

St. Augustine's Record

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REFLECTIONS ON THE EPIPHANY SERVICE

(Editor's Note.—The Record has published for many years descriptions of the Epiphany "Feast of Lights" service, which is so inseparably associated with St. Augustine's College. This year we present a meditation on the service, written by a member of the faculty.)

In the world today there is a growing belief in many quarters that religious institutions have failed. The students and the staff of St. Augustine's College, however, know that religion will never fail. The beauty of the Epiphany service suggests how religion appeals to the æsthetic senses as well as to the mind. To admit the essential contribution that religion makes to man's whole being is a delightful acknowledgment; made through reason and through feelings—through the intellect and through the heart.

It is fitting indeed that after a holiday season of merriment and joyous song we should pause for a thoughtful appreciation of the true significance of Christ's birth.

On the evening of January 6 the Chapel was filled with peoples of different denominations and different races. It was beautiful to see the magnificent star shining alike on the faces of all. It is said that "the sincere seeker finds in every House of Worship, be it Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism or Mohammedanism, the same exalted sentiments of worship and of brotherhood." This is surely so at St. Augustine's, for every devout soul found peace and brotherly love as the old sweet story of the three Wise Men was re-enacted.

Realizing that religion alone can bring universal peace and literally save the world, we were fired with the desire to see the teachings of Christ actually practiced. It is only by living according to the true principles of Christ that the world can emerge from turmoil and strife.

Religious differences have always been a chief cause of warfare between peoples, while religious sympathy has always made for peace and understanding. One hundred years after Christ lived on earth we would not have found Greek Christians raising sword against Roman Christians. They would have been conscious first that they were Christians, second that they were Greeks. Today we are first English, German, American, French, and, as an afterthought, Christians together. In the early years of Christianity the master emotion was a common love for God, and the other emotions were sublimated to it. Nothing short of such vitality can save humanity today.

Christ and all the prophets taught of the coming of the reign of God upon earth, which would be a time of peace and prosperity; when all the people would know the Lord and abide in His love. We must spread these teachings to meet the requirements of the illumined age.

As the Epiphany service ended with the symbolic spreading of the Light, we realized that the promise of all ages is not far distant.—
L. J. M.

THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

The Woman's Auxiliary has had two very interesting guest speakers at recent meetings: Professor Arthur P. Chippey and Bishop Edwin A. Penick. At the mid-January meeting Mr. Chippey, a member of the Diocesan Finance Committee, gave an illuminating account of the financial system of the Diocese of North Carolina, and showed charts which illustrate in detail how the system works. He spoke also of his visits to the Negro churches of the Diocese for the purpose of explaining the system and of the encouraging increase in giving subsequent to his visits. He expressed the hope that as more and more is expected of these churches, most of which are either organized or unorganized missions, they will respond heroically not only for the sake of the Diocese, but for their own growth and vitality.

Bishop Penick visited the Woman's Auxiliary on January 27th and conducted the meeting. Members of the Auxiliary of St. Ambrose Church and members of the College Junior Auxiliary were guests, and the Choral Club of the College were guest singers. Under the direction of Professor Russell Houston, they sang "Christ for the World We Sing," "Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light," and "How Lovely Are the Messengers."

Bishop Penick's address was fatherly counsel. He explained that he would speak not of techniques in missionary work nor of particular mission fields, but rather of the motive for missions, a sort of philosophy of missions. "God," he quoted, "is love." Then if missionary activity is to help people know God, *Love* must be both its motive and its end, and *Sharing* its means. There followed illustrations of what Love is and does, and prayers for pure motives and generous participation on the part of men and women everywhere. The soft opening bars of "How Lovely Are the Messengers" gave a suitable closing to the service.—L. R. McK.

The twelfth annual Public Welfare Institute of Negro Social Workers of the State of North Carolina was held at St. Augustine's College, February 3, 4, and 5. The conference, in charge of Rev. William R. Johnson, Consultant on Negro Affairs and Field Agent, has held all its recent annual meetings on our campus. Miss Ruth Stevenson, instructor at the Bishop Tuttle School, was one of the conference speakers and leaders. Students of the Bishop Tuttle School avail themselves of the opportunity of attending the discussions.