

Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 1925

ATLANTIC SYNOD

The 56th annual meeting of Atlantic Synod convened in Washington Avenue Presbyterian church, Macon, Ga., October 28th, with the Rev. J. W. Holley, D. D., LL. D., as retiring Moderator. At the request of Moderator Holley, the Rev. William S. Marquis, D. D., of the Synod of Illinois, preached the opening sermon from St. John 15:11. The sermon was practical and yet profound in thought. Dr. Marquis and Dr. J. S. Marquis's great grandfathers were brothers, and Dr. William S. Marquis and the late Dr. D. H. Culp, Biddle's first graduate, were classmates when in Princeton Theological Seminary.

After the constitution of the Synod with prayer the roll was called, showing 9 ministers from Atlantic Presbytery, 9 from Fairfield, 4 from Hodge, 7 from Knox, and 4 from McClelland, which was about 40 per cent of the Synod. After the roll call it was pleasant and befitting to elect Rev. S. D. Thom, of Atlanta, by a unanimous vote, Moderator. It is quite a coincidence that Dr. Thom should preside over our oldest Synod in the oldest Negro Presbyterian church in the South, organized in 1838, and will retire as Moderator in the church second to Washington Avenue church in age, Zion church in ancient Charleston—Dr. Thom's former charge—where Atlantic Synod meets next October.

The Mayor of Macon, who seems to be carrying about 80 years on his shoulders, and who is a strong Episcopalian—true to form—gave us a very cordial welcome to the city of Macon. After his address of welcome, Dr. Long, a very young man and pastor of one of the largest Presbyterian churches in Macon, addressed the Synod in words so clear, direct, and Godly that some of the brethren asked the Stated Clerk: "Is he a colored man?" The reply was in the affirmative; but Dr. Long is a product of Statesville, N. C., where you can find many fine white people. The Stated Clerk knew Mr. Long's antecedents.

The popular meeting, conducted by the men of the Synod, was held Thursday night with Dr. G. T. Dillard presiding over the meeting. The speakers for this occasion were Drs. C. J. Baker, W. T. Frasier and J. E. Jackson.

Friday night was given over to the women for their popular meeting. After a brief devotional service conducted by Dr. W. L. Metz, and a selection of music by Mrs. I. D. Davis, the President, Mrs. A. A. Jones, introduced Miss Maud Kinneburgh, Dean of Barber College, who was the speaker for the evening. Miss Kinneburgh gave a clear and most comprehensive outline of the scope of National Missions as it is carried on by our Church. Miss Kinneburgh is a clear and easy speaker.

The reception given by the ladies of Washington Avenue church Friday night after the Woman's Popular meeting was in a class by itself in its entertainment. Rev. T. A. Thompson and his young people need to be congratulated on their effort to make every one feel at home and at ease.

After the reception in the basement of the church, Synod assembled and completed its business Friday night; and by Saturday morning the brethren had "cleaned up" and left only Drs. Dillard, E. J. Gregg, and the Stated Clerk and Sabbath School Missionary H. O. Walker.

The Stated Clerk hopes to have the minutes of Atlantic Synod printed earlier this year and by the Johnson C. Smith University Press.

On to Charleston for the next meeting of Atlantic Synod in Zion Presbyterian church, organized by Flinn Presbyterian

church people in Charleston in 1858. The late Dr. Alexander Henry's great uncle once pastored Flinn in Charleston and is buried in the church here. His name was Charlton Henry.

Come to Charleston next October. You have not met here since October, 1903. Your Stated Clerk presided here as Moderator. Come to Charleston; the islands will have a hand in entertaining. We are glad you are coming.

W. L. METZ,
Stated Clerk of Atlantic Synod.

MARTINSVILLE, VA., NOTES

Evangelism in Southern Virginia Presbytery.

Mrs. S. J. H. Dillard

With the month of October came the evangelistic activities of the Western District in the Presbytery of Southern Virginia. The ministers and elders met in September and made out a program for better and more efficient services in the churches, by exchanging pulpits and carrying evangelistic yeast to stimulate the congregations and arouse them to more religious greater increase numerically, financially and spiritually, knowing that a spiritual arousalment will bring forth gifts and service. The Church's call to the local churches is urgent, and is a call that must be responded to if the great Church is to succeed in her work. The first Sabbath in October Rev. L. L. Downing, D. D., and Rev. G. P. Watkins exchanged pulpits. Revs. Fowlkes, Dusenbury and Carter made helpful exchanges, all resulting for the good of the churches and congregations in spiritual uplift and increases in membership.

