

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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## BY THE WAY

### Looking Back at Old Biddle, 1888-98

BY UNCLE BILLIE.

(Dedicated to My Beloved Teacher, Prof. Geo. E. Davis, Ph. D.)

#### CHAPTER IV.

October, 1892.

The are coming from all parts of the South and some from New York and Pennsylvania states. All available room is taken up. The work goes on without a hitch. The German language is added to the curriculum. It is assigned to the Sophomore class, through the Junior class. My class was the first to study this language in Biddle. It was the first class of Negro students the late Dr. Cowan ever saw reading German, he said, in the month of October, 1892.

This was the year the campus of Biddle began to grow younger in the age of its student body. The coming graduating class was composed of very young men just beginning to enter on the shady side of twenty. They were a class of jovial, optimistic, smart, and gentlemanly bearing seniors. They had the present-day college spirit. They organized, with one or two others of other classes, Biddle's first football team in the fall of 1892. L. B. Ellerson was the lively and confident captain. He breathed his spirit to win in every member of the team. Half of the members of the team were of the seniors of '92-93. This was the class that composed Biddle's first college yell. This was the first class to graduate in the Oxford campus and gown.

This year passed out into history as having graduated eleven young men, the largest in the history of the institution at that time. To call them from a treacherous memory, I would name: I. B. Ellerson, of Cheraw, S. C.; Wm. H. Morrow, Greensboro, N. C.; Jesse H. Hutton, Newberry, S. C.; Wm. P. Donnell, near Greensboro, N. C.; Geo. E. Caesar, Sumter county, S. C.; Timothy B. Veal, Fairfield, S. C.; J. Harvey Cooper, Clarendon county, S. C.; Philip G. Drayton, Charleston, S. C.; Julius J. Robinson, Greenville, S. C.; and Walter Blake Middleton, Charleston, S. C. Three of these young men, Morrow, Ellerson, and Ayers, pursued their theological studies and graduated from Princeton, while Caesar graduated from Lincoln in theology.

#### Vacation of 1893.

This was a hard vacation with many of the students. Those who could, went to Chicago to work during the World's Fair. Mr. Cleveland had just taken his seat a few months previous as president of this commonwealth. Factories closed, farm produce lost its financial value, many were thrown out of work. Like Abraham, I walked to Statesville (forty-five miles) not knowing where I was going. I, like a number of fellows of that vacation, was just going. I parted with a classmate at Caldwell, N. C. He cut across the country to a summer school which he had secured to teach during the vacation. I was young and strong and did not know what it was to become physically exhausted. I walked into Statesville that July evening at 8 o'clock. I got a job the next day through an old friend from the place of my birth and his birth, Clinton, S. C. I had not seen him since we were boys in half-short pants, touching you between the knee and shin. I was engaged in the work of labeling and shipping herbs in the Wallace Herb House. I worked here about ten days. After which I was informed that a teacher was needed to teach out in Bethany township. I gave my classmate, C. E. Radford, my herb job and I went to Bethany. I had no certificate permitting me to teach in that com-

ty, nor any other county except Mecklenburg. The Superintendent of Public Instruction of that county told me that I could go on and teach and take the examination in August. This I did. I have my old first-grade certificate yet. This was the result of my Abrahamian travel. I taught school at this one place every vacation until the vacation of 1897, my last vacation as a student in Biddle. I taught at Bensalem then, about four miles east of Charlotte in Crab Orchard township.

I made many friends in and about Statesville and Iredell county during the vacation of 1893. Since then I have held them fast, I am glad to say. But as nearly thirty years have passed since that time, at times I become reminiscent and my mind carries me back to those days when I used to spend profitable moments in the Superintendent's office in Statesville. While he was Superintendent of Public Instruction of Iredell county, he studied law. We were good friends. He showed me many favors. But I lost sight of him in 1896. I heard a few months ago that he was practicing law in Newton, N. C. I ventured to write to make certain. He is there and doing well, it seems. The following is his letter to me in quest of him. He was not married then, even now.

Newton, N. C.

Aug. 5, 1922.

Rev. W. L. Metz, D. D.,  
Edisto Island, S. C.

