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All questions arising under the various subjects above indicated are discussed from a Christian point of view. Each number contains the freshest and best news from the Southern field and from the Church at large. There is carefully selected reading matter suited to all classes of our people—the farmer, the mechanic, the artisan and the professional man.

The Sabbath School and Missionary causes will receive special attention.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1926
OUR CHURCHES AND THE BENEVOLENCES.

Churches which have not paid their 1925-'26 benevolence quotas should make every effort to do so during the remaining days of this month, since the Church year closes on the 31st. Although the remaining days are few, nevertheless much can be accomplished during this brief period through determined and concerted effort on the part of the churches. It is very seldom that earnest, faithful and well organized efforts result in failure. Unless such effort is immediately put forth on the part of the churches the Boards must face a very large deficit with the beginning of the new year, which will mean the retarding of the progress of the work of the Church at large, certainly the weakening of the stakes and the shortening of the cords in the work of missions.

Judging from the small number of our colored churches in the South now appearing in this paper on the honor roll of churches having paid their quotas, the annual reports of the colored Synods and Presbyteries of the South this year will be by no means encouraging. According to the honor roll only 30 of the 409 churches in the four colored Synods have paid their quotas. In four of the Presbyteries no churches have paid and in each of three others only one church has paid. Have all of the churches done their best in efforts to raise their quotas? We rather think they have not. Is it not true that in many instances churches postpone the raising of their benevolences till near the end of the Church year? We are of the opinion that this is the prime cause of the failure of many of our churches to meet their financial obligations. We would urge, therefore, that churches endeavor to meet their obligations weekly from the beginning to the end of the year.

DR. ASHBY JONES.

Dr. M. Ashby Jones, one of the outstanding figures in the Southern interracial movement, has resigned the pastorate of the Ponce de Leon Baptist church, of Atlanta, to go to St. Louis, and all Atlanta, especially its colored citizenship, is voicing regret. Dr. Jones has written and spoken much on the relations of the races, and always with broad sympathy and understanding. The South can ill afford to lose such a man as he, but wherever he goes it is to be hoped that the fine spirit of cooperation and good will which characterizes him will find full expression.

BARBER ECHOES.

"Barber Echoes" is the name of a magazine issued by Barber Memorial College, our girls' school at Anniston, Ala. The first number bears date February, 1926. There are 24 pages of reading matter, most of it pertaining to Barber, and the periodical is interesting from cover to cover. Lest some one should think the Barber girls exhausted themselves in this splendid edition, President Scherer gives the assurance that Barber is not "striking twelve at the beginning, or thundering in the index," but that the "talent responsible for this work is capable of repeating indefinitely." We are, therefore, anticipating a monthly feast of good things during the school year. The staff numbers 17 girls in all departments. Miss Helen Jones is editor, Miss Myrtle Brodie, assistant editor, and Miss Annie Brodie is literary editor. The last two are daughters of Rev. Dr. F. L. Brodie, of Charlotte.

TIMOTHY DARLING CHURCH, OXFORD.

The last two or three weeks have been red letter days with Timothy Darling church, Oxford, N. C. On February 14 they pulled off quite a successful rally, realizing \$360. The church was organized into ten clubs, each club headed by one of the faithful women. The church is fortunate in having a number of faithful women who always make things go. Each club was asked to raise at least \$40. Most of them did so. Some went beyond. Sister Clement headed the list with \$60. Some of the ladies were so determined that their clubs should not come up short that they paid out of their own pockets to bring up their club. Mrs. Carrie Daniel paid \$20 rather than have her club report short. This is the kind of women that make the church or anything else they are connected with go. Mr. Elijah Clement, though not a member of our church, gave \$5.00 that Mrs. Clement's club might go over the top. That is the kind of man that Brother Clement is.

On Monday night following the rally, we started special revival services. Dr. Russell was with us and did effective work. It happened that our rally came off on Lincoln's Day. Nevertheless Prof. Cozart urged the Sabbath school to do its duty. He raised \$10 and forwarded the same to Dr. Gaston.

Rev. H. S. Davis is quite a force in the church work as well as an indispensable adjunct in the school life.

A WISE STEP.

Two men who had been political enemies had not been on speaking terms for some months. One day they met face to face on a narrow pavement which only afforded room for one pedestrian at a time.

