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The Star of Zion.

A. S. RICHARDSON, L. L.B. Editor.

ORGAN OF THE A. M. E. ZION CHURCH.

REV. C. R. HARRIS, Business Manager.

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THE STAR OF ZION IS THE ORGAN OF THE A. M. E. ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

It is the aim of this paper:
 To furnish news of interest to all parts of Zion Connection.
 To give a brief review of the leading events of the day.
 To present the thoughts of our best writers upon the educational, industrial and religious welfare of the colored race.
 To be worthy of a place in every family.
 Like the Star in the East, it seeks to lead towards Christ, the Redeemer of a lost world.

Brief well written articles on the above subjects from the pen of colored men will receive prompt attention.

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THE BOARD OF BISHOPS.

It will be seen by notice in another column, that the Board of Bishops will meet on the last Wednesday in March next, in Zion church New York, and a full attendance is expected. The convenience of each Bishop has been consulted and a time fixed upon when nothing but a Providential interposition can prevent them attending. Some of the Bishops would have preferred a more central place of meeting, but yielded to their preferences in deference to the wish of the mother church, to see all of her Bishops assembled there. This will be a most important meeting. Heretofore the General conference has fixed the appointments of the Bishops for four years. At the last session it only pointed out their field of labor for two years, leaving it entirely with them to arrange their work, after that, except that each must take a new district. We have heard it hinted that that resolution was only a recommendation. If I so understood it I should feel that the Bishops were bound to act upon it. But I do not so understand it. It was simply a respectful way of telling the Bishops what they must do.

The General Conference did not trammel the Bishops by saying that the districts must remain just as they are, or that A shall take this or B that district, but said, in substance, we have fixed your fields of labor for two years, after that, fix it yourselves, but be sure to take different work from that which we have now given you; don't fix yourselves back like you were. Beyond this there is no restriction. If we will go a little behind the resolution, we will perhaps see more clearly its full import. First, there was one district that needed strengthening, but there were interests just then that forbade our doing just what needed to be done. Secondly, after the speech of Bishop Hood, who favored an annual rotating of the Bishops, commencing from that General Conference, it was generally conceded, that that was just what was needed, but there were certain interests which prevented our putting this needed arrangement into operation. After other remarks by Bishop Jones and others favoring the suggestion, this resolution passed. From this it is very clear what the General Conference intended.

An annual rotation was suggested. The resolution does not touch this matter, but leaves it with the Bishops. Thus it will be seen that this whole question will come up at the Bishops meeting. It is the opinion of a portion of the Bishops that there are not districts beyond the two years, unless the Bishops meet before that time and make them. I think however, that the 1st, 2d and 3d districts are not likely to be changed, as they are quite well arranged. In fact, the arrangement of these three was entirely satisfactory to the General Conference. It is well known that the arrangement of the other three was not satisfactory

No man can live on the Sixth district. Bishop Lomax has had to live on his farm. While the Fourth district is more than any living man can take care of. The Third district was much too large till the Virginia Conference was taken from it. But the Fourth district is much larger than it was; having five conferences, besides the Texas mission. To strengthen the Sixth district and to bring the Fourth into manageable dimensions are perhaps two most important matters that will be considered by the Bishops. When all the districts are put in good shape, the Bishops will not care which field they go to first, as they will expect to go to all in turn, if life is spared long enough. J. W. H.

WEST ALABAMA CONFERENCE.

The West Alabama annual conference convened at Tuscaloosa Ala., Dec. 14th 1881 at 10 o'clock Bishop J. P. Thompson opened the conference by reading the 23d chapter of Jeremiah. Elder W. G. Strong announced the hymn, "What is our calling, glorious hope" Elder Wm. Burrows offered prayer, after which a general shaking of hands took place in token of thanks to God that we were permitted to meet in annual conference capacity once more. This was a happy time indeed. After this the Bishop made some very interesting remarks touching the high and holy calling of the ministry. He also gave a brief but interesting account of the Ecumenical Conference held in London, England, of which he was a member. This was pleasing to all.