"Lift the Level" was a splendid demonstration manifested in a ten days' meeting held each evening, and special services held each Sabbath afternoon at 3 P. M. here in Martinsville, beginning October 26th. At a ministers' meeting they agreed to hold Union Evangelistic services. They got together as was never known before in Martinsville. Presbyterian, Baptist, Christian, Disciples, Methodist and Holiness members all got together and held for ten days a very successful series of meetings, which resulted in fifty or more conversions. Christians were revived and many prodigal sons were brought to Christ in public confessions. Each minister was greatly revived and inspired and preached with power. At each service very impressive invitation was extended and each professing Christian was given an opportunity to make his own choice of church. All five churches were added to, and were greatly revived.

On November 15th Rev. G. P. Watkins was again at his best, as usual. His sermon was a doctrinal one, "Baptism," and was appropriately spoken. Prof. Greene, a Baptist minister, was present and witnessed the whole service. The church was well filled, there being many friends besides the membership. At the close of the sermon baptism was administered to twelve persons; one father and eleven young people and four girls and seven young men. This was the result of the Evangelistic meeting with the exception of three who had made public confession some time before and had only to be baptized. In union there is strength. A united ministry in Martinsville means a great deal to the salvation of our people. It was a getting-together of denominations through the ministry, where they emphasized spiritually "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." Each minister spiritually and influentially bore his sheaves, bringing them into the garner of Christ.

The educational work is going on splendidly. All schools

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AN OLD STORY WITH A NEW APPLICATION.

The story, as we recall it, was of a man who wished to hire a coachman. The first applicant was asked how near he could drive to a certain precipice without going over. He named a certain distance. The second applicant was asked the same question. He could drive a few feet nearer than the first man. But when the third applicant was asked the question, he threw up his hands and cried that he would keep just as far away from the precipice as possible. Whereupon the employer remarked, "You are just the man I want."

The story used to be told as illustrative of what is the only safe attitude one can take towards evil, and is absolutely true in its application to that question.

But we have found a new application for it, illustrating a modern and dangerous tendency among many of the leaders of church life. The forces of agnosticism, atheism, and materialism are attacking the Holy Scriptures with a determination, intensity and venom such as has not been known for a goodly number of years, and it seems to be the concern of many preachers and teachers of religion to drive just as near to the precipice of taking the supernatural out of the Book as they dare. They are becoming, many of them have become, unsafe drivers. Some have already plunged, with those who have trusted to their guidance, over the precipice, on to the rocks of infidelity and spiritual decadence.

We are for the man who keeps as far away from the precipice as possible. There may not be so many tassels on his carriage, nor so many gold buckles on his horses' harness. But his hands are strong and his eye is clear, and his one thought is to get his passengers through in safety and happiness. He knows by experience that travel over this road is safe, and he is not going to imperil the hopes and the interests of those for whom he is responsible by any spectacular driving near places of danger and along highways of questionable safety.

Brethren, keep away from the precipice! Do not see how near you can come without going over! The fate of Christianity is tied up with the Book in which it is revealed. The trouble with too many preachers is that they have no longer a supernatural Book. It has become a mere historic record of the life and thought of a people, and none too accurate a record at that. It is lacking in the voice of authority. "Thus saith the Lord" has become a meaningless phrase.

We stand unhesitatingly, uncompromisingly, without apology and in utter disregard for infidel scholarship, for a supernatural Bible, impossible except by divine revelation and unbreakable by the assaults of men.

"Why, then," some one may inquire, "this concern over the Book?" We are not apprehensive over the Book. The providence of the Revealer will keep it from destruction. Our concern is for the souls of men who, with faith destroyed in the Bible as God's revelation, will live in this world without hope and die without salvation. Without a supernaturally revealed message and a book with the fiat of the eternal God back of it, the preacher is a pitiful creature standing amidst the wreckage of human life, with no remedy for the ills of the world, no Saviour "able to save unto the uttermost."

