

Africa-American Presbyterian

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH AND YE SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."—John viii, 32.

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NEGRO OFFICERS IN UNITED STATES ARMY.

Last Monday the United States Government made military history, and ushered in a new epoch, when commissions were given to six hundred young Negroes as officers in the United States Army, as captains, first and second lieutenants. Of course it was not all we wanted; nor is it all we shall get, but it is a great deal to be thankful for, and from this time forward the colored people will begin to have more enthusiasm in the war.

That the Negro is a good soldier is known to all who have read our history, but nearly all that is known of the Negro's bravery have been under white leadership.

In the Revolutionary War there were a few Negroes and for their numbers they did splendid service. In the War of 1812 and the Mexican War Negroes were employed more as laborers than as soldiers, though there were many such. But up to 1861, when the Civil War began, the Negroes had no permanent status in the United States Army, except they were known to be useful as servants. In many of the States, even in the North, they were exempted from bearing arms. But after the battle of Bull Run, when the Confederacy seemed to be winning the war the War Department decided to try the experiment of the Negro soldiers. Governor Andrews of Massachusetts was authorized to raise Negro troops, and as a result the 54th and 55th Massachusetts Regiments were raised. But these were not to be put on equality with the white soldiers. They received less pay; they were not promoted to commissions; and when taken as prisoners by the Confederacy they were summarily dealt with as criminals, rather than as soldiers.

The injustice of this treatment was keenly felt, and the colored population vigorously protested, but they were not able to gain all their points. The only commissions they got were chaplaincies. Rev. (afterward Bishop) H. M. Turner was the first chaplain to be appointed. President Lincoln said to Frederick Douglass that he agreed that the colored troops should be put upon the same basis as whites as to pay, treatment, promotions, etc., but considering the prejudice he declared that a great advance had been made even in getting soldiers to fight. And Douglass philosophically took the view that the task of that day was to get the Negro into the United States Army. So 187,000 of them were enlisted, and served without hope of promotion to captaincies, etc. After the war, regiments of infantry and cavalry were kept among the Negroes, but the officers were whites.

While the Negroes had made splendid records, the prejudice against them as officers seemed to increase. Several Negroes were appointed to the military school at West Point, but most of them never graduated. Henry O. Flipper, the brother of our Bishop Flipper, Lieut. Alexander, and Charles Young (now Colonel Young), were the only Negroes to graduate; and they had to undergo the worst of humiliation, heaped upon them to force them to quit.

Then came the Spanish-American War and in the emergency, Negroes were made officers of the volunteers. North Carolina, Illinois and Kansas had regiments with Negro officers from colonel down to second lieutenant; Ohio had a battalion under Major Young and colored officers, and Virginia had a regiment with colored officers up to the rank of major. Other regiments had all colored line officers. And these Negroes as far as they had opportunity acquitted themselves well. In the Regular Army regiments several got promotions. But after the war the Negro officer became a rare avis again.

With this war our people demanded the same chances as other portions of our population. Had this government been Republican rather than Democratic we might have gotten it. Had we had a

Some Views of Sunday School Work in Cape Fear Presbytery.



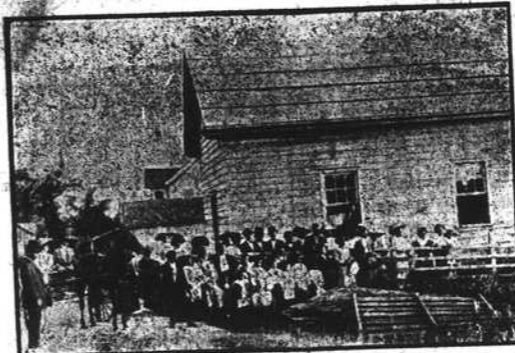
TEACHER-TRAINING CLASS.



A CHAPEL.



A DISTRICT MEETING.



ANOTHER CHAPEL.

volunteer army instead of a conscripted army we might still have gotten what we want. But what we have secured—Negro line officers for Negro regiments—is a great advance. It sets a precedent which will be followed for many years. It lays the foundation for the next step—the opening up of the offices in the army to black men. If that is done a hundred years after emancipation it will be very rapid rising. The condition of these six hundred young men and the thousands under their command at a distance in Southern States

from the best of our graduates of our leading institutions, brought up in our best families. If the war ends and the Negroes are put in action, even the government will have to recognize their merit.

Let us, therefore, congratulate ourselves upon the half loaf we have, still mindful that the other half belongs to us, and that with the strength and opportunity of the half we have, we may obtain what is our real due.—The Christian Recorder.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK OF CAPE FEAR PRESBYTERY—OUTLINE OF A SPLENDID GROWTH.

BY WM. H. JACKSON, Sabbath-school Missionary.

It has been almost ten years since we entered the Sabbath school work of Cape Fear Presbytery, and during these years the work has been pushed forward by leaps and bounds. Our growth has been substantial, in that the schools organized for the most part had land given and chapels erected, thus giving permanence to our work. We have lost only a few of our new schools and only in a few years have we had need to organize a point for the second time.