"Sir," said one of the politicians, drawing himself up to his full height, "I never give away to fools."

"Don't you?" replied the other cheerfully, "I always do," and immediately stepped into the road.

START OF 'PHONE.

It was 50 years ago today, March 10, 1876, that the first complete sentence was spoken over the telephone.

Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, was heard over the wire when he said to his assistant, Thomas A. Watson: "Mr. Watson, come here, I want you."

The industry, begun in that year, has grown by leaps and bounds until today it ranks as one of the foremost business enterprises in the United States.

Friends of Negro education and our Church folk generally regretted to hear of the destruction by fire on February 22 of the Boys' Dormitory at Swift Memorial College. In a published statement President Franklin, while deploring the loss of the building, says the school has not lost a day, and will continue to go on until the last of May. There was insurance, and it is hoped "out of the ashes will rise a larger and better building."

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

By Rev. A. U. Frierson, D. D.

This is easily the noblest human conception before the world today. It would embrace in its sweep the whole wide world, and ultimately lift every flock of the black cloud of ignorance leading to national and international suspicion, jealousy and discord. It is suggestive of employing rational and humane methods in removing misunderstandings which have played a large part in keeping men divided in the solution of world problems more than any other known quantity. From these ever and anon the world or parts of it have been forced to witness or pass under the scourge of cruel, relentless and bloody war.

In approaching this subject, I am fully aware that I am entering an exclusive, if not a forbidden, field of thought, as far as the average lay American citizen is concerned, and seemingly wholly closed to the group to which I belong—the colored American. This, however, is not surprising, since the League of Nations is a theme over which the master minds of the world clash—and some even crash. Terminology, verbiage, critical analysis, political bearings and what nots, I am going to leave entirely to experts—diplomats, statesmen, justices and jurists—and discuss the subject purely and simply as a conception. As such I have no apology to offer and stand ready to subscribe to my deductions, comers, dissenters, critics and all who may not be impressed from my viewpoint notwithstanding.

I am also keenly conscious of the fact that at the Versailles conference even when and whence the League of Nations was in parturition, "Darkest Africa" alone, with her teaming millions of sable sons and daughters had to knock at the back door. Furthermore, it is still fresh in my mind that the group of Americans to which I belong did not seem to rest very heavily upon the heart, nor occupy a very large and conspicuous place in the thoughts and plans of my hero in administering the affairs of the nation. But not even these considerations can in the least detract from the nobility—the greatness and grandeur of his conception. Neither shall they let us a part and parcel of the greatest people on earth—the American people—from cherishing the memory of, and taking a just pride in, doing the man merited honors who fathered this conception and gave it to the world. Whether the League of Nations, or by whatever name men may choose to call it, ever becomes a workable, practicable fact, and thus a rule of life for the nations of the earth or not, it will ultimately appear that it is after all the embodiment of the noblest human conception of modern times or any other times, even the world court—a prior great conception—not excepted. I say this because the world court can never fully meet the ends of its creation and function with complete satisfaction to all concerned until some more general, yet definite union of nations is effected. For, after all, a world court is to the League as a supplement is to an angle.

Now I wish to set out a few definite and specific reasons for assigning the idea of a League of Nations the highest place in modern human conceptions, and why it is not so considered and acknowledged.

First of all, the conception is utilitarian. As utilitarian, it would raise men, races, and nations to higher planes of experience and hope by banning, if not wholly banishing, brutal, bloody war, and thus set free the heads, hands and hearts of men to engage in and follow the pursuits of love and mercy. It would permit men to employ their native and acquired talents, gifts and graces in furthering those things that make for righteousness, peace, prosperity and progress. I am borrowing the definition given utilitarian, by Bentham and John Stewart Mill to better express my struggling thoughts. The former says, "utilitarianism is the doctrine that the greatest happiness of the greatest number should be the end of all social and political institutions in the universe." The latter said,

"That doctrine that virtue is founded in utility, or that virtue is defined and enforced by the tendency to promote the highest happiness of the universe."

That the greatest good and happiness will accrue to the greatest number of the human family if the League of Nations ever becomes a practical bond of union for the nations of the earth, passes without the saying. If ever it becomes a fact, it will bring in as nothing else, save the matchless Gospel of the Son of God, the glorious era prophesied in the long ago, by Isaiah, "And they (the people) shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." It would turn loose the largest organized army to tackle and set hands and hearts to the solution of human problems that has ever gone forth since time began. As utilitarian the conception is unique, ideal, utopian.