Dear Mr. Metz:

Replying to your esteemed favor of the 2nd inst., I beg to say, that I am the Walter C. Feimster to whom you refer, and was County Superintendent of Schools of Iredell County 18 years ago. I made the speech also at Ebenezer Academy program of which you speak. I went to school there when I was just a boy.

Your letter gives me a great deal of pleasure, for often in the turmoil of life and in the struggle for position and place in our chosen professions we have many ups and downs, and a letter like yours comes as an oasis in the desert of time, giving of cheer and hope and evidence that the struggle has not been in vain.

I had also lost sight of you but I am more than glad that the little Centennial Program has brought us together again though it is only by letter, as brings back many fond recollections of the work that I attempted to do as County Superintendent of Schools of my native county of Iredell. I left Iredell County in the Fall of 1895, began the practice of law where in September of that year, and twenty-five years from that date my oldest son, Walter C. Feimster, Jr., came with me as my law partner. I have enjoyed a good practice all the years, and still have a steady, growing practice.

Yes, I am a Presbyterian, and you state that we were so destined to meet for which I am delighted. I am an elder in the church, and teach the Men's Bible class. The latter I enjoy very much. I must say again that your letter was a real joy to me. Trusting that you and yours are well, and with best wishes and high personal regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

Walter C. Feimster.

Does not this impress you that a white man travels fast when

he starts? But every thing is in his favor; and if he fails it is his own fault.

Though a white man, he and I had many things in common. We were poor alike and struggled for an education alike and taught school one year in the same county together before he was elected Superintendent of Public Instruction of Iredell county. But he has outgrown me in many respects.

The thing with which I want to impress upon the minds of those who may read "Looking Back at Old Biddle" is this: the rapid growth in station and things of the world did not and have not alienated Mr. Feimster's love for Christian service and that he has not left his Church in quest of a bigger Church, that would perhaps help him in his profession. Stick a pin in that, boys.

#### SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ANDERSON, S. C.

(By Mrs. M. V. Marlon.)

The Sabbath school on Sunday morning, Feb. 18, observed "Lincoln Day." After the usual opening periods the class study period was given over to the program which was as follows:

Opening hymn—"America."  
Talk—"What Lincoln Did and What the Presbyterian Church is Doing for the Negro," Mrs. Eloise Williams.

Scripture—Acts 10:24-36, Mr. Earle Carter.

Prayers—Of an American Negro; For our American Negroes; Mr. J. T. Williams.

Hymn—"Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Story—"Ruth of the Red Hills," Mrs. B. H. Thompson.

Poem—By Miss Starkaline Adams.

Offering for Freedmen—\$8.32.

Spiritual—"Lord I Want to be Christian," led by Miss Mae Fortune.

Benediction—Rev. C. W. Francis.

On Sunday morning, February 11, our soul was spiritually fed on a wonderful sermon from the subject, "A double minded man is unstable in his ways," based on "My Father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing," Genesis 27:12.

Miss Mae V. Fortune peeped in upon us Sunday morning and her many friends were pleased to have her. She always brings sunshine whenever she comes. She gave a very interesting talk to the Sunday school, sang a solo at the morning services and gave a wonderful talk to the Junior Missionary society in the afternoon. Although she came at 8 a. m. and left at 6:45 p. m., her coming will linger long around Salem.

Mr. Earle Carter was welcome visitor to the "Friendship Bible" class and also worshipped with us at the morning services. We are always glad to have visitors. You are welcome.

The two day's Institute was not as well attended as we expected. Owing to the weather and so much illness only a few were able to attend.

Rev. M. A. Sanders spent a few days with Rev. C. W. Francis last week.

Mrs. Hattie Epps of Philadelphia, Pa., is visiting her sister, Miss Marie Webb, on Stephens street.

Mrs. Martin, mother of Mrs. W. W. Francis, is better at this writing. We are glad to report.

The Junior Missionary Society (Sunshine club) held its monthly meeting Sunday afternoon, February 11. The program consisted of patriotic readings and melodies which were as follows:

Song—No. 96.

Prayer—Rev. C. W. Francis.

Scripture—reading—Twenty-third Psalm.

Song—97.  
Reading—Mrs. B. H. Thompson.

Reading—Miss Alma Burris.