At the calling of the roll, a goodly number of the members were present. Elder W. G. Strong was re-elected recording secretary, Elder A. English asst. sec'y, Elder J. Gomez compiler, Elder R. S. Evans statistical secy and T. A. Weathington reporter. The dear friends are manifesting great interest in providing for the delegates. We are proud to say that we have in this town one of the finest churches in the South. Many of our dear sisters are with us to day. We were glad to meet Elder C. C. Pettey of S. C., who was introduced by the Bishop to the conference. The essay delivered by the Bishop before the Ecumenical Council, was presented to the conference, and being so highly prized every brother secured a copy. Everything is interesting to-day in the conference.

The Bishop's annual address was delivered before the conference. It was interesting indeed, containing wholesome instruction, such as we sincerely hope will be ever remembered. In it he spoke of education, temperance, building up character, Sabbath schools, Book concern, Star of Zion, Tuskegee College &c. These topics were referred to appropriate committees for consideration. We are glad to know that the white citizens of Tuscaloosa have so liberally donated to the trustees for the purpose of erecting this fine church. The services on Sunday were interesting to all. The following brethren preached

at Hunter's Chapel: 11 o'clock, H. C. Banks, ordination sermon; 3 o'clock, Elder E. D. Taylor; 7 1/2 o'clock, Elder C. C. Pettey. Elder Joseph Gomez and T. A. Weathington, addressed the Sabbath school.

All the committees made their reports Monday. All are in favor of having Bishop Thompson remain with us. The day school of Mr. Jeremiah Barnes, Mrs. E. Griffin and Miss M. A. M. Kernan paid us a visit to-day. We were glad to see them; they presented to the Bishop \$1.25 and to the conference \$2, for which a vote of thanks was tendered them. Little Zion Workers were present. It was they that paid the first hundred dollars on the church. They presented the Bishop with \$2.10. A vote of thanks was also tendered them. Elders Jones and Pettey addressed them. May the blessings of God be ever with them.

Dr. Stillman, pastor of the Presbyterian church and Prof. Richardson of the Presbyterian Institute, called on us to-day and were introduced to the Bishop by Rev. E. Hunter, and by the Bishop to the conference. The Dr. spoke briefly of the great work the Presbyterian church is doing in the way of educating men of our race for the ministry, and expressed great desire to have any of our brethren avail themselves of this opportunity. He then requested that we hear from the Prof. He having spoke a vote of thanks was tendered them. The Bishop then requested Rev. C. C. Pettey to make some remarks in reply to them, which he did in a very able and dignified manner. The Bishop made a few statements relative to the rapid progress of our people generally. After this the delegates from the various districts made their reports. The pastors are making good reports relative to the General Conference tax, notwithstanding the leanness of the times. During the session a letter was received from the Rev. Jacob Thomas, Gen. Book Agent. We were happy to hear from him. The Bishop at this time, stated that he wanted all the sub-agents to make their reports forthwith to Elder Thomas. This we hope will be attended to at once.

The Bishop insisted upon the members subscribing for the "Star of Zion," and that each one insist upon the members and friends of their charges to subscribe. We hope that this will be done.

As the time for appointments drew near, all the brethren were looking quite shy, each wondering in his mind doubtless, where his lot would be for the next year. The good friends thronged the church Tuesday evening to hear who would be their pastor, and they rejoiced to hear the name of Elder J. M. Butler as being appointed to them. Your reporter can think of the following appointments: Mobile, W G Strong; Zion Mobile S W Jones; Tuskegee, J Gomez; Greenville, E D Taylor; Montgomery, C C Pettey; Selma, R S Evans; Livingston, C W Oldfield. T A Weathington, corresponding editor East Alabama, and L W

Oldfield for the West Alabama conference.

Many thanks were extended to the dear friends and citizens of Tuscaloosa for the hospitality shown us during our stay with them. We pray the blessings of God upon them all.

Yours in Christ,
T. A. WEATHINGTON,
Reporter.

SCHOOL TEXT BOOKS.

