

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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## THE NEGRO PRESS AND CHURCH ARE SPLENDID FORCES.

### What Our Pioneer Journalists Accomplished In Spite of Very Great Obstacles.

By R. R. Wright, Jr., Editor of The Christian Recorder.

This two most potent factors in forming modern public opinion are the pulpit and the press. The church and the newspaper in days gone by, the pulpit has much of a monopoly of the opinion-forming power. Our own people, for it was the great civilizational institution in our midst, and today it still yields a great influence. There are about 50,000 churches among our people. They have almost as many ministers, and many times as many officers. Each week at least five million people enter the 50,000 churches we have all over the land. These are great opinion-forming stations. Their emphasis is necessarily laid upon the spiritual things. While they do an excellent job of information on business, politics, etc., religion is their object, and more and more they see the necessity for concentrating on religion. For if the people, no matter what their education and material progress, do not have faith in the great God who made them and the principles of living His Son Jesus taught, we shall go backward and not forward. So with our increasing material progress we need an increasingly strong spiritual force in a strong, consecrated, well-trained pulpit. This is more needed today than ever before.

The church puts emphasis upon its object, religion, the press concentrating forward to material progress, politics, business, social life, etc. The church should welcome this aid. The church should help the newspaper wherever. Instead of being rivals they should be partners in a partnership for the best life among the people. At present the press is not as strong as it should be. It is only in its beginning. Indeed only within the present generation has the newspaper come to the place where any large number of well-trained men could make a living out of it. When the history of the self-expression and self-help movement among the Negroes of America is written, next to the church, the press will take its place as the finest effort the race has made to know itself, and rely upon itself. Through five years of the most severe hardship and the greatest sacrifice, the Negro editor has fought his way to the front and won his place in the hearts of his people. It is a thrilling story and should be early written. It will do much to stir the youth to nobler things. With all their faults, men like Chris. J. Perry, T. Thomas Fortune, John H. Murray, B. D. Cooper, Bend Tucker, Father George L. Knox, W. J. White, W. A. Bledsoe, W. A. Neal, and a host of others, laid a foundation for helping Negroes preserve their own souls which they never realized, and their sons of this generation are carrying on their work well.

The press today vies with the school house and the college in getting men of training, and many of our best have followed the press because there they find better means of self-expression, and true loyalty. Two Howard University Ph. D.'s are magazine editors, one Pennsylvania Ph. D. is a weekly newspaper editor, and on the staffs of our leading weeklies and monthlies are graduates from Howard, Yale, Columbia, Dartmouth, Chicago, Northwestern, Wisconsin, Michigan and nearly every college in the land. These strong young men are making good. Nearly four hundred race newspapers testify to this. Whatever may be their differences in politics, in religion, in social position, in financial condition, in business policy, in educational equipment, in circulation, or geo-

graphical situation, there is one thing on which all these papers are a unit; they believe in their race. The creed of the Negro newspaper which every editor would sign might read: "I believe that God created all men with inherent human equality; that He is no respecter of racial differences. I believe in that part of humanity commonly called the American Negro, that he is entitled to the same rights in this country as any other citizen; that this is as much his country as anybody else's and that he should not, nor anybody else, be judged merely by the color of his skin, but by his character and accomplishments. I believe in manhood at its noblest, in religion in its purest, education to its fullest, industry in every form is honorable, politics that is democratic, government that rests upon the consent of the governed, and a square deal for all men.

The church should support this creed. It is truly Christian in the larger sense. It is the working out in practical life what we preach. As the race grows in intelligence, the press grows stronger. Soon there will be great daily papers in the centers of population such as New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Nashville, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Louisville and other large cities. The day is coming. The church must help it to come by encouraging the newspaper men, by urging its officers and members to read. For the newspaper man is the spiritual propher to the preacher, and upon pulpit and press depends a great deal of the future of our people.