The educational work has been carried on through three District Conventions, well organized, and with results pleasing to every member of the Presbytery. During the past year, committees have been appointed to award scholarships to schools having the largest increase in new students. In District No. 3 \$15 will be given for a part scholarship. Institute work, workers' conferences, teacher training, and the organized classes have received attention and progress is being made. Each school is urged to have a program. The standard chart is the goal for which our schools are working.

In District No. 2 we were able to send \$5.00 to Biddle University last year, and \$5.00 to the Sabbath School Board. These are advanced steps in District work, for as a rule our conventions do little aside from having a few papers read, and some reports. Nine

years ago our schools sent to Sabbath School Board \$54.80 as offering for Children's Day. Ten years ago we reached the \$2 mark. Last year we raised \$1015.70 for all purposes, with schools reporting in the conventions, having 282 officers and teachers with 2864 pupils. During the year 60 pupils joined the church. Ninety-five persons were actively engaged in Teacher Training classes, with gratifying progress made in the other Departments. Thus at no time in our work has the outlook been

so bright. We are now giving special attention to the educational program for Sabbath school work in the Synod of Carolina, and thus far we are reporting co-operation and progress. The program for the year will be teacher training and organized classes, with special emphasis on Mission Study classes for young people. Each school will be asked to report some special line of educational work done. Let us help you into this larger service. Tell us about your school; perhaps your task should be that of missions, with an organized department such as will interest young girls and boys. Make your school and your Young People's work leading factors in your community. If you have problems, drop us a card, perhaps we can help you. Get in the class of those who do things. Remember the motto: "Better Sunday Schools."

Newbern, N. C.

THE SPIRIT OF THE WAR.

The uplifting thought is that we have proved ourselves men. In our death we set a standard which in ordinary life we could never have followed. . . . What God will say to us we cannot guess, but He can't be too hard on men who did their duty. I think we all feel that trivial former failures are washed out by this final sacrifice.

There's a picture in the Pantheon at Paris, I remember; I believe it's called "To Glory." The only glory that I have discovered in this war is in men's hearts. Were one to paint the spirit of this war he would depict a landscape, blasted trees, a smoky sky; wading through the ash and shell-holes would come file of bowed figures, more like outcasts from the Embankment than soldiers. They're loaded down like pack animals, their shodders are rounded, they're weary to death, but they go on and on. There's no "To Glory" about what we're doing out here. There's no flash of swords or splendor of uniforms. There are only verted men determined to "carry on." The war will be won by tireless men who could never again pass in insurance test, a mob of token

er-jumpers, ragged ex-soldiers and quite unheroic performers. We're civilians in khaki because of the ideals for which we've managed to acquire our hearts.

The thing which wears on one's nerves and calls out his gravest misgiving is the endless sequence of physical discomfort. Not to be able to wash, to find mud on your person, in your food, to have to wade in mud, see mud, sleep in mud, and to continue to smile at one's what tests courage. Our work has the outlook

of a man who has been through a war of bodies and sweethearts, had a few pleasures, except the supreme pleasure of knowing that they're doing the ordinary and finest thing of which they are capable. One can die only once; the concern that matters is how and not when you die. I don't pity the weary men who have attained eternal leisure in the corruption of our shell-furrowed battles; they "went West" in their supreme moment. The men I pity are those who could not hear the call of duty and whose consciences will grow more flabby every day. With the brutal roar of the first Prussian gun the cry came to the civilized world "Follow thou Me," just as truly as it did in Palestine. Men went to their Calvary singing Tipperary. Men die scorched like moths in a furnace, blown to atoms, gassed, tortured. And again other men step forward to take their places well knowing what will be their fate. Bodies may die, but the spirit of England grows greater as each new soul speeds upon its way.—From "Carry On" by Lieut. Coningsby Dawson of the British Army.

CHARACTER.

You cannot make character. God cannot make character. For instance, my character to-day is for the most part simply resultant of all the thoughts I ever had, all the feelings I have ever cherished, and all the deeds I have ever performed. It is the entirety of my previous years packed and crystallized into the present moment. So that character is the quintessence of biography; so that any and every body who knows my character—and there is no keeping character under cover—knows what for forty years or more I have been doing and thinking. Character is for the most part simply habit become fixed. You see at once, then, how much that means. Take the instance of a man whom you know to be thoroughly dishonest. Nothing but dishonest practice could have made him such. His dishonesty is the habit of crooked dealing become in him a fixed temper. Character, therefore, is biographic. It

GALWAY IS REAL IRISH TOWN

Here on Market Days Are Still to Be Seen the Old Country Costumes and Customs.

Galway is an Irish town with a touch of real old Ireland about it. Here on market days you can still see the old country costumes—the hard black cutaway coats of the men, and the red homespun skirts of the women, who wear soft gray shawls over their heads. All the country produce is brought to market, and the rule of "only one price, marked in plain figures," has never even been heard of. Bargaining goes on at endless length, and the purchase of a score of eggs may take half an hour. Eggs are not sold by the dozen in Galway.

