

The Star of Zion.

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

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CORRESPONDENCE

FROM THE MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE A. M. E. ZION CONNECTION IN ALL PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

TO THE STAR OF ZION.

HARRISBURG, N. C., Sept. 12.

Mr. Editor: It would be an instance of the strangest ingratitude should I fail to make some public acknowledgment of divine aid, after so many evidences of divine goodness and direction in steering our little bark amid these troubled waters. One of the clearly defined duties of the Christians of all ages is to sing God's praise and make known His doings among the people.

Too apt are we to take credit to ourselves which belong only to God. Strange, indeed, would it have appeared to all following generations had Moses and the children of Israel stood silent upon the safe shore of the Red Sea with no acclamation of joy, no song of praise expressive of God's merciful display of divine power for their protection; especially so when the morning which followed that dreadful night brought to view the fate of their enemies. Well might they sing, and that so loud that all nations hear their song.

Mr. Editor, you know, as do many readers of the STAR, the fearful state of affairs that were in existence when I came to this charge. Rebellion of the most hateful kind seemed to threaten the ruin of one or two of our societies. The spirit of Jesus seemed almost or entirely forgotten by some who had formerly made very loud professions. And these things are the more remarkable when we consider that they were put in motion by those of whom we had every reason to hope and expect better things.

Mr. Editor, far is it from my purpose in these lines to hold up anyone to public contempt, yet truth is truth, and will be when the briny ocean will be licked up by the tongue of forked flames.

Our success in bringing order out of that chaotic gloom has leaped the bounds of our most hopeful expectations. I might say, however, that the withering, disastrous and ruinous effects which must emanate from such causes could not be reasonably expected to be cured at once.

We feel that our financial wheel is a little clogged, but I am inclined to put that in God's hands, nor without putting forth every possible effort on my part to remove the difficulty. We ask an interest in your prayers, Mr. Editor, and all the lovers of Zion.

Up to this time we have only held protracted meetings at but one point, viz.: Bay Branch. We had to our assistance Brothers Page (of Elizabeth City), Sanderlin, Williams, and others. Our success was very great—many souls were converted and added to the church. Those brethren preached fine, soul-stirring sermons and God blessed them to the convicting and converting of souls.

Yours for God and Zion.

B. A. FISHER.

TOWHEENAMON, Pa., Sept. 13.

It is with a degree of pleasure that

I engage your attention to read and print a few lines for the benefit of the many readers of the STAR. I am happy to say that our beloved bishop, J. W. Hood, paid us a visit on the 9th of August at Lincoln, and preached (at 2 o'clock) a very interesting sermon from Hebrews II. chapter and 3d verse. "Therefore we ought to have the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." All that were present were much pleased and here he met many of his old acquaintances, and he was glad and they were more than glad to see each other.

We left Lincoln and went to Avondale on the same day, and the bishop met his brother, Rev. John L. Hood, who took him home with him on Saturday and with his friends he spent a pleasant time. On Sunday his brother brought him out to Avondale church, and a host of his friends followed him to church, and we had a splendid time. The bishop preached a grand sermon from John—III. chapter, 17 verse. "If you know these things happy are ye if ye do them." He made us all happy. It was the grandest sermon that was ever preached at this church. He is the first bishop that ever visited Avondale, and the interest that was manifested on that Sunday, the 10th of August, will never die out—it went throughout all this section of the country. At night he preached to a crowded house another grand sermon, concerning the rich man, which was the grandest reasoning I ever heard, and the people want to hear him again.

We are moving on in our church work nicely. Things seem to look prosperous here—we trust in God and move right on in our work. We expect to have a grand rally jubilee on Sunday and want to pay off all debts of the church at Avondale. Pray for us and we will do all we can for the church for God and Zion. I want to ring or sound Zion all over this part of the country until the people all know that we are a living connection. I am working for God and Zion.—Pray for us here.

W. H. BRUSHOR.

Augusta, Ga., Sept. 1.