## WE HAVE HEARD FROM OTHERS.

Just a few days ago we received a letter from our good friend and former teacher in once Biddle, Dr. George E. Davis, stating that he will be responsible for Dr. Luke Dorland's picture, or plate, and a letter from my old college mate, Prof. Henry B. Rice, saying that he will be responsible for the photo-engraving of the late Prof. William E. Hutchison and Prof. Eugene P. Semple.

We are communicating with certain brethren tonight, asking them to be responsible for the photo-engraving of Prof. Francis Robinson and the Rev. E. J. Adams, who preached in Charleston when our work was first established. Perhaps Mrs. Maggie Brown Robinson, at Bamberg, and Dr. Rollins can send us a brief outline or sketch of Dr. Grove's work in Wallingford Academy and Olivet church in Charleston, and also hunt up his picture at once and send us his cut.

Will some one hold up his hand for the plate of dear Rev. Daniel Gibbs, who did some of his best pioneer work in Laurens and Sumter counties? His photo is in our possession.

I have written an old retired Sabbath School missionary to be responsible for the first men in that work. We are expecting to hear from him this week, for he is prompt and interested in the work Atlantic Synod is attempting to undertake through its stated clerk and those who are willing to assist him.

Hitherto we have heard from no one relative to making himself responsible for the plates of Drs. S. C. Alexander and Willis L. Miller and his son and daughter, Biddle's first teachers. Will some brother answer?

Your slothfulness in responding to our request in this matter is delaying the work.

W. L. Metz, Stated Clerk of Atlantic Synod, Edisto Island, S. C.



RICHARD ALLEN CARROLL.

Richard Allen Carroll is the son of Dr. W. H. Carroll, of Monticello, Ark., and is in many respects a very remarkable child. His power to commit and recite difficult passages shows that a great career awaits him. While attending the School of Methods he was called upon at a late hour to recite Paul's first Missionary journey. He had gone to sleep but when he was awakened he recited with as much ease and self-possession as any professional man. Richard is only ten years of age. The book in his hand is a copy of the Old Testament Scriptures. It was given him by our Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work for repeating the Primary Catechism at the age of six years. He, of course, was born in school, and learned to read by being around among the students; but his first enrollment, as a student was in the Nevin School, Los Angeles, California, where he made four grades in two years. He can name all the books of the Bible, name all the divisions and name the book before and the book behind any book in the Bible. He can trace the Missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul, naming each city in succession, the principal events that took place in the city; his imprisonment at Caesarea and his journey to Rome. He takes easily to music, plays almost any ordinary music at sight. He feels bound to attend all the Synods, Presbyteries, and Conventions that his father attends.

## ART AS THE EXPRESSION OF BEAUTY.

To me art is the expression of beauty in whatever form it may appear: in the home, in the shop, in daily life, in work and thought. It is something infinitely deeper and broader than the form through which it manifests itself. Its measure of Beauty is directly proportioned to the sincerity of purpose and the fineness of the ideals that give it form. The conscious effort to understand and appreciate a work of Art strengthens our own ideals; and in striving to express our ideals, through whatever task comes to our hands, we may make our own life and the lives of others happier, more worthy, and more beautiful.

Ernest A. Batchelder.

It is said that the teacher of Martin Luther always stood before his pupils with uncovered head in realization of the fact that there might be a great future leader in the midst. In a like spirit, the world today may well give pause to consider the vast inherent capacities of this nation of Near East children—these children, glowing with American ideals, fortified with new concepts of character, trained as children never have been trained in all the long history of the Near East, who will some day go forth to completely revitalize and rebuild the historic Bible Lands.—John W. Mace.

## BETHANY CHURCH, OKLAHOMA CITY CELEBRATES.

During the week of November 9th to 16th the congregation of Bethany Presbyterian church, Oklahoma City, Okla., celebrated the Twentieth Anniversary of the founding of that church and the Fifth Anniversary of the present pastor, the Rev. W. E. Houston. The program provided for an anniversary sermon Sunday morning, by the pastor, a preaching service or musical exercise each night during the week, and on the last day, Sunday, Nov. 16, there was a special exercise in the afternoon. At this time there were two addresses by officers of the church in laudation of the Rev. Houston. Mrs. D. A. Wisener spoke on "Our Pastor," and Elder J. A. Byrd reviewed the history of the church, taking for his subject, "Bethany Church Twenty Years Ago and Now." We are giving Elder Byrd's address here:

## BETHANY TWENTY YEARS AGO AND NOW.

By Elder J. A. Byrd.

