

The Christian Advocate  
805 B. way

# 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.

### A GLORIOUS REVIVAL.

EVERGREEN, ALA., Oct. 9th, 84.  
Mr. Editor:

Dear Brother—Having just closed an old time Methodist, heart felt revival, you will please allow me space in your interesting columns to speak a few brief words concerning it. Not for notoriety or personal aggrandizement sake, no, be it far from me, but for the purpose of informing the many readers of the STAR, and lovers of Zion, how we are moving on in these parts, this, and only this, actuates me to make the attempt. On Monday night after the fourth Sunday in September, I commenced the meeting, however I preached a preparatory sermon on the fourth Sunday in September, which I must say, without any intent to be egotistical, had much to do with the success that has crowned our labor. I used for my text, 10th chapter of St. Matthew, 32 and 33 verses. On Monday night, Rev Alexander Stokes was to preach, but owing to the fact of his being engaged in a meeting with Rev. A. Mobley, he didn't arrive in time, so it fell to my lot again to occupy, a large audience was present, and a manifestation of much joy exhibited, Tuesday night, Rev. A. Stokes preached to a large gathering, using for his text these words, "Where art thou," this able and jealous servant of God so vividly declared the message of God to dying sinners that many came forth to the altar and there agonized in prayer. Wednesday night, Rev G Harper of Brewton preached, also Thursday night. Friday night, Rev M Rankins of this District, preached an interesting sermon, one that will long be remembered by those present. Friday night at one o'clock, Rev Robt Ford of Greenville, came to the parsonage and took lodging with me. Saturday Elder Ford and I did a great deal of talking to penitents, and Saturday night he preached to a large audience, and he surely stirred the people up, Sunday morning by time the people were gathering as it seemed from all parts. The Presiding Elder H Shuford, having heard of my meeting deferred his quarterly meeting at Milledgeville, six miles from this point, and both he and the pastor Rev. J. Gill with many of the members and other persons came to enjoy our meeting at 11 o'clock, Rev Ford arose, announced the hymn, and read the lesson, after prayer he again announced his hymn, the church was literally packed, his text was, "Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter in the kingdom of God," John 3 4. Let me say just here that I have been acquainted with Elder R Ford for about (9) years, but never have I known him so fully as now, he is surely an able, and interesting preacher. As he came from the pulpit presenting Christ and beseeching the ungodly to receive Him just now, the whole church was aglow with the spirit, and sinners weeping around

the altar, this was a glorious time. The little conflict through which Elder Ford has passed seems to have prepared him more effectually for the work. God bless him, may he live on to do work for God and Zion. The presiding elder of the district, Rev H Shuford is with me in this good meeting, he has expressed himself very feelingly, and christianly towards Elder Ford, I think that the little difference that has hitherto existed between them has been entirely abandoned for during the stay of them at this place, which was three days angles could scarcely have been more loving. I truly hope it is genuine, for I believe them both to be men of much fidelity, and christian integrity, I also feel that our dear Bishop J W Hood will be proud to know, that out of confusion, peace and harmony have survived and all is well. Elder Jerry Gill of the Milledgeville church preached at 3 o'clock, he is a power in revivals and know how to get at the sinner in all of his useless, "whys and wherefores." I am proud to see that the people seems to think so much of him, I wish him much success. Elder Gill is not a very learned man, but he is an humble man, and knows enough to know, he does'n know much, I wish we had many such, Rev H Shuford preached Sunday night to a crowded audience indeed, he used for his text J John 5 7, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one." Elder Shuford is certainly a powerful and jealous preacher he handled his text with authority, as he came down to the altar earnestly inviting sinners to come, there bowed around the altar not less than forty persons. After prayer he opened the door of the church and sixteen converts united themselves to the church declaring they had found the boon of pardon sin, Rev Wm E Worthey of Georgiana was with us also with many of his people, he preached for us Monday, showing the importance of an atonement, this was listened to with much attention. We received in the church up to Wednesday night October 7th twenty-two members. Our financial success was also exceedingly good considering the dull season the collection from Sunday up to Wednesday night resulted in the sum of \$39 15, exclusion of this Rev H Shuford made a statement to my good people respecting the faithful labors of Elder Ford and of the hard time through which he was passing, and asked a collection for him and raised the sum of \$3 85 making a total collection of \$43 00. This glorious time will not soon be forgotten by the people of Evergreen. Let me say in conclusion, when I received this charge at the hands of Bishop Thompson its membership numbered sixty odd members, but fifty-three is all I scraped up, but thank God I can say to day, and yet not I, but by Him that dwelleth in me, that our record shows the sum of 175 members, this is my second year at this place, and I have labored here with all my soul mind and feeble ability, as I have at other places, yet poor indeed has been my human reward, but I trust to whom I have committed all, and shall therefore be encouraged, and move on, pray for us.

Yours in Christ,  
T. A. WEATHERINGTON.

OBELIKA, ALA.,  
October 7, 1884.