Song—98.

Story—Little Miss Cecelia Edwards.

Story—Negro Music—Mrs. Julia Burris.

Talk—Miss M. V. Fortune.

Collection—\$13.00.

Benediction—Pastor.

Sunday morning, February 18, our beloved pastor began series of sermons which will end Easter morning. He preached a glorious sermon from Psalm 17:15, last clause: "I shall be satisfied when I awake, with thy likeness." After the sermon Prof. Gunn sang a beautiful solo, "The Lord is My Light."

The Woman's Missionary Society held its annual meeting Friday, February 16. We spent a delightful afternoon in observing the "Day of Prayer." The meeting was largely attended and at the close of the hour of prayer the following officers were elected for the year, beginning April 1, 1923: Mesdames M. V. Marlon, President; Rachel Glenn, Vice President; Julia Burris, Secretary; Miss Alma Burris, Assistant Secretary; Mesdames Eloise Williams, Treasurer; Belle H. Thompson, Secretary of Stewardship; Armeta Francis, Secretary of Missionary Education; Marie Calhoun, Secretary Associate Members; Ida Johnson, Chairman, Look-Out Committee; Iola Wallace, Chairman of Social Committee and Miss Starkaline Adams, Secretary of Literature and Young People's work. With this staff of officers we hope to do effective work.

The Y. P. S. C. E. had a very interesting meeting Sunday afternoon. The topic, "How Should we live for the improvement of our community," was introduced by the president. After which an interesting program was rendered.

#### FROM DANVILLE, VA.

The Rev. Dr. I. H. Russell, Synodical Evangelist, conducted a series of meetings in the Holbrook St. Presbyterian Church, beginning Sunday, February 18, and ending Friday, February 24. The congregations were large and attentive and interest ran high.

Dr. Russell seemed to have been at his best. It was a revival in the true sense of the word. A deep spiritual feeling seemed to have pervaded the entire church. The unfortunate part was that as soon as the meetings got well under way he had to take his departure. We regretted so much that he had to go. There were six persons who accepted the Saviour, and two others who were standing out came into the church.

In addition to the night services Bible readings were held in the school each day. These Bible readings were both instructive and edifying. The advanced pupils of the school seemed to take hold with a will.

We feel that lasting impressions have been made and that the influence of the meetings will be far-reaching in results. We shall only be too glad to have Dr. Russell come again sometime in the near future. We shall follow up his work with our prayers that God may set the seal of His approval to the good work he is doing.

W. E. CARR.

#### MONROE, N. C.

On ost Tuesday night Mr. John Hart's store was destroyed by fire. Mr. Hart is a well-known citizen of Monroe, and was doing a good business. His loss was more than \$800. He is to rebuild in the near future. Mr. Hart is an officer in Black's Memorial Presbyterian church, and is one of the strongest supporters of that church.

#### TINY TALKS ON TIMELY TOPICS.

By Rev. James G. Carlie, A. M., Troy, N. C.

Basilar moral relationships never change. The Moral Governor of the universe is secure on His throne of righteousness. Neither human moral progress nor human moral rebellion affects the moral sovereignty of God. Therefore the security and happiness of men depends upon their learning and doing God's will which is made known in the Bible. For this reason Bible morality is always a timely subject and the proverbial moral wisdom of Solomon affords many topics for brief and helpful discussion.

One of the proverbs of Solomon runs: "A false balance is abomination to the Lord; but a just weight is his delight."

This proverb shows, in the first place, that God is interested in and affected by the deeds of men. With abhorrence God regards dishonesty and fraud, and with complacency and approbation he observes honesty and fair-dealing. Since this is the fact, what an unmistakable evidence of divine benevolence that it should be made known to men. We are under God's inspection, he sees all of our deeds. When those deeds are characterized by trickery and fraud, God is greatly displeased toward us, and when those deeds are characterized by fair-dealing and honesty God delights in us. The Lord is not a God afar off, but his eyes behold and his eyelids try the children of men. The Lord trieth the righteous, and in them he delights; but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.