Twenty years ago Bethany Presbyterian church, of Oklahoma City, was organized by a committee sent out by the Presbytery of Oklahoma, in the fall of 1904. The charter members were twelve. To provide a place of worship a room 15 by 15 was donated by the generous Miss Byrd. Rev. William L. Bethel was called as pastor and served for a period of eight years, giving up his work because of illness.

Following Rev. Bethel, Rev. S. J. Grier served as its second pastor for 1 year, then resigned to take up work elsewhere.

Rev. Houston is our fourth pastor. He became so in August, 1921, after one year interim following the death of Rev. A. M. Caldwell, who had been our pastor for eight years. During this time the church made steady growth.

In the fall of 1909, a committee was employed by the church to secure a lot. The committee reported favorably on a lot in Southtown on Choctaw Street, which was purchased. There being no building suitable for the holding of services, steps were immediately taken for the erection of a house of worship and manse. Funds were solicited, and these together with a grant and a loan from the Board of Church Extension, enabled the committee to erect the buildings.

The charter members are all active on the roll of the church, except Prof. J. H. Brazelton, Bro. James Taylor and Miss Laura A. Byrd. Their voices are hushed on the roll call. They have passed through the valley and shadow of the dissolution, but somewhere beyond the evening and the sunset, their splendid spirits have found congenial company in that glad throng that sings and plays in the gardens of everlasting flowers.

I wish I had time to say something about all the men who have pastored this church, but I have decided that two names be mentioned to whom we owe so much.

Rev. W. E. Houston.

The church takes the occasion of the third anniversary of your official connection with the church, to record its appreciation of your faithful and efficient service in the church. During the three years of your pastorate the church has vastly increased its membership, and has baptized more babies than any other church in our Presbytery.

Other churches recognizing your abilities and prominence have honored you in many ways. You have given Bethany church a conspicuous place and influence in this city.

Through your years here, you have ever sought to keep our church true to her traditions in doctrine and polity, to extend her usefulness, and to safeguard her good name. It may be most accurately said, you have been a capable and dis-

tinguished pastor, and that in you the church has an invaluable servant, whom the whole church has delighted to honor. Your life is well worth the living. Your mission as a pastor has been to inspire smiles that would dry the tears on the face of the disappointed; to quicken laughter that would stifle the sobs of the distressed; to brighten the way of those who were groping in darkness; to lighten the beacons of hope to those despairing.

That you are an extraordinary pastor is a fact which will pass into history. As the viewpoints of those who know you differ, so will their opinions differ as to the extent of your greatness and the fineness of your genius. In the effort to correctly focus the eyes of the future upon you, truth must inevitably wrangle with error, and though truth shall prevail, the written page can never do you justice. An analysis can clearly define you. Not even a Shakespeare or a Milton can paint the flavor of a peach or picture the odor of a rose. Poets may sing forever of moonlit rivers, but unless you have looked upon their shimmering, silver-flowing through hours, that belong to dreams you are a stranger to their beauty.

Only those who have seen and heard you can enjoy anything approaching a true conception of you. Your success has mocked all precedents and has defied all rules.

Rev. W. L. Bethel.

To you Rev. W. L. Bethel, pastor emeritus, the church is under great obligations for patience, ability, firmness and wisdom, which you have ever shown to us. You are a man with a merry heart, for you have a smile which never wears off. You have spent time and money in helping to build this church.

You left the enchantments of the civilization of your native state and four former Presbyteries, to spend the years of your life on the prairies of Oklahoma, among a people whom you had to teach the Shorter Catechism and the Confession of Faith before you could preach to them according to our standards.