MR. EDITOR:

I noticed in the Wilmington "Post" of December 22d, an article headed, "School Books—An Outrage," which I think does great injustice to the State Board of Education. I will agree that politicians are not the proper persons to select text books for our schools. Every text book must be submitted to the test of the school room, where it must stand or fall upon its merits. It is true that no one series of text books combine in itself all those excellencies which are necessary to make it exclusively the book of the public schools. The books adopted by the Board are published by different firms and are in some cases only parts of series.

I have been teaching in the public schools of the State for several years, during which time I have had occasion to test the merits of several series of text books. I think I can safely say that Maury's Geographical series has no superior Sanford's Arithmetics are as a series, as good as any I have ever used.

Holme's Readers are not quite so good as some others I have used but they are good, and amazingly cheap. They are "pure in tone and healthy in morals" if not quite so practical in method &c. Graded and Higher Lessons in English are admirably adapted to beginners in grammar while Harvey's Practical Grammar is all that is needed for the more advanced classes in our public schools. The Board has done both teachers and parents a great service in securing uniformity. A very large percentage of our population are poor and nomadic in disposition, moving from place to place as wages rise or fall. It was, to many, quite a hardship to be compelled to purchase new books at each particular domicile. Besides this, there is a regular price agreed upon and the publishers cannot raise their prices during the time for which the books are adopted. There is a depository in each county in the State where the books are kept on consignment. There are three prices: regular, introductory and exchange.

Very respectfully Yours,
J. O. Crosby,
Prin. State Col'd Nor. School,
Salisbury, N. C., Jan. 5. '82.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S CONSOLATION.

Those who saw President Lincoln's serious side could best testify to the breadth of his great nature. Few men have lived in whom the chords of humor and of reverent tenderness were so equally tuned, and in whom both were so

exquisitely fine. During the war when to the cares of a distracted nation on his mind and heart was added the keen sorrow of his son's death, and for the almost hopeless sickness of his boy Robert, (the present Secretary of War), Mrs. Rebecca R. Pomeroy was detailed by Miss Dix from hospital duty to go to the White House as nurse. While she watched by Robert's bedside, the President sat in the sick room, night after night, sleepless, and waiting with a father's agony of hope and fear. The life of the little by hung in even balance, and he would not go away. Much of that weary time the nurse and the President could converse without disturbance to the patient, and the themes on which Mr. Lincoln was then most ready to speak were dear and familiar to the Christian woman who shared his vigils with his son. Gradually he led her to relate the story of her life, and of her religious experience. The narration charmed him, and it was not strange that it should, for Mrs. Pomeroy had herself known sorrow, and there was a history of consecration in the way Divine comfort came to her. The next night he begged her to tell him the same story again, not omitting a single particular. On the third night he wanted to hear it again. For four nights—till the disease of his child took a favorable turn—that recital of a Christian's trials and trust was asked for and repeated to the anxious, sorrowing President, soothing his painful suspense, and teaching him the mysteries of resignation and patience. He felt his need to learn the lesson, and would ask for explanations as the story went on, and eagerly sought to know how she had put herself into God's hands, and how her faith found its reward. His interest did not cease when the danger was past and his son was saved; but he retained Mrs. Pomeroy through the lad's convalescence, and, as if longing for more instruction, he carried her daily to the hospital duties himself and made her tell him the words of peace and hope she breathed over the dying soldiers, and how she pointed them to Christ. Often she saw him at short intervals of respite in his crowded days, lying on his lounge, reading the Bible that belonged to his mother; and once when he asked what part of the Bible she loved best, she replied that it was the Psalms. "They are the best," he said; "I find something in them for every day in the week."—"Youth's Companion."

In a report by Superintendent of Public Instruction, Wickersham of Pennsylvania, published by the Bureau of Education, in reply to a charge that the higher grades of education are not safeguarded against tendencies to crime, says—first, about one-sixth of all the crime in the country is committed by persons wholly illiterate; second, that about one-third of it is committed by persons practically illiterate; third, that the proportion of criminals among the illiterate is about ten times as great as it is among those who have been instructed in the elements of a common school education, or beyond.—Ex