Mr. Editor:

Allow me a small space in your columns to, inform the many readers of the death of Brother Simpson Ferguson, one of the old pioneers for Zion in Augusta. Since Zion was established in this place this beloved brother has been one of the trustees and also the secretary; his house and heart were always open for the reception of bishops and ministers—so much benevolence was shown in his part toward entertaining ministers that his house was generally termed the "Methodist Hotel."

On the 20th of August, 1884, he departed this life to live forevermore in Heaven. After a long suffering of seven months with consumption, he peacefully passed away, stating that he was ready and waiting for the hour. His funeral was largely attended from Mount Zion church Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock, and was also attended by quite a number of Odd Fellows, to which he was a member. The text for the occasion was from the XI. chapter and 20th verse of St. John. He leaves a wife and daughter and many friends to mourn their loss. Much sympathy is extended to them. Though it be our loss it is his eternal gain. Respectfully,

J. J. MOORE,

Pastor in charge Mt. Zion church.

BIDDLEVILLE, N. C., Sept. 12.

Dear Brother:

Permit us to say a few words in the way of remembrance of our much beloved pastor, Brother L. S. Hurdle.

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to take from our midst our much beloved pastor and he was a faithful laborer in the cause of the Lord among us who he has left to mourn their loss. On the 13th of September, 1884, God, our master, called him from labor to reward, and he has also left a wife and six little children to mourn their loss, and as he was about to step into Jordan he exclaimed, "Great God! I will soon be home!" His funeral was largely attended, and not only us, but he left many to mourn their loss in the community. Brother Hurdle is gone; no more will we see him until the resurrection morning. May God help us to take care of his widow and six little orphan children.

Resolved, That we deeply cherish his memory and fondly remember his Christian virtues, and shall endeavor to exemplify the great example he has laid for us.

Resolved, That the family of our deceased brother have our warmest and heartfelt sympathy in this their affliction, and express the warmest hope that God, in his great love and mercy, will help us to support them in their bereavement.

Resolved, That the church shall be draped in mourning for thirty days.

Committee: J. N. White, J. A. Alexander, A. B. Jordan, S. M. PHARR, Chairman.

Mr. Editor:

The Grand Tabernacle of the G. U. O. of B and S of Love and Charity convened in the town of Windsor, Bertie county, N. C. on Tuesday, September 9th, and held a three days session—Rev. S. S. Bookrum, of Edenton, G. W. S. of the State, presided, assisted by Mrs. Mary E. Vass, of Raleigh. Reports from the various subordinate Tabernacles showed the order to be in a good condition and rapidly spreading. Much business of importance was transacted.

On the last day of the session at 4 p. m. the Grand Tabernacle, after parading the principal streets of the town in full dress, regalia, repaired to the Baptist church, where addresses were delivered by Rev. J. L. Griffin, of Wilmington, John A. Robbins, of Windsor, Cato Waddell, of Wilmington, and Miss Rebecca Winston, of Windsor.

Thanks are due the citizens of Windsor, regardless of color, for their hospitality toward the officers, delegates and visiting members of the Order.

The following were elected, and installed grand officers for the ensuing year:

- G. W. S.—J. P. Butler, Jamesville, N. C.
- G. W. V. S.—Rebecca Winston, Windsor.
- G. W. Conductor—Melbie Smith, Edenton.
- Assistant G. W. Con.—Panselphia Freeman, Windsor.
- G. W. F. S.—G. W. Feltus, Beulah.
- G. W. B. S.—Lizzie V. Skinner, Elizabeth City.
- G. W. C. S.—J. A. Lamm, Yatesville.
- G. W. E. S.—Rev. G. B. Capps, Belvidere.
- G. W. Chaplain—Rev. J. L. Griffin, Wilmington.
- G. W. I. S.—B. B. Starnes, Harford.
- G. W. O. S.—Henry Jefferson.
- G. W. M.—N. Delvane, Jackson.