Mr. Editor:

Quite a while since we have intruded upon your time and space, there-

fore will you grant us space to state to our many readers how we are getting along in this our field of labor. We have had a hard struggle financially, we have not been able to raise much of the general tax as yet, but I must tell a better tale than this at the conference. I intend to raise the general tax to a dollar, if possible for I am satisfied that if we as ministers try very hard, we can raise at least three-fourths of the general tax. And with this amount we will be able to keep the ark moving.

Dear Editor, we have just closed our protracted meeting, the Lord was with us. We added forty-one to the church and still they come. And we are doing all that we can to turn men into the church, by the help of God we will push the battle to the gate.

Mr. Editor, times have been so very hard that I have not been able to help the STAR to shine by helping to disperse the financial cloud that hangs over her. Therefore I did not write any for quite a while from the fact you say that a hint to the wise is sufficient. So it is.

I know that it is impossible for you to run the paper without money. Yet there are some that never let their pens get cool from writing long articles to the STAR for publication, and never send one single cent to help pay the expenses of printing the article. Surely there are none so imprudent as to think that because the STAR is our church organ or a connectional paper, that their articles are to be printed without their aid. Very often I read articles that takes up two columns, then I turn to the list of receipts to see how much they forwarded to aid in printing the article. And what do I find? Echo answers what do I find? Nothing but leaves, and the Editor grieves. Yet these are the men that goes off as quick as powder and fly as high as a kite if they fail to see their articles in the first issue of the STAR after the article has been forwarded, and yet some of them are in the same pew that the Editor said that brother J. B. Grant were in. Mr. Editor I say call a halt though they stand in the streets and roar yet do not let them pass. I have tried to get some subscribers to the STAR but failed thus far. I thought that I would sell them the paper any way therefore I wrote to the Editor stating to him that if he would send me eight copies of the STAR per week I would sell them and remit promptly, but he did not send them.

I am very anxious to do what I can for the STAR. I am labouring for God and Zion. When I was appointed to Opelika in 1883 by Right Rev. Joseph P. Thompson, D D M D I found about fifty members, since that time I have swelled her to one hundred and forty-three, an increase of ninety-three members. And still they come to Zion.

It is the aim of the Opelika district to come out second best in general funds, come boys you had better begin to stir. And there is one other thing that you had better see to, it is not very long till conference, and you know that everybody wants to be ordained deacons and elders when they get to conference. It do not make any difference whether they can spell baker or not they think that because some old fogey tells them that they can beat such and such deacon and elders preaching that they ought to be ordained, and they will worry their presiding elder's life out almost. This has been the case heretofore, and their elders have wire-worked them

through and these are the first men to lift up their heels against their presiding elders, and to tell the people that they have no need of them. Ah, boys, we have a prescribed course of studies laid down in our book of discipline, and the day is at hand when favoritism must give way, and you must comply with the law before you can be ordained. Remember the last sentence.

Dear Editor, with sadness we inform our many readers of the death of the wife and infant child of Rev. Joseph Gomez, pastor in charge of Mt. Zion Church, Montgomery, Ala. They departed this life in the month of August. I think that there was about 25 days difference in her death and that of the child. Brother Gomez has our sympathies in his bereavement, may the consoler of all hearts sustain him in this his hour of trouble. When we pray we say they will be done, and when it is done let us submit to him who doeth all things well. I say to brother Gomez your companion and little infant child cannot come to you but you can go to them, then let us smote our hands upon our breasts and say not my will but thine be done, for the judge of all the earth will do right. First Thes. 4th chapter 14th verse, "For if we believed that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." Asleep in Jesus blessed sleep, from which none ever wake to weep. For in the christian home in glory there remains a land of rest; there their Saviour is gone before them, to fulfill their souls request; there is rest for the weary, there is rest for the weary, there is rest for you; on the other side of Jordan, in the sweet fields of Eden, where the tree of life is blooming there is rest for you. He has fitted up their mansion which eternally shall stand; for their stay shall not be transient, in that holy happy land. Pain nor sickness never shall enter, grief nor woe their lot shall share, but in that celestial centre, they the crown of life shall wear; death itself over there are vanquished, and his sting has been withdrawn, shout for gladness oh ye ransomed hail with jop the rising morn, memento, mori.

Dear Editor:—We are bringing our years work to a close, Rev M G Thomas, presiding elder, is on his fourth and last round, very soon we shall be called upon to give an account of our stewardship in the Annual conference, oh that it could be said, that of the sheep that were given us, we have lost none. I have two churches, I have added 93 to one of them, and twenty to the other one, making a total increase of 113 members and such as I trust will be saved. My Sabbath schools are in a very good condition though not as good as I could wish, but we are moving on.

Very respectfully,  
REV. JOHN W. ALSTORCK,  
Pastor in charge of the Opelika circuit.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.,  
October 7, 1884.