Second, the conception is altruistic. While it would minimize egoism, it would most emphatically magnify altruism in national and international concerns. In statecraft, while it would rigidly and scrupulously guard national interests and honor, it would at the same time conserve international concerns.

This it would do by bringing into one compact whole, all the civilized nations that dwell beneath the sun. It is intended and ostensibly aims to lay upon the hearts and minds of all in authority—rulers and potentates—the inspired "ought"—"ye who are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak."

It would forever lift the iron heel of oppression from the neck of the weaker and less fortunate nations and races, as well as individuals. Thus it would literally raise anew in the land "Glory to God in the highest—on earth peace—good will among men." If the millennium ever come or anything akin to it, it will follow in the wake of some conception practically expressed in a league of nations, or some similar bond of union. It would drive out the brute and re-instate the man in man, where human interests clash. Altruism is one of man's native endowments. When for the first time Adam saw Eve coming to him, his heart of hearts went out to her, and in self-forgetfulness he cried out, "This now is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh." Did not God provide to save man from becoming self-centered and selfish by raising up to him woman? To crown it all God himself said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

Third, this conception bubbles over with optimism. It is the vision of a world over which the dove of a permanent peace hovers.

Fourth, it is a conception of national and international comity and brotherhood. It would interpret aright the Christ mission by breathing the Christ spirit into man's political and civic relations, by the practical application of the Golden Rule. It would answer once for all affirmatively the age-worn question of the first murderer, "Am I my brother's keeper?" It would hurl back into a murderous face an emphatic yes, that would ring out and sound the world round. Whatever else comes to pass by way of immediate approval, adoption or rejection of the League of Nations as such, it will ultimately become apparent that he who conceived the idea and was first to write "League of Nations," dipped his pen in fresh, warm blood drawn from human hearts, and traced afresh across the sky in color of crimson the angelic song, "Peace on Earth, Goodwill among men."

The first martyred President of the United States, the much lamented Abraham Lincoln, by his matchless emancipation document unshackled directly four million or more unfortunate fellow beings, and indirectly many more millions. For the master class was more hopelessly enslaved than the slave class in a

way. For this magnanimous service, he will ever live in the hearts of a grateful people, whose tribe will increase with the passing years. Peace to his ashes! He dreamed of a union of no North, no South, no East, no West—"one and inseparable forever," as we have it today. Such a union could not exist "one half free and one half slave." Time has vindicated the wisdom and correctness of his conception.

But the man who conceived the idea of a "League of Nations" would strike the galling shackles of national and international strife and selfishness, which breed suspicion, jealousy, greed, hatred and war from the necks of the nations of the earth—would free all tongues and races that on earth do dwell.

The further men get away from this conception and the man—the late Ex-President Woodrow Wilson—who gave it to the world, the larger will the conception and the man loom in national and international life. In this, as in all other great human legacies, distance will more and more lend enchantment to the view. That imposing figure, graced with a towering and mighty intellect, will by this conception live not only in the hearts of the greatest people on earth—the Americans—but will live in the hearts of the nations of the earth. Redeemed and lifted, they will some day hurry to wreath his brow with evergreen laurels, crown his head with richest diadems, and hail him earth's noblest son, and greatest emancipator. We do not subscribe to all he said and did, but can in charity do him deserved honor. When the haze of petty, partisan politics shall have passed away and my hero is seen in his true role, men will throng to do honor to his memory.

Varying policies and partisan politics not infrequently divide men hopelessly, filling their minds with uncompromising prejudice, and blinding their eyes to real merit and true worth. These have in my opinion cheated this great spirit out of his just and richly earned meed of praise hitherto. But his legacy—the conception of a League of Nations—the noblest human conception before the world today—will bear rich fruitage, and upon a second sober thought he will come into his own. Who can beat or equal it? 1st, utilitarian, 2nd, altruistic, 3rd, optimistic, 4th, the conception of international comity and brotherhood.

I close in the words of Lowell:

"Great souls are portions of eternity;
Each drop of blood that e'er through true heart ran
With lofty message, ran for you and me;
For God's law since the starry song began,
Hath been and still forevermore must be,
That every deed which shall outlast life's span
Must goad the soul to be erect and free."

