

the Freedman's Aid Society & Southern Education. Later in the meeting an election was held to choose the delegate to the General Conference. Three men were nominated: M.L. Curl, W.C. Evans, and George Gray. On the first ballot the vote was: Curl 14, Gray 10, & Evans 9. The vote on the second ballot was very similar with Curl 17, Gray 10, & Evans 8. Ordinarily, this meant a deadlock unless someone conceded. On the third ballot it was still Curl 17, Gray had increased to 17, with Evans a far third with 3. For some reason, not mentioned, Curl was declared the winner. A vote for the alternate delegate was then taken. In this ballot Evans received 21 votes and was declared the winner.

It must have been a great disappointment for Gray to lose the election for the delegate to the General Conference, especially the way the voting went. In another letter he said that he wouldn't have much chance to win because he had refused to be a politician and campaign for the honor. On two occasions in the month just before the election he wrote rather bitterly about his disappointment that his colleagues did not appreciate his work in the Conference, but preferred a man with much less experience. He was able to take some consolation in an appointment he was not expecting.

In a December 1892 letter he wrote that he was offered the job of Editor of the General Conference daily newspaper called the "Daily Christian Advocate". That meant that he could still attend the General Conference, but was not now obliged to the Arkansas group. There was a bitersweet tone in a rather curious letter he wrote to a minister in Des Moines, Iowa in February after he had been defeated in the election. At one point he wrote, "...I cannot consent to take any steps that would look like striving in the matter (of going to the General Conference) as I should have a feeling that possibly I might be attempting to force Providence in the matter and I am very much afraid of getting out of lines of providential leadings." He finished the letter by saying that "I should certainly fail if I did as I am so much given to feeling that I am a flat failure along all lines of work that I need the constant inward conviction that I am in the lines of providence and doing the work that God intends..."

From these expressions of disappointment he changes his mood to such an extent that he himself becomes a "politician" for Dr. Hartzell, with whom he works, for the election of Hartzell as Bishop at the General Conference. Also, once Gray passes through the ordeal of his own election defeat and his acceptance of the job of editor of the conference newspaper, he begins to actively recruit writers for the paper. He hopes to have it become the best one ever printed. It was to be the size of the Chicago "Inter-Ocean" newspaper and "different from anything attempted heretofore". He said.

A copy of the "Daily Christian Advocate" with George Gray as the Editor contained articles and news about the Methodist Church's work & interest in every field. The subscription rate for the whole conference was \$1.25 for 23 issues. In a note to the subscribers on the front page Gray sympathizes who had difficulty getting their papers on time. He adds that the reason lies with the great size and quantity of the printing job. It had become a 17"x 23" paper by publication time. In fact, he had written before that the paper would be twice the size of the one for the 1888 Conference. "We believe we are correct in stating that the (paper) has the largest mail circulation of any daily paper in the United States..." wrote Gray in the paper. On the first day, May 2nd, reading "Westward Ho" he wrote that this (Omaha) is the furthest west that the Conference has met in one hundred years as a "quadrenial body".