sunday-school libraries, including books of our own publication and those of other publishers, so that those desiring to purchase Sunday-school libraries may be able to make selection of suitable books without personal examination of the books of this catalogue to be kept on sale at our House.

That our Sunday-school editor be furnished sufficient assistance to discharge this duty. Referred to the Committee on Sunday-school. North Carolina Conference--After "inquiry" 24; page of Discipline, 63, H, from the time of holding the fourth quarterly conference, or for any other reason, the financial or other statistics to be reported to the ensuing Annual Conference are not complete, it shall be the duty of the preacher in charge to call the stewards together at such time and place, immediately before the conference, as will enable them to complete these statistics. Sunday-school superintendents, secretaries of church conferences and trustees of church property shall complete their reports, if not already full, to the meeting of the stewards. When the statistics are thus completed, the preacher in charge and recording steward shall report them to the annual conference, and the recording steward shall record them in the quarterly conference journal, or a supplement to the conference minutes of the current year.

Referred to the Committee on Revision. North Texas Conference: Resolved, That paragraph 55, section 4, chapter 2 of the Discipline, in answer to the question, "How many preachers shall be appointed to travel within the bounds of such quarterly conferences, though they may be members of other annual conferences?" be amended as follows: "The number of traveling preachers appointed to travel within the bounds of such quarterly conferences, though they may be members of other annual conferences, shall be determined by the presiding elders' districts, but no Annual Conference shall have fewer than two districts."

Referred to Committee on Revision. Alabama Conference--Resolved, That the following changes be made in the Book of Discipline: "And to re-appointing such traveling preachers as may be members of other annual conferences."

Referred to Committee on Revision. Louisiana Conference--Resolved, That the following changes be made in the Book of Discipline: "And to re-appointing such traveling preachers as may be members of other annual conferences."

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Referred to Committee on Revision. Virginia Conference--Resolved, That the following changes be made in the Book of Discipline: "And to re-appointing such traveling preachers as may be members of other annual conferences."

Referred to Committee on Revision. West Virginia Conference--Resolved, That the following changes be made in the Book of Discipline: "And to re-appointing such traveling preachers as may be members of other annual conferences."

Referred to Committee on Revision. Kentucky Conference--Resolved, That the following changes be made in the Book of Discipline: "And to re-appointing such traveling preachers as may be members of other annual conferences."

Referred to Committee on Revision. Tennessee Conference--Resolved, That the following changes be made in the Book of Discipline: "And to re-appointing such traveling preachers as may be members of other annual conferences."

were not held as they ought to be for the want of time, and the slight visitation of the bishops in the district conferences is noticeable. Besides, the bishops ought to give some time to the cause of education. An increase of three bishops would not supply the deficiency, and he favored the election of either four or five additional bishops.

F. Law, of Alabama, moved the previous question, but subsequently withdrew his motion. Dr. J. B. McFerrin then moved to amend the report by naming four additional bishops instead of six.

Dr. T. C. Weir, of the Mississippi Conference was heartily in favor of five or six bishops, and as his reasons urged four points: First, the episcopal office was the great holding of the organization together, and unless it was strengthened, there would be a danger of disintegration. Second, a large number of bishops was needed for personal presence and supervision. Third, a smaller number than six could not meet the demands of the office. Fourth, the church was able to support even more than six.

J. D. Shaw, of the Northwest Texas Conference, favored the election of six, holding the danger of high-churchism was greater with a smaller number of bishops than a larger number; the cost of the additional bishops should not be taken into account, and the assertion that six good men could not be found in the Methodist Church was without foundation. Other telling points were made in Mr. Shaw's very effective speech, which will be printed in full hereafter.

Mr. Samuel Cupples, of the St. Louis Conference, favored the election of five additional bishops, but before he had finished the hour, for the morning session expired.

TENTH DAY.

After the opening routine business and some unimportant discussion regarding the number of bishops, the Committee on Episcopacy submitted the following report, No. 5: Your committee having considered some of the papers referred by the conference, present results:

1. A paper signed by J. B. McGee, P. A. Peterson and W. S. Black, asking legislation as to the episcopacy in which the bishops shall live, so as to distribute them equally as far as practicable, through the work. The committee is of opinion that no action beyond what was suggested in report No. 3, presented yesterday, is necessary.