All sorts of curious things are for sale in Galway market, brought from many miles away in little donkey carts or carried on foot by sturdy old men who think nothing of a tramp of a dozen miles. Calves are a staple and are wrapped up in gunny bags with nothing but the head projecting when a shipment has to be made. Feet is for sale by the cartload, fowls and vegetables. Most curious of all perhaps is a peculiar seaweed, which is popular as a salad dish. To the visitor its taste is rather unpleasant, but, according to local tradition, it has the marvelous property of being able to clear the head of him who has had "a drop too much." Galway might work up a profitable export trade in this commodity, it has been suggested, if she understood the science of advertising.

How Houses Explode.

The most remarkable phenomenon connected with tornadoes is the explosion of houses, which utterly burst, scattering their fragments in all directions. Sometimes substantial dwellings are carried high into the air and then explode. It is now understood that this is due to the fact that the "funnel cloud" (revolving at a rate of at least 500 miles an hour) has a vacuum inside. Thus it sucks up everything in its path, even emptying wells. It sucks all the air from around a house over which it passes, and the house (a vacuum being thus created outside of it) promptly explodes, owing to the pressure of the air.

"NEW" WEAPON FULLY OLD

Asphyxiating Bomb and Incendiary Shell Outgrowth of Missiles Employed Long Ago by Chinese.

Many of the "new" weapons produced by the world war are really very old. Thus the asphyxiating bomb is an outgrowth of a missile employed long ago by the Chinese. Instead of deadly chemicals, it contained some substance that emitted a nauseous odor, accompanied by stifling smoke. Later this device appeared in Europe and was known by the inelegant but expressive name of "stink-pot."

Another Chinese war method paved the way for incendiary shells. They invented a rocket, later adopted and widely used by the Saracens, which fired a kind of ball having claws or hooks that would catch hold to the side of a building and set fire to it. These balls were made of petroleum and niter, which became famous in the later ages as Greek fire.

The German device of throwing petrol upon an enemy by means of a pump was used long ago, when an attacking ship often spouted flames at the object of its assault. This plan was reserved for close quarters, and frequently resulted in the destruction of the vessel so attacked.

Rain Has Followed Gunless Battles.

That rain follows great battles is a tradition that has persisted for centuries, and the fact—if fact it be—has usually been attributed to the concussion of the air caused by heavy artillery firing. But a correspondent of Nature cites a passage from Plutarch telling of a battle of Calus Martus against the Teutons in 102 B. C. in which that ancient historian wrote: "It is well known that extraordinary rains generally follow great battles, as if the gods decided to wash and purify the earth, or as if blood and corruption, by the moisture and heavy vapors they engendered, thickened the air which is changed by the most trifling causes."

Belief in Fate Makes Failure.

There is no worse belief than that in fate and luck to make one a failure. It puts one in a wholly wrong attitude toward life. It deadens incentive and power to employ one's wholesome aspirations. It paralyzes the energies and the resolves. It renders organized and spirited effort impossible.

We may hope for no luck that we are not worthy of and are not doing our own part to earn.—The Christian Herald.

CHURCH

Mr. Grier:—We are writing you a few lines for publication to let our people know that we are still in the field. On September 19th we lost one of our most faithful elders in the death of Brother John Alexander. Elder Alexander was a true and tried pillar in the building of which he was a part. We shall certainly miss him.

For several weeks we had set the fourth Sabbath in September for a hundred dollar rally. There were three captains appointed, Messdames Mary Irvin, Fannie Vanlandingham, and Sarah Grier. When the long looked-for day came, and the final count was taken, it was found that Mrs. Vanlandingham had \$34.25, Mrs. Irvin had \$48.13, Mrs. Grier had \$72.87; Mrs. Jewel brought in from persons who are not members but well wishers, \$11.75, and the general collection was \$3.00, making a grand total of one hundred and seventy dollars (\$170).

Also in the early Spring we appointed nine young men and young women to bring in at least two dollars each on the second Sabbath in October, so last Sunday they reported as follows:

Miss Scotia Ingram	\$0.70
Miss Susie Neal	1.55
Mr. Uriel Grier	2.00
Mr. Murphy Grier	2.00
Mr. Henry Vanlandingham	2.00
Mr. Seth Vanlandingham	2.00
Miss Mattie Withers	2.00
Miss Delacy Clinton	2.64
Miss Minnie Beatty	2.67

Total, \$11.56

Concerning the captains in the rally and the young men and women in their effort, and all others concerned, we have words only of the highest praise.

Our Christian Endeavor is also taking on new life. The audience to which we preach at night is composed almost exclusively of this organization. We have a fine set of young people. Pray for our success.

R. L. MOORE, Pastor.

If it is a crime to make a counterfeit dollar, it is ten thousand times a worse crime to make a counterfeit man.—Lincoln.