G. G. D. M.—Cato Waddell, Wilmington.

The Grand Tabernacle adjourned to meet with Rising Star Tabernacle No. 22, in the city of Wilmington, on the fourth Tuesday in September, 1885.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted: Whereas the sovereign ruler of man, by his immutable decree, has visited the ranks of the G. U. O. of B and S of Love and Charity in the State of North Carolina, and removed therefrom, by death, two of our well beloved past grand officers of the Grand Tabernacle—viz: Brothers A. N. Fisher, of Woodstock, and G. W. Riddick, of Plymouth; therefore be it Resolved, That while we bow with humble submission to the will of the Most High, we do not less mourn the loss of our deceased brothers, who have been called away from their labors in this lower tabernacle to their rest in the grand tabernacle above.

Resolved, That in their death this Order has lost two who were always active and zealous in their duties as members of the Order, ever ready to help the needy, prompt to advance the interest of the Order, wise in council, honest and upright men, whose virtues endeared them to all who knew them.

Resolved, That this Grand Tabernacle tender its sympathy to the families and relatives of the deceased.

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes and a copy sent to the families of the deceased.

Resolved, That a copy be sent to the STAR OF ZION, Baptist Standard, Newberne Lodge, and North Carolina Sentinel for publication.

Committee: J. P. Butler, J. L. Griffin, and A. Robbins.

JAMES CURRY, Sept. 8.

Mr. Editor:

Please permit me to state through the columns of the STAR of my travels as an evangelist in the Virginia conference. I was first called by Elder D. W. Bove at Norfolk. After being with him two weeks, paying from Newberne to Norfolk my expenses (\$4.20) I received from his church two collections which amounted to \$2.07. But Elder Bove made arrangements for me to hold a sacrament meeting at his church in Norfolk, while he held the fort in Berkeley, but some of his officers rebuffed his arrangement by taking up a collection for another purpose that night, so I only received on my expenses \$1.58. I gave an exhibition to meet my expenses, (I always take out the same and then give the church a part,) but they demanded half, with a promise to see my expenses paid. I suppose this sacrament arrangement was Elder Bove's plan, but it failed. There being only \$4.20 realized from the exhibition I only got \$2.10 the first night and \$1.05 the second night. I then put out for Edenton; here I found Elder Steward, a warm hearted brother, in a revival; he wanted me to exhibit my grand scenery at his church at any time, but I told him I would rather him and myself would continue the revival, we did, and the result was forty-seven conversions. It cost me \$2.55 to get to him, after being with him six days he raised a collection of \$3.80 cents; I then moved to join Elder Pitts at McBride, South Mills, N. C. I will not intrude upon your columns to tell you of Elder Pitts and his Hannah, and Lydia-like sisters, and then good brothers who work with him like good soldiers following their captain.

I arrived at this point before Elder

Pitts, as he was closing a meeting at another point. When he arrived there I had the meeting going on with three converts. He asked his people if they would let him go to see Sister Pitts and leave the meeting with Bro Hunter, as he knew who Bro Hunter was. The lady was yes, six years old. On his return from home on Thursday he found twenty-six converts. They made me a collection of \$4.07. I took \$2. of this and sent it to Sister Hunter for the first after being away from home four week. It cost me \$2.85 to get to this place from Edenton by missing the steamer at Elizabeth City, but the good people made me feel good.

On the closing Sabbath I was requested to preach the funeral of two of the old members of the said church, one whom was a class leader.

After the closing sermons of the meeting here they took up the elder's collection and one for your humble servant, but I had the preaching to do. Now don't you see? Well, we had good times—the Lord was with us. Both collections amounted to \$10.15. We closed with thirty-eight converts, leaving thirty-seven penitents.

On Monday night following the trustees let me have the church to exhibit, and as I had labored so hard to build up their church, they gave me what was realized that night. This church and people about made up my lost time at other places.