We recommend the wisdom of the driver who kept as far away from the precipice as possible. Some men come too near and lose their Bible—their faith—their Saviour.—The Church Advocate.

SIDELIGHTS

HERE AND THERE

"It surely is a great task to be responsible for the religious training of the young mind today. But when we tell them the 'Old Story' we cannot go far wrong."

This great task is for the church, the Sunday school and for every mother and father. The home has the first beginning. It is fortified by the latter two. It is also a formidable task which challenges the best efforts of all these mentioned agencies.

Yadkin Presbytery has suffered the loss of one of its most popular ministers. Rev. W. T. Eyrd, who pastored our churches at Mt. Vernon and Mocksville, has given up that work and has accepted work in Kentucky. We hope for him abundant success in his new field of labor.

Friends everywhere are rejoicing over the convalescing of Dr. I. H. Russell, the Synodical Evangelist. In the midst of a heavy campaign of work he suffered a breakdown. Dr. Russell has well demonstrated his ability for evangelistic work. We trust that when he is strong enough that he will enter upon his work cautiously and that he will remember that will power sometimes takes one beyond human endurance.

The retiring sermon of Moderator Frank Shirley, of Catawba Presbytery, is indeed food for thought. The same conditions exist in possibly all of our Presbyteries. His facts are vital. His contentions chiefly

are against the Presbytery. While not entering upon any form of controversy, it seems to us generally a good many of his contentions can be remedied by an awakening of the laity of the church. There is no doubt that there is not a minister in a dual position who would not gladly relieve himself, if there were a hearty response to the much needed education along every line of church activity by the laity of the church. Brother Shirley is abreast of the times and in his missionary work he can become a pioneer along many of the lines which he advocated in his very excellent sermon before the Catawba Presbytery.

Deacon Samuel Johnson, of Logan Presbyterian church, Scotts, N. C., of which Rev. J. G. Murray is the minister, is ideal in operating the financial end of his job. Deacon Johnson has a certain number of members allotted to him. Some of them live in Winston, Statesville and elsewhere, having gone to these various places by reason of better working conditions. Deacon Johnson never lets them forget their obligations, for if they are not too far away and can be found, he hops in his "flivver" and goes to see them. His visits are not in vain. He gets the money which is oftentimes much needed for various church causes. Deacon Johnson gives us a good lesson. Our folks who go away should be reminded of the home church by minister, elder and deacon. They will be responsive if looked after. We would like to borrow Deacon Johnson for a few weeks in our work and after then we would be willing to demonstrate his method to some of the other brethren. But his pastor says, "I can not spare him."

Speaking of self-supporting churches, we need more of them and ought to have more. Every minister would like to have them, we know. Every church ought to work to that end with every honest endeavor. It should be advocated in the same spirit. It is not commendable for one to advocate it who may be the titular head of a parochial school and who may have

families connected with some helping agency of that school and call himself getting all of his aid from his church or churches. His churches may not be aided, but other means are coming to him indirectly, perhaps, from the source from which all other aid comes. I once heard of a brother advocating strongly self-support. He was honest in his motive, but as far as he was concerned, he did not depend upon his meager salary. He had obtained considerable property through his wife. The same may be said of the man who teaches in the public schools. He is in no position to boast of self-support even if he is not asking for aid. It is a thing wished for by many, but self-support will not come to some. It will come to many others when the churches see the necessity of assuming their burdens and responsibilities. For the lack of this assumption, some men have been forced into secular fields to help out in the pressing demands of this highly organized economic age. The cost of living is not a matter of sentiment but it is a stern fact which has to be met with dollars and cents. In this age there is no per cent off for the preacher. Like any other red-blooded man, he does not want any off. He likes to bear his burdens as others do.

