

THE MESSENGER.

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BY WILLIAM C. SMITH.

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Corresponding Editors.

GEO. W. CLINTON, Chester, S. C.
ED. L. THORNTON, Washington, D. C.

All money must be sent by registered letter or money order.

If you don't get your paper at the proper time please tell us at once.

Short correspondence of interest to the general public is solicited, but don't be disappointed if you fail to see your production in our columns. We are not responsible for the views of correspondents. Anonymous communications go to the waste basket.

YOUR TIME IS OUT.

If your paper has a blue cross-mark, your time is out. We are forced to cut down our list or take in more money. It certainly is not fair for the existence of the paper to be endangered by our over-loading ourselves with persons who will not pay. We would like to have our paper read by everybody, but the more we send out, the greater the cost; hence every one who is not "square with our books" must get so at once, or we shall stop their paper. Now let us hear from you.

The *Colored World* is a well printed seven column paper, just started in Indianapolis, Ind. It makes a fine start, has a lively field to play in, and we bespeak for it the success it deserves.

The *Fair Play*, is another neatly printed, well-edited paper in Lexington, Ky. It well deserves the support of every Kentuckian.

AGAIN IN CONCORD.

It was our pleasure to visit Concord Thursday of last week to witness the laying of the corner-stone of a colored baptist church. The Odd Fellows of the town turned out and performed the ceremony, the address being delivered by Rev. J. A. Tyler of this city.

Friday was a donation day with the Presbyterians, and though it was a little rainy in the morning about twenty men gathered and went to work completing the rebuilding of the old church, it having been removed from the seminary grounds. It was a contribution of labor instead of money.

A festival was given Thursday night which an immense crowd attended and made it a complete financial success. We stopped with that pleasant and hospitable Mrs. M. J. Johnston, where one always finds himself happy. And one is not only entertained by the ever-flowing wit of Miss Emma, but she fingers the keys of an instrument in such a way as to make you wish you could sing.

Friday morning we visited Scotia Seminary in company with Revs. J. A. Tyler and J. M. Hill. Here we heard a class in U. S. History, and afterwards met many of our friends all of whom seemed happy and in good health. It is always a pleasure to us to visit Scotia, for it is here the great work is being done for the salvation and elevation of our race. These are truly the great moral and social guides of our country; and though they are called the weaker sex, they have the lever and such advantageous position that they turn the world as they will. Woman truly is the noblest of God's handy work, and she should learn her power and exercise it.

PUBLIC BAPTISING.

Is it right to baptise in public, irresponsible crowds? It is common for large crowds of people to assemble at baptisings and behave very

disorderly. The question arises, is it right for a church to have these mixed crowds gather upon the occasion of these sacred rites, for mere sport. If it is wrong, the wrong consists in the evil done by the crowd on the outside.

The pools are generally so arranged that only a few persons can witness the baptising, and the great mass of people that generally go to see and to be seen, engage in such conversation as best amuses them. Methodists spend much of the time commenting upon the remarks of the ministers, which they invariably construe into abuse of all other denominations.

We suppose these ceremonies are held in public so they may have a good effect upon unbelievers, but it is feared the opposite is the result. If they are to be in public why not go where the public can be accommodated? where all can see, so their attention may be upon the work. We think a church should always have the pool on the inside of the church, and members of the church and friends of the candidates only admitted to baptisings as in taking communion. Order can be preserved in a church but it cannot be had with our people elsewhere, it matters not upon what occasion—not even a burial.

We believe three of the strongest agents in demoralizing and breaking down our people operate in the name of the church, and charitable societies. They are campmeetings, excursions and public baptisings. The pulpit and the press are the powers in this country. Let them unite to bring about moral reforms in our people. Let us care less for popularity and go for the right regardless of popular opinion. Until this is done our preaching and teaching is in vain.

OUR CITY ELECTION.

An election was held in this city on the 7th instant to elect a Mayor and twelve aldermen. The Democratic party was organized and made the fight strictly on party lines. One half our city is largely Democratic and the other half largely republican, but it has for a long time been the custom in the colored wards to give the other side representation on their ticket. As the whites had the advantage in registering in consequence of the books closing ten days before the election, they would not accept of our terms this time and drew the party lines throughout the city.

On account of Republicans being so very magnanimous as to pretend to support DeWolfe, he baffled them on the day before the election, and Dr. R. M. Norment, a Republican, received a complimentary vote from the Republicans. Maxwell was elected "by a large majority." The Democratic nominees for aldermen were not opposed in wards one and four. In ward three a number of colored men voted against Mr. Goode, yet he came out 23 votes short of election while there were just 23 more whites registered on the ward than colored.

As to ward two it is a reproach upon the colored men of that ward to speak of it. There were 27 more colored men than whites registered and this ward that has had colored men on the board more than a dozen years, by false promises, treachery, cheap whiskey and a little money, failed to elect a colored man. Those who came out that day and worked and voted for Democrats against our best colored republicans should be known and deserves to be branded as traitors to their race. A man who will sell his vote will steal. A man who works against the interest of his race, the upbuilding of his people for money or the promise of a place is worse than Benedict Arnold and deserves Arnold's fate. It is a disgrace upon the colored race in America to see votes sold, and so cheap. It seems that men are losing their integrity fast. But they shall get their reward.

Our Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 17, '83.