In this proverb also we have indicated the standard of honesty which men should seek to approach and endeavor to reach. It is not for any man to seek temporary profit by short weight or by disproportionately high prices, which, in the end, amounts to the same dishonesty. God is the ally of the victim of profiteering, and the unjust gains of sorrow. Revenues of wickedness profit not. God is the final sealer of all weights and measures, and it is profitable to do business on this basis. Honesty is the best policy, not only because it increases favor with men, but also, and primarily, because it increases favor with God.

And finally, this proverb reveals the standard of God's own honesty and justice. What he abominates, cannot be discovered in his own character; and what he delights in, he possesses in infinite measure. He is a God of justice, and respecteth the person of no man; but giveth to every man according to his deserts. He measures to all according to the measure that each has used: for as many as have sinned without the law shall also perish without the law, and as many as have sinned under the law shall be judged by the law; but now apart from the law, a righteousness of God hath been manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ unto all them that believe that he is the Son of God. This is the measure of faith that brings salvation.

#### NORFOLK SOUTHERN R. R.

Announces Reduced Fares to Durham, N. C.

Account Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, March 27th-29th. Tickets for the going journey sold March 23-29, inclusive, certificates validated March 29, honored until April 2, 1923.

J. F. DALTON,  
General Passenger Agent,  
Norfolk, Va.

#### WESTMINSTER CHURCH, CONCORD.

Sunday morning, our pastor, the Rev. H. Wilson, delivered a very practical sermon, rich in gospel truth, from Luke 10:30. He forcefully emphasized the point that it is always dangerous to journey from Jerusalem, the center of religious life, to Jericho, the center of material life.

Sunday afternoon, Dr. S. K. Ernanian, of Norfolk, Va., a native American representing the Near East Relief work in the South, told us about some of the sufferings of the Christians at the hands of the Turks. His address was very instructive.

A total of \$57.91 was raised for the Near East Relief and \$117 more subscribed.

We began our series of meeting Sunday night with a sermon by our pastor, from Jno. 21:15, "Feed my lambs." The meetings will continue through the week, closing with communion services Sunday, March 4, at 11 a. m. Dr. I. H. Russell, Synodical Evangelist, will assist in these meetings.

Miss Hester Roscoe, Mrs. A. H. Spencer and Rev. William attended the District Missionary Conference held at Hampton church Saturday.

The Westminster Guild met with Mrs. Mary L. Watkins last Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock. At this meeting the first lesson in the "Trend of the Races," the text-book for mission study, was assigned by our teacher, Rev. H. Wilson. Mrs. A. L. Litaker was elected president.

#### Young People's Day.

Young People's Day was fittingly observed at Westminster Sunday, February 4. At 11 a. m. our pastor, Rev. H. Wilson, preached on "Religious Power."

4:7. "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom, and with all thy getting get understanding."

Miss F. M. Onque, of Winston-Salem, addressed a very full house at 4 P. M. Introducing her address with a very beautiful and appropriate story, she applied it most effectively to the demands of the church on the service of her members. Mrs. M. H. Greene, the president, presided at the meeting. Musical numbers were rendered by the Westminster Boys' Orchestra and a short exercise by the Junior Christian Endeavor Society.

Miss Grace Van Dyne, of Scotia Women's college, formerly a missionary to China, addressed us Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock on "Missionary Work in China." She told us in a very touching way about the needs of China and what the Christian people are doing to meet these needs.

Miss Laura Sartor brought us greetings from Scotia Christian Endeavor, and a sextett composed of Misses Annie Mae Sutton, Corrie Hart, Sara Jackson, Helena Newby, Eloise Miller and Grace Jason, rendered a selection.

Collection for the day, \$41.

L. D. B.

#### MCCLELLAND PRESBYTERY.

The McClelland Presbytery convened in the Allen Chapel Presbyterian church of Fountain Inn, S. C., 7:30 P. M., Wednesday, April 4th, 1923.

The Rev. E. W. Allen, of Irmo, S. C., is the minister in charge of our work at Fountain Inn.

O. M. McADAMS, S. C.

#### NOTICE

All persons expecting to attend the spring meeting of Catawba Presbytery which convenes at Huntersville, should write Mr. C. T. Johnson, P. O. Box 114, Huntersville, N. C.

Send in your names early as homes will be provided only for those who give notice of their coming.

F. I. MOORE, Pastor.