

**THE RELATION OF THE  
EPISCOPACY TO  
THE GENERAL  
CONFERENCE, PP. 3-95**

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The Relation of the Episcopacy to the General Conference, pp. 3-95 by W. L. Harris

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**W. L. HARRIS**

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THE  
RELATION OF THE EPISCOPACY  
TO THE  
GENERAL CONFERENCE.

*William*  
*Curran*  
BY THE LATE  
BISHOP W. L. HARRIS, D.D., LL.D.

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## PREFACE.

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SEVERAL years ago the substance of this book was given by the late Bishop Harris to the faculty and students of Drew Theological Seminary in the form of lectures. The lectures seemed to all who heard them so clear and convincing that their publication was immediately suggested. We have reason to believe that Bishop Harris had revised the manuscript for publication before his death. At our request it has been placed in our hands by Mrs. Harris, and we have carried it through the press. Very few verbal changes have been made, and no changes whatever affecting the sense. As an historical discus-

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sion of the relation of the Episcopacy to the General Conference it will receive, as it deserves, the careful consideration of the Church. We commend it heartily to all Methodists.

G. R. CROOKS,  
S. F. UPHAM.

DREW THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,  
*March 19, 1888.*



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THE EPISCOPACY  
AND  
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

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CHAPTER I  
HISTORICAL.

THE history of Methodism in America, considered in its legislative and administrative departments, very naturally divides itself into five periods, each marked by distinctive characteristics.

The *first* period begins in the year 1766, when Philip Embury began preaching in New York, and continues to the Christmas Conference of 1784, at which time the Church was formed into a distinct ecclesiastical organization.

The *second* period begins with the organization of the Church and extends to near the close of 1792, when the first General Confer-