Some vigorous opposition to the proposed National Convention is being met with from unexpected quarters. Prof. R. T. Greener, whose name was attached to the Committee on Call, has withdrawn and is now using all efforts to defeat the Convention. On Monday night a company of gentlemen assembled at Simm's Hall and issued a protest against it. And thus strenuous efforts are in operation to crystallize a sentiment against what will prove an event incomparably grand in conception and results to the colored race. Those who oppose the Convention say that the callers are not representative men, and therefore ought not to have issued the call, that it is not an opportune time, that Washington is an unquesirable place to convene, etc. Take an impartial and candid analysis of the objections.

In the first place it is evidently absurd to deny Mr. Douglass and the rest the right of call. Such a spirit and course are contrary to those democratic and catholic principles which form the very mudsill of our social and political structure. Any man has the right to call a convention. That is one of the unalienable rights which constitute the common stock of our citizenship. In democratic America it sounds little short of the autocrat, the ignoramus or the zealot for any man or set of men to deny other men this right and then to arrogate unto themselves the same sacred right. It makes no essential difference who calls the convention. We should be and are concerned about the convention, not the call. The interests are too varied and numerous, the issues too pressing and the time too opportune to kill out a convention, where we might voice the sentiments and determinations of the race, in the petty attempt to oppose the callers. Again, are the members of that committee representative men? The Hon. Frederick Douglass is the typical representative of the Negro-American. A half-century of sacrifice and toil as the champion of human rights in America ought surely to justify him in the issue of a call, the ultimate end of which is to secure more fully those rights for the attainment of which he has said and done more than any man in this country. Prof. James M. Gregory is the most successful colored scholar in America. The former is President of the Committee on Calls, the latter Secretary. The members of the committee are too many to be taken up in detail, but they are all representative men, in some sphere, and with rarely an exception hail from the different States. Any discussion as to this point, however, seems to me entirely unprofitable, for I repeat, we want the convention, not the call, and with 288 representatives from the different States we need entertain no fears as to the results.

Is the time opportune? As was stated in the 6th resolution of the call that we are on the eve of a great political revolution, and race interests should be determined and regulated in some measure before this great revolution is over. Aside from the political phase of this movement, our civil rights are yet infringed upon, and will be in direct proportion to our indifference.—Whoever thinks the time inopportune, however, should read the resolutions which accompany the call.

As to the place of holding this convention, "we all differ." Of course, sectional pride comes in for a large share of the favor. It cannot be denied that Washington is decidedly unpopular and unfavorable as a place for holding a convention where independency is to be asserted and tolerated. The Committee is willing to designate any place for holding the convention provided that it meet with the preponderance of favor, otherwise Washington will stand as determined upon.

There is one fact in connection with this call which has been entirely overlooked. This committee is not in any sense self-appointed but it is the appointment of the Emancipation Celebration committee, both of which are entirely distinct and separate in their makeup.

The commencement exercises of the Senior Theological Class of Howard University were held in the Fourth Presbyterian church on the 4th instant. There were six graduates among whom was Rev. John C. Watkins, of Madison, N. C., who gave a forcible and able address on "Theology, the Science of Sciences."

At the Bethel Literary on Tuesday evening Miss Carrie Syphax read an essay on "Self-Made Women," and Mr. J. F. Carle presented

a paper entitled "Success in Life," which was especially interesting and humorous in portions.

The reunion of the grand Army of the Potomac took place here yesterday. It was a clear, crisp day and the people took possession of it by storm. President Arthur reviewed the procession and together with ovations, orations, and poems everything turned its best side and the day passed off very gloriously.

Commencement season is full upon us. The graduating exercises of the Spencerian Business College and the National Deaf Mute College were held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings respectively.

Mr. Geo. C. Scurlock will leave for Fayetteville in a few days. Arguments are being given in the Star Route case—Judge Wilson, for the defendants at present. The Freedmen's Bank has declared its final dividend of 7 per cent payable Monday next. E. L. T.

Just before going to press we regret to learn of the death of Mr. E. B. Craig, one of Biddle's last graduates. He had been in ill health for some time. Mr. Craig graduated with the first honors of his class.



A Cart-Buggy for Sale.

We are prepared to furnish a cart-buggy at manufacturer's prices. W. C. SMITH.

TIME TABLE

Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley R'y.

To take Effect on Monday, June 12th, 1882.

UP.		
(DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY.)	Arrive.	Leave.
Fayetteville,	4.40 p m	4.40 p m
Little River,	6.19 p m	6.20 p m
Spout Springs,	6.55 p m	6.56 p m
Swain's station,	7.35 p m	7.36 p m
Jonesboro,	8.05 p m	8.06 p m
Sanford,	7.05 p m	7.06 p m
Egypt,	7.45 p m	7.46 p m
Gulf,	8.20 p m	8.21 p m
DOWN.		
(DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY.)	Arrive.	Leave.
Gulf,	6.15 a m	6.20 a m
Egypt,	6.45 a m	6.50 a m
Sanford,	7.20 a m	7.25 a m
Jonesboro,	8.00 a m	8.05 a m
Swain's station,	8.50 a m	8.55 a m
Spout Springs,	8.55 a m	9.00 a m
Little River,	9.30 a m	9.35 a m
Fayetteville,	10.15 a m	10.20 a m

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