It was with a great feeling of pride that the brethren left Catawba Synod with the highest of praise for the entertainment given by the Seventh Street church and our other churches there. Presbyterianism is strong enough in Charlotte that much outside help is not needed. The Baptist few addresses. This is as it ought to be. Real talent ought to be used. I think sometimes that some of us pass up some of our best talent an dgo outside for talent less able to do our welcoming, as a matter of sentiment. That is not selfishness, but it is recognizing your own. Speaking of welcome addresses, Dr. R. L. Douglass, in his very interesting way, gave out some historical facts in connection with Presbyterianism in Mecklenburg County which will be remembered for a long time. He did not forget to mention his pastor whose forty-five years of service at Seventh St. church stand out conspicuously in the development of Presbyterianism around Charlotte. Dr. Douglass was happy in his praise for the consecrated life of Dr. Wyche. Any pastor will get along who has the type of men around him such as Drs. Martin, Douglass and others together with an active laity and a splendid corps of missionary women. "All in all," as the saying goes, the entertaining feature of Seventh Street church was a success.

Rev. C. P. Pitchford is proving himself to be a versatile man as well as a useful one. Besides being a good preacher and an excellent scholar, he has developed into a good printer and newspaper man. Rev. Pitchford likes to talk. That is good for newspaper folks. We learned that he likes to talk a good while ago. To be more exact it was the first night of his stay when he entered school at the University. It was the writer's first night, too. We happened to get along fine as new boys with one exception. That fellow talked the entire night through. Every time sleep would almost have us, out popped a question, and so on the night through. We were glad when morning came, since we had to talk. The second night of our stay we spent elsewhere where we were permanently assigned. That night we slept, but the poor boy who spent the night with my new friend, I know, was not so fortunate. The last time we saw Rev. Pitchford he was asking questions. We spent the night at his home and just as we were ready to retire he asked a

question. But, anyway, he is a congenial fellow.

SIDELIGHTER.

BARBER COLLEGE

NEWS

Myrtle A. Brodie.

A very interesting musical

programme was rendered by the Vesper Chorus on Sunday, October 25th. The musical talent of the students was shown to a great extent. Special mention may be made of the different parts sung by Misses Bessie Mayle, Joe Etta Stinson, Annie Brodie and Annie Scott Cooper. The S. L. D. P. Q. Quartette also had a conspicuous part on the programme. These musical programmes are rendered monthly by the students.

On Saturday night, October 31st, the teachers and students clad in their Hallowe'en costumes assembled in the spacious dining room to celebrate that day. The room was artistically decorated with different colored leaves painted by the spirit of autumn. Dim red lights were lowered beneath the hanging leaves, and, with other Hallowe'en decorations, the place was one which enchanted you on your very entering, to the extent that we were

husked for a moment with its splendor. Music was furnished by the school's band, with many games adding more enjoyment to the affair. Each one present was pleased and filled with the spirit of the occasion. Refreshments were served at the end of the evening and each one was tired to her room desiring that the day had been well celebrated.

The college students, who attend Calvary Presbyterian church every Sunday, are gleaming much from the sermons delivered by Rev. A. W. Rice. He preached a very strong sermon to us on Sunday, November the first, from St. John 20, and the latter clause of the 21st verse.

The students of this school have indeed been very fortunate to have listened to the U. S. Navy Band at the Lyric Theatre. Our expectations of this Band were very high and they were raised higher after we listened. We finally concluded that music is the spice of life.

Miss Alice Cunningham, of San Jose, Calif., and Miss Lucile Cunningham, of Rulox, Nebraska, were pleasant visitors to us several days ago. Miss Lucile Cunningham is quite an accomplished artist and charmed the school with her violin.

The Freshman class rendered its first program October 7. It was quite interesting and enjoyable.

Our school radio is being used frequently by the students and adds much to the school.

We have had a number of guests recently: Rev. Cooper, of the Central Presbyterian church, of this city, Mrs. W. A. Boyd, of Holton, Kan., Rev. Murray, of West Point, Miss., and Rev. Hargrave, of New Market, Tenn. We are always glad to welcome our friends to Barber.

A few mornings ago the Third Year Class of the High School Department conducted devotional exercises. Their service was based on the Psalms, and very beautiful Psalms that had been written by the girls were read at this time.

Miss Dora A. Jones, a member of the Sophomore class, was called home several days ago to the bedside of her mother. We hope that she will be back with us again soon.

We take God's gifts most completely when we realize that He sends them to us for the benefit of other men who stand beyond us needing them.—Phillips Brooks.