Mr. Editor:  
Reading the report or proceedings of the Genesee annual conference published in last week's issue under name Bishop Hillery, his expulsion," etc. We were much surprised and disgusted at the unprecedented way the Zion connection was abused by throwing into her mouth and causing the organ, the voice or mouth of the church to utter such an unmitigated

absurdity that W H Hillery is a bishop. We assert this absurdity from the simple fact that we don't know of there being a bishop in the A M E Zion church known by that name (W H Hillery).

We understood the general conference held last May in the city of New York to have divested W H Hillery of all Episcopal functions. If our understanding be correct W H Hillery is no longer a bishop. In the article or report referred to is shown his expulsion by 17 to 2, therefore Mr. Hillery is not even a member of the church.

Then the report says just below, that Bishop Hillery is said to be a dogged fighter. Still further on the report reads, "So the bishops have locked horns." And the article closes with the words or prayer, "may the best bishop win."

It is a question as to which of the two men are the best (morally) in a connectional light? Or is it a matter of doubt as to which retains Episcopal functions legitimately? The reading of this article reminds me of the story of an Irishman at a hotel dining table after refusing soup the fourth time, was aroused from sleep that night by a sick nurse, who, through mistake, attempted to administer nourishment to him as was the custom of the nurse who waited on an invalid in a joining room, when the Irishman exclaimed, faith and be jaders you will make me take the soup anyhow.

Now, the charges from San Francisco and elsewhere, the investigation in Kentucky by Bishop Hood, the divesting of all Episcopal functions by the general conference, sent by the appellate court to the Genesee conference for final adjudication, and that body duly assembled under legal authority, expelled W H Hillery from the A M E Zion Church by a majority of 17 to 2, and yet we must call him bishop. I suppose you to say we shall take the soup any how.

Now, Mr. Editor, it is unfair and an untrue light to put the connection in before a religious world.

Whatever the organ of the church says it is supposed that the entire church says. The man we call bishop we want the public to recognize and treat as bishop. Now, we have exhausted all legal means to get rid of Mr W H Hillery as a bishop and will the church be forced through her organ to call the man bishop that has been so much trouble and such a perpetual disgrace? If he has antagonized Bishop Thompson by suit for \$20,000 he is not a bishop, nor would not have been had the Genesee conference cleared him.

The general conference put on and took off the Episcopal robe and no other body could do either.

When the power that creates destroys a thing it ought to be discontinued in name as it is in effect. More anon.  
R. S. RIVES.

### Notice.

Notice to all of the ministers of the East Alabama conference, both elders, deacons, preachers, delegates and all of the whole church, will bring up to the annual conference one dollar for printing of the minutes for 1884, and all of the members of the annual conference will prepare to meet a debt of \$85 for this year. The minutes of this year have not been paid for and I hope the eastern conference will not be behind the western.  
A. HANNAN.

### CONFERENCE STEWARD'S NOTICE.

WILSON, N. C., August 13.  
Dear Brethren,—I issue this circular to call your attention to matters of the utmost importance to us as members of the North Carolina conference. 1st. The conference year is eight months gone, and we voted at the last conference to raise \$300 for mission purposes, \$100 for our member at Zion Wesley Institute, and \$200 for the Raleigh mission, which will make it \$75 to each presiding elder's district. This divided into circuits and stations will make it \$7 50 for each minister in charge to raise and forward to the steward as mission money, to which only Goldsboro and Tarboro has complied, and the last meeting of the General conference ordered that we collect and forward the general fund monthly. I received a letter from Bishop Hood calling our attention to the condition of the church at Raleigh, and it is hoped that each minister will bring to conference \$5, to enable us to save the property.  
Yours for Zion,  
W. J. MOORE,  
North Carolina Conference Steward.

### NOTICE.

ATHENS, Tenn., September 29.  
Mr. Editor:  
Dear Brother,—You will please notify the members of the Virginia conference, that conference will convene on Thursday, Nov. 12., instead of the 20th, as the North Carolina Central meets on the 26th.  
Yours truly,  
S. T. JONES,  
Bishop.

### NOTICE.

Mr. Editor:  
Please admit me to say to the ministers that our District Conference will open at Mt. Airy on the 21st day of November. I will expect all the ministers having charges to have a correct report from each circuit. All ministers will come prepared to go on to the Annual Conference as it will meet on the following Wednesday.  
Yours respectfully,  
A. M. BARRETT.

### NOTICE.

The dedication of Jones' Chapel in Prince George county, about two miles from the city, will take place on the 4th Sunday, 26th inst. Rev J H Wilson is pastor, he has extended an invitation to have several ministers present; the members and friends are working to have a grand and pleasant time; the city members and friends are invited.

### BISHOP T. H. LOMAX.

Appointments for October 5th to the 27th:  
Beaufort October 5th.  
Whiteville, October 19th, Sunday.  
Flemington, October 20th.  
Evergreen, October 21st, at night.  
Graham Chapel, October 22d, at night.  
Shoe Heel, October 23d, at night.  
Hickory Stand, October 24.  
Raleigh, October 26.  