Winnsboro, S. C.

SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Since you have heard from us we have been constantly drinking from the fountain of good sermons, especially the one on February 28th from the text, Mark 12:34, "The Almost Christian," and on March 7, Genesis 16:13, "Thou God seest me." I believe our pastor was at his best and he consoled the Christians by saying "when they have been mistreated and misunderstood, remember that God sees and understands, and because He sees, He will take care of us."

On Sunday morning, February 21, our unday school rendered the following patriotic program:

Singing, "God Our Father."
Invocation, Elder Butler
Singing, "The Negro National Anthem."
"Life of George Washington," Mr. Pressley.

Quotations from Washington, by several.

Singing, "The Star Spangled Banner."

Epitaphs on Washington, Miss C. Alexander.

Singing, "America."
After the program we had a brief study of the lesson.

The Y. P. S. C. E. is at its best now. They are having some very good programs at each meeting. The young people are leading these meetings and are rendering helpful and instructive programs.

Friday afternoon, February 19th, the Woman's Missionary Society observed the "Day of Prayer." We also elected our officers for the next year and also our delegates to the Presbytery. The old officers were reelected and hope to do more work next year than was done this. Mrs. Eloise Williams was elected our delegate and Miss Cowan and Mrs. Rogers, alternates.

Prof. H. N. Sullivan held a Sunday school Institute last Thursday and Friday nights. It was nicely attended and enjoyed by all.

The Brotherhood gave a very interesting Men's Program on the last third Sunday afternoon. Our men have opened their eyes and are going forward. We pray for their great success.

The Woman's Missionary Society held its regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Marie Calhoun, 319 Salem St. The meeting was largely attended and the program which had been prepared by the hostess was carried out by Mesdames Eloise Williams, Julia Burris and Misses Ethel Cowan and Claudia Burris. The topic was, "Foreigners in America." These talks were interspersed with spirituals. After the business was finished we adjourned to meet with Mrs. C. W. Francis. The hostess served us with two delicious salad courses.

The mid-week prayer meetings are always helpful and inspiring. At our last service Elder J. C. Butler compared the Christians with a set of harness, especially the bridle, bits and reins. It was really touching.

We are sorry to report that Mesdames Hawkins and Earle are still sick, also Mr. J. W. Marion, Jr. We pray for them an early recovery.

Mrs. Lela Patton, of New York City, is visiting her brother, Elder Geo. W. Marion, Salem Street.

Miss Ruth D. Foster, of Greenville, spent the week-end with Mrs. Alma Flack and Miss Claudia Burris.

Reed Street High School has been playing basket ball for three years and has never lost a game. We played Sterling at the Phyllis Wheatley Center, Greenville, last Monday night and won 16-4.

BLANDONIA CHURCH NOTES, SANFORD, N. C.

Sunday, March 7, was regular preaching service at Blandonia. At the morning service at 11 o'clock Rev. McMillan chose for his text, "The Lord hath need of him," Mark 11:3. The text was beautifully pictured and illustrated and left an everlasting impression upon his hearers. At the night service Rev. McMillan preached from the text: "Where are the nine?" Both services were well attended. The collection for the day was about \$50.

Sunday morning, February 29, about 9:30, Blandonia church caught afire and the fire alarm was turned in, but those who had come in the beginning of the fire had it nearly extinguished when the fire department arrived. The church was not damaged very badly.

The Community Quintette, with the assistance of Mrs. B. G. McMillan, will appear in the auditorium of the Laurinburg Normal and Industrial Institute, in a recital, Friday, March the 12th, at 8:15 P. M. We are expecting many from Sanford to go along with the Quintette. The Quintette is composed of the following gentlemen: Rev. J. E. McMillan, Dr. D. L. Bland, Mr. Clarence Dortch, Dr. C. N. McMillan and Prof. W. E. Wickler.

THE DUTY OF BEING PLEASANT.

We owe it to ourselves and to others to cultivate the habit of being pleasant and courteous. It is a duty to be pleasant. A sunny smile, a cheerful greeting and a kind word bring happiness to others and pay large dividends in satisfaction to ourselves.—The Monitor, Omaha, Nebraska.