2. A paper signed H. F. Johnson and C. B. Galloway, asking for an amendment to the Discipline, section 2, chapter 3, in reference to Episcopal districts and suitable division of whole territory into more or less districts, etc. The committee is of opinion that no change or amendment of said section is necessary.

3. A paper signed by J. B. McGee, P. A. Peterson and W. S. Black, asking legislation as to the episcopacy in which the bishops shall live, so as to distribute them equally as far as practicable, through the work. The committee is of opinion that no action beyond what was suggested in report No. 3, presented yesterday, is necessary.

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6. A paper signed by J. B. McGee, P. A. Peterson and W. S. Black, asking legislation as to the episcopacy in which the bishops shall live, so as to distribute them equally as far as practicable, through the work. The committee is of opinion that no action beyond what was suggested in report No. 3, presented yesterday, is necessary.

7. A paper signed by J. B. McGee, P. A. Peterson and W. S. Black, asking legislation as to the episcopacy in which the bishops shall live, so as to distribute them equally as far as practicable, through the work. The committee is of opinion that no action beyond what was suggested in report No. 3, presented yesterday, is necessary.

8. A paper signed by J. B. McGee, P. A. Peterson and W. S. Black, asking legislation as to the episcopacy in which the bishops shall live, so as to distribute them equally as far as practicable, through the work. The committee is of opinion that no action beyond what was suggested in report No. 3, presented yesterday, is necessary.

Referred to the Committee on Revision. Ritual for baptism of infants the address to the parents in chapter 13, section 2, page 225, shall be changed so as to read this:

"In causing this child to be brought by baptism into the church of Christ it is your duty to teach the nature and end of the holy sacrament and to give reverent attendance upon the ministry of the Word and the public and private worship of God; and, further, he shall provide that he shall read the Holy Scriptures and be taught to believe all the articles of the Christian faith, and to obediently keep God's holy will and commandments all the days of his life."

Referred to Committee on Revision. Amend paragraph 2, question 1, section 4, chapter 2, page 57, of Discipline, by striking out the words "on nomination of the preacher in charge," at the close of said paragraph.

Referred to the Committee on Revision. Resolved, That the Committee on Episcopacy be, and they are hereby, required to examine into and report to this conference: 1. What amount of money has been assessed during the last quadrennial for the support of the bishops.

2. What amount has been paid on assessments by the annual conferences respectively. 3. How much, in the aggregate amount, has been received from all sources and placed to the credit of the fund for the support of the bishops.

4. How have the funds received been appropriated, and what is the present condition of the fund? Referred to the Committee on Episcopacy. Resolved, That the pastoral address of the bishops issued in 1874, and inserted in the appendix of the present edition of the Book of Discipline, be inserted in the next revised edition of the Discipline, with such alterations or additions as the College of Bishops may deem proper.

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use all necessary means to bring about reconciliation. Every member of said council shall keep in his own bosom the acts of the bishop and work of the council until the appointments are publicly announced.

Resolved, That this chapter as proposed shall be referred to the committee for their practical consideration. Wm. Price, J. R. Henry, Chas. L. Brown.

Dr. West, of the North Alabama Conference, moved that the resolution be tabled, which motion failed by a vote of 91 ayes to 13 nays. The resolution was then referred to the Committee on Episcopacy.

Resolved, That it is of the utmost importance to the success of the missionary work that some one of the College of Bishops should visit each year the various fields of said work, and that in the opinion of this conference the College of Bishops should, and they are hereby requested to, assign one of their number for each year for the duty above indicated.

Referred to the Committee on Episcopacy. Resolved, That the Committee on Education be instructed to inquire into the practicability of establishing a department or chair of missions in one or more of our collegiate institutions, and if practicable the best methods of securing such department.

Referred to the Committee on Education. Election of Bishops. Dr. H. F. Johnson, presented the following resolution: Resolved, That the vote be taken on the proposed increase of bishops a vote be taken on the numbers 6, 5, 4 and 3 successively until a number shall be agreed upon.

The resolution, after a short discussion, was agreed to, and the consideration of the question of how many bishops to elect coming up, Prof. N. T. Lupton moved that the speeches upon the question be limited to five minutes.