Spending the years of your life in self-denial, age and ill health were playing their parts. You retired on your own accord. The members of Bethany church were willing that you should retire, but wanted you to remain as pastor emeritus, so that the church might not be parted from the love of you during your life time.

You have testified in your life, and exemplified in your work, that life is more than meat and the body is more than raiment.

Age and ill health did a cruel thing when they took you from active service in our church. Rev. Bethel, you are a rare combination of humor, pathos, and sunshine. Your hand is ever open and your heart ever in sympathy with the church. When you entered the humblest habitation of sorrow, darkness was dispelled by the light of your winsome smile and cheering voice. You are naturally a financier and manipulator, and had you centered your attention on either, you would have become famous. But you preferred the ministry, and in that was an eminent success. Your very name seemed to carry with it an irresistible force in the church. I am proud to say that you are my friend, and that we love each other with all the strong affection which it is possible for man to entertain for man. To me your retirement was a source, not only of profound, but personal regret. However, it is painful to dwell on these personal relations, for they only cause the waves of regret which have receded to return with overpowering force. In this body you are loved and respected by all.

What we say here today counts for little. We may brush away a tear, but we cannot suppress it with a smile. All we

can do is to record our love and appreciation for you, and from our heart of hearts express a word of good cheer. But we can and do express the hope and belief that on the day of days, you will be gathered as a rich sheaf to the harvest home, where, in company with the angels, you will join in heavenly music, and that you shall partake of all the joys of immortality.

To be joyous here, to be happy now does not militate against but rather presages joy and happiness in the beyond. If there is any better way to honor the Creator, any saner manner of showing reverence to the Author of our being, any higher evidence of earnest and sincere worship, in spirit and in truth, than to prize life, to value its blessings, spread the gospel of good news and cheerfulness, see the beauties in all nature, laugh with the rippling waters and romping children, sing with the birds, smile with the stars, glow with the sunlight, join in the music of the spheres, it is difficult to perceive or understand.

In all the relations of life you carried with you this disposition. You did not keep it to yourself, but like the whirling dynamo, you generated it constantly and threw it out so that it affected all within your reach.

If I had to state any one thing as the great secret of your great power, I would say it was your great heart, a heart that overflowed all bounds, and actuated every moment of your life, and made you absolutely invincible before humanity.

In your life your deepest concern is for the happiness and the welfare of your fellowman. I am intimately acquainted with you, and my prompting and nature well said that it was never any part of your program to wrong any human being, or harm anything God has ever made, that your great nature is too large to be little, and too good to be mean.

We shall ever cherish your memory, and feel and know, that each of us is better for having known you. You will go down in the history of our church as the apostle of sunshine. You lived for the happiness of others. You made everybody about you have a good time. Your perpetual good humor was contagious. There was joy and gladness wherever you went.

This church expresses its heartfelt sympathy for you, and most devoutly prays that your life may be spared to us and Him for many years to come.

"May the Lord bless thee and keep thee, the Lord make his face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee, the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

## DEATH OF A BELOVED WOMAN.

The funeral of Mrs. Julia J. Walls, of Hill St., was held at Clinton Metropolitan church, Sunday at 2 P. M. She had been a member of this church for thirty years. She was also a member of the Eastern Star, city chapter 280. She departed this life quietly New Year's morning shortly after 3 o'clock.

Mrs. Walls devoted much of her time to charitable work which caused her to come in contact with a large number of people and in this way made many friends and was loved by all. She was especially interested in school boys and girls who are struggling for an education. She was an ideal Christian and church worker. Mrs. Walls had been sick for some time, but was confined to bed only ten days before her death.

The funeral service was conducted by Rev. N. D. King, her pastor.

Hosts of friends looked on as her body was carried from the church to the cemetery.

Mrs. Walls left many friends and relatives to mourn her loss.

The Scotch has given to the world two fine dogs, the Scotch Collie and Terrier.