On my return for home I requested Elder Bove to make me an appointment to preach for him Wednesday night and to give me a collection to assist in defraying my expenses back home. He made the same. On my arrival, finding that I was expected to preach that night, I made my way to the church to fill my appointment. After preaching Elder Bove told his people that he had made an appointment and requested them to bring out something for Elder Hunter, but one of his members had since died, and he would have to appeal to them to assist in burying him. I then arose and asked him to let me assist him. I told his people that I loved Zion's connection and its members, and would waive my collection, and if any one had anything for me to give it to me. A few brought me the amount of fifty-four cents. So I moved on for home. In six weeks from home I paid out \$13.65, and received from collections and panorama exhibitions \$18.54. Total number of converts, eighty-eight.

Yours for Zion, S. B. HURTER.

TALLULAH STATION, La., Aug. 23.

Brother Editor:

Please allow me space in the STAR to inform your readers that we are moving on slow but sure. Since building our new church at Delhi we have added to our membership twelve souls more from the Kingdom of Satan and put them in the army of the Lord. Delhi is a very small little town, but the Lord seemed to have blessed all the people in that place.

Now, Dear Editor, we shall inform your readers of the death of one of our young sisters, Miss Larra Mack, who died on the 10th of August, just at the close of her probation. She died in the triumph of faith. Just before she left she shook hands with all that were present, and said she was going to join her friends, and wanted them to meet her in Heaven. Her last words in this life was "Jesus! Jesus!" and she slept away in His arms. Her funeral took place in the

New Zion church, your humble servant conducting the services. There was a large crowd present. Her remains were deposited in the church yard in rear of the church.

Delhi knows the need of her ministers, both white and colored. May the good Lord shower His blessings on the good people.

Yours in Zion,

H. W. BARNETT.

S. S. Department.

The following are the proceeds of the "Children's Day" collections for the Zion Wesley Institute, from August 7 to September 20:

- J. S. Cowles, Washington, D. C., \$ 3 00
- J. W. Brown, Boston, Mass., 20 00
- John Hooper, Washington, N. C., 4 00
- R. J. Daniel, Harrisburg, Pa., 12 48
- A. L. Scott, Birmingham, Ala., 5 05
- R. R. Morris, Providence, R. I., 20 00
- Abram Anderson, Camden, N. J., 7 00
- C. R. HARRIS, Treasurer Z. W. I.

SALISBURY, N. C., September 6.

Mr. Editor:

The anniversary of the Second Creek A. M. E. Zion school which took place on the 30th and 31st of August, was one productive of the greatest interest and highly demonstrative of the good work carried on in that vicinity. The meeting was, as usual, opened with singing and prayer and continued on the first day with recitations and singing worthy of the highest commendation.

With choice selections from the compositions of our departed orators and statesmen, those noble heroes of the dead once more appeared before the mind and inspired the heart with fresh enthusiasm. The platform was graced by Revs. J. C. Price, C. R. Harris, W. H. Goler, and Prof. E. Moore, all of Zion Wesley Institute, and Mr. J. Bloice from the West Indies.

On the evening of the first day addresses were delivered by Prof. Moore and Prof. E. Moore. Prof. Moore's speech recalled the past condition of the Negro, presented the happy contrast that is now manifest, and the necessity for increased energy and diligent perseverance for further improvement and success.

Prof. J. C. Price commented on the sentiments expressed by Prof. Moore, adducing statistics to confirm these statements, and enforcing and enjoining, with characteristic zeal and ardor, the absolute necessity for the education of the young men and young women of the Negro race.

On the night of the same day, Rev. C. R. Harris presented the evils of intemperance, and the necessity of a speedy reformation in the habits of those addicted to it.

The next day was one of joy and rejoicing in the presence of the Lord. Rev. C. R. Harris preached from Matthew III, 2, in the morning, Mr. Bloice from I. Peter I, 19, in the afternoon, and Rev. J. Carter from II. Cor. v, 1, at night.

Soon after Mr. Bloice had closed his discourse the meeting was ably addressed by Rev. W. H. Goler on the necessity of increased parental care and restraint for the moral safety of our girls, and of affording them also a liberal education.

The meeting was closed with commendatory remarks on the efforts put forth by these people in the erection of a new church, and on the continued improvement of the Sabbath school under the supervision and superintendence of Mr. Carson, on whom the success of the meeting depended.

SPECTATOR.