Dr. Boring, of the North Georgia Conference, did not wish to give more than the morning session to the consideration of the question, and desired to limit the speakers. Dr. Hinton, of the South Georgia Conference, was opposed to anything which might prevent a fair and full discussion of the question of the episcopacy.

Prof. Lupton withdrew his motion to limit the speeches to five minutes because it came to a vote. Mr. Adams, of the North Georgia Conference, moved to continue the morning session until the election of four bishops, and said that the majority of the North Georgia delegation were opposed to any more than that number.

H. J. Adams, of the North Georgia Conference, interrupted him by saying that he hoped the speaker would make such a statement until a vote of the North Georgia delegation had been taken.

Dr. Boring, continuing, said he knew the majority of the delegation were not in favor of the motion. He had traveled over the Atlanta district, the largest district in the North Georgia Conference, and had sought to get the sentiment of the Methodists of his district, and the prevailing sentiment was in favor of three or four. The members of the delegation of the other districts, however, had few times alluded to the recommendation made in the address of the bishops for three new ones. The opinion of such men of experience should certainly be taken into consideration in preference to the opinion of the committee recommending six.

The time allowed--fifteen minutes--having expired before his speech was concluded, Dr. Boring closed by saying that if the conference saw proper to refer the question to a committee of confining their argument--he would yield.

ELEVENTH DAY.

Prior to opening the regular business Bishop McTyeire asked to have read to the conference the following communication from the African Zion Church, and signed by their Bishop Hood:

FAVETVILLE, N. C., May 8, 1882. To the Bishops and Members of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South: Dear Fathers and Brethren--Having been appointed to bear the fraternal greetings of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church to your venerable body, I exceedingly regret my inability to be present in person. I therefore take this method of fulfilling the part which is expected of me by those I represent. There are special reasons why there should be a friendly feeling between your church and ours. Prominent among these is the fact that we occupy a relation toward your church which we occupy toward our own church under the sun. We occupy the same field with you without rivalry. There exists no grounds for antagonism, for God himself seems to have appointed our bounds and fixed the limits of our operations. The greatest blessing in ninety-tenths of our church is in the South. Circumstances over which we have no control have drawn a line between the two races, in all their social relations, as marked and distinct as the nose on a man's face. It is not a line of hate or dread of enmity, but a line sanctioned by custom, till it has all the force of law. This social line has made the African church a necessity.

Possibly we have more branches of that church than we need, but until we can see our way toward unity in one, we shall have to continue to minister to our white brethren, each branch using their best efforts to spread the Redeemer's kingdom.

On motion of Rev. P. A. Peterson, of the Virginia Conference, the communication was referred to the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence. Bishop McTyeire said that he also had a communication from the Conference of the Colored Methodist Church, recently held in Washington City, and it was read as follows:

To the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, now at Nashville, Tenn., in session assembled: Dear Bishops and Brethren--Whereas, we feel that relation which we should feel toward you, who have set

us apart, a separate and distinct organized body of Methodists, being to you only as a child to its parent, we make bold to come to you with this our petition, hoping sincerely that our cry will not be in vain, and that you do consider this our petition, not only because we are of you, but because of the great necessity that impels us to this request. For, be assured, that did we not feel deeply the great need we ask, and did we not believe that you would grant us a kindly hearing, we should decline sending you this petition.

While we have no cause to complain of the success we have met with, considering the disadvantages under which we labor, yet we have many impediments to greater success--the accomplishment of more good--which can not be removed by us without some pecuniary aid in our educational and mission fields.

And, whereas, we feel the great need of educational advantages in our church, seeing the great majority of our membership are devoting their attention and means to the education of their children in schools to other denominations:

And, whereas, Romanism in her hideous form is opening to our young people an avenue into her associations by this means:

And, whereas, we can do but little for ourselves to save our young people from these things without institutions of learning, therefore, it was resolved by the General Conference of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in America, now in session in Washington, D. C., to place before you, the Christian body this petition, asking you as dear fathers to aid us in the erection of school-buildings for the purpose of furnishing our membership with a suitable place to acquire an education under our supervision.

We have done something the past year to establish a school at Jackson, Tenn., and also at Byhalia, Miss., having purchased the grounds preparatory to building thereon.

And our people willing and ready to aid us, but owing to failures in crops the two years passed, and the late overflow of our districts along the Mississippi river, they will be unable to do much for us the present year. We, therefore, come to you who know the value of an educated ministry, and who know our wants as well, if not better, and we respectfully ask that your ecclesiastical body do consider some plan whereby we may receive some aid in this direction.

Whereas, we find a growing tendency in all parts of the Southern States among our people to become identified with us and of us:

And, whereas, we wish to enter the cities which are crying for us to come thither, but having no means for either erecting places of worship or of sustaining ministers while engaged in missionary work:

And, whereas, we feel that our interests are suffering for want of mission money:

And, whereas, our people are comparatively unable to do any thing, and we are unable to do anything as possible of their scanty means, and we have accomplished much good with the small amount contributed:

And, whereas, we feel the need of mission money to be one of our greatest needs, therefore, we would respectfully request you to do anything which in your golly judgment would aid us in the spread of our work and building up churches in places where we at present have only small but active missions, as at New Orleans, La.; Atlanta, Ga.; Memphis, Tenn.; and other places. Respectfully submitted, Bishop Isaac Lane, A. J. SIMMONS, W. T. THOMAS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 20, 1882. Dr. A. W. Wilson, of the Baltimore Conference, moved that that portion of the communication which refers to education be referred to the Committee on Education, and that portion referring to missions be referred to the Committee on Missions.

Bishop McTyeire also presented, and the secretary read a series of resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the M. E. Church in America, touching the death of Dr. Summers.

The conference resumed consideration of the communication.

Bishop Question. Dr. McAnally: I move that when the vote is taken that the votes of the conference be called, and each member shall deposit his name and vote in a basket that shall be passed round. Motion declared out of order.

Mr. Jewell: I was prepared to submit the motion, and did not desire discussion myself, but if it must be discussed I have a few things I want to say to this General Conference. I am for four additional bishops. I do not wish to misunderstand how I stand on this question. It is proper that I should state what I expect the bishops to do. I want bishops not only to attend the sessions of the Annual Conferences and to make appointments, but to want them to attend the District Conferences. I want them to attend the District Conference because I think it important to their work. I want them to preside over them during the year, that they may gather up the information which they can acquire by personal contact with the preachers.

Dr. James E. Evans, of North Georgia Conference: Now, sir, I want to say that men, to have this position and power, should be the best men of the whole church. In proposing four I do not intend to weaken our Episcopacy. I count these four, making all allowance for the infirmities of the present Board of Bishops. I will call the entire number seven. We will have forty-two conferences, and seven into forty-two will go six times. Now, that is six conferences to each bishop, twelve weeks for these six conferences. Now, sir, I do not think that any bishop can do justice to the work in that time. It is too great a tax upon the brain and nerve of any bishop. I will give you two weeks to each conference, that makes twelve weeks, and now I assume there is an average of six districts to each conference. I think that will cover the ground. Six times six is thirty-six conferences, or six to each bishop. Divide that in half, and you can see our way toward unity in one, we shall have to continue to minister to our white brethren, each branch using their best efforts to spread the Redeemer's kingdom.

ted to the floor. I now move that the vote be taken.

Dr. Bennett: Personally, I have no desire to speak on this question; but as chairman of the Committee on Episcopacy made so without my wish or expectation, I must speak for the committee. I will speak as briefly as possible. I shall first state how the committee considered this question. They did not consider it in the light of the dispensing influence of wit and humor. There was no reference made, sir, to Episcopal dinners, or to roast turkey except by one brother who has had, perhaps, the largest experience in that line. Laughter, they did not consider this question under the influence of glowing exhortation or impassioned appeals. They considered it calmly, dispassionately, in view of all the facts presented before the representative men that composed the committee. The committee came to the conclusion that it was essential that any brother or sister should look upon the face of a Methodist bishop. The committee did not triangulate our territory and proceed to ascertain by any mathematical process whether or not the bishop had been within a given territory for the last fifty or one hundred years. The committee proceeded to consider this question on the following grounds:

First--They took into consideration the present condition of the general superintendency of the church. With the most profound respect for the venerable men that have filled that high position with so much honor to themselves, and with so much usefulness to the church, they reached the conclusion, deliberately, prayerfully, and I say, sir, almost unanimously, that the general superintendency needed strengthening to a very great extent. They felt that the men who occupy that high place are willing to give their utmost strength to this great work; but, sir, they feel that they need in shaping the destinies of the church that this General Conference should associate with them men able to learn in the great school of our general superintendency. They knew that the general superintendency had been reduced in strength. They did not, Mr. President, look upon the general superintendency as in itself positively and absolutely essential to the existence of the Methodist Church, for they knew that there were great men in the world who are accomplishing great results upon the Presbyterian system; and, sir, if you will pardon the poetic allusion, the committee felt that with three

"General Officers dead and turned to clay, And sternest holes to keep the wind," that the Methodist Church would still flourish. We all felt that the Methodist Church had in it an inherent power which would cause it to live and flourish, even if the time should come when this great and useful element shall be eliminated. We felt that this had been the marked feature of the Methodist Church from the beginning. They believe it to be a great and admirable feature of our church, and that it is our duty to keep it pure and strong, and to make it an element of supreme power in spreading scriptural holiness over these lands.

In the second place, we have calmly considered it according to the growing demands of the church. The men that were there, sir, were not from every part of our church. They were our brain-powers from the great and widening fields of the West. There were the men who had faced the snows of the Rocky Mountains, who had roamed over the plains of Oregon, and had carried the blessed gospel to the cabins of the pioneers. There were men who had come from the part of the church once represented by Andrew and others, long departed and resting in heaven. There were the men from the East, from the old and crowded section of our work, who were, sir, say, sir, if it be strange to say it, I have never in my experience in a General Conference--an experience of twenty-four years--witnessed such remarkable unanimity in reaching any conclusion expressed in that paper as surprised. I did look for serious objections in that committee, but when it came to a vote I found they were standing upon common ground--men from the Atlantic, the Pacific, and from Texas to the land of the Romanesque. How is that, Mr. President? Should not that have some weight with this General Conference, acting solemnly and in the fear of God?

The committee felt the need of more and well equipped leaders. We have lost, sir, a grand trio who have borne the flag of our faith high all over this fair land. The committee felt it to be their duty to call upon the General Conference to supply the vacancies created by death, and to place our flag on a new and noble standard. It is forward to yet greater triumphs throughout this whole land. The committee felt that these vacant places must be filled, and they think the men chosen to fill these places must be as good as the men who have been chosen. They felt that there were men of learning, and of clear and solid mind, and of full acquaintance with Methodist customs and doctrines, who have warm and generous hearts, men who had experimentally known the truth, and who had hardships from the trials of their life. They felt that the church needs such men, and that the men of the church here assembled as ministers and laymen under the guidance of the Spirit of God would select the proper men to fill the places of such men as Marvin and Rogers, and Wightman, and others gone before. The committee of our church. They felt, sir, that the church could and would select men able to hold their own with other churches. They felt deeply that this should be for when entering into the discussion it came out clearly that the grandest movements were being made by other churches in the very fields to which we are committed. The committee felt, sir, that this conference would not do less than to put before the church men for whom the church would have no occasion to blush; men who might be called upon to do any work that is to be done. They felt, sir, that the General Conference would select men of pulp power who, when they spoke, would command the attention and awaken the deepest interest amongst all our people. The committee believed that the church would be able to find men of that sort, and to select men suitable to man the batteries of the church.

The question of the support of the committee, though that at this time the support would be much easier. They felt certain that the support would be so sure if the bishop should rush the annual conferences through in three or

continued on next page.







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Church Notices. GALVESTON DISTRICT--SECOND ROUND. Cedar Bayou, May 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, June 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. Masonry meetings will be held at the above quarterly meetings. We hope the church and people will be prepared to do their work.

Services in a Presbyrian church. The preacher dwelt upon the changed condition of the world, in many places, and deplored the great prosperity that had come to the country, and gave reasons for devout thanksgiving, he saw one old deacon clap his handkerchief right over his mouth to keep from shouting right out like the "jokey" Methodists--a regular blue-stocking Presbyterian--couldn't hold up. She expressed the thought of every heart by shouting with all her might, "Glory to God for Ingersollville."

The City of Ingersollville. I had a dream which was not all a dream. I thought I was on a long journey through a beautiful country, when suddenly I came to a great city with walls fifteen feet high. At the gate stood a sentinel, who asked me for my name. I told him my name, and he said, "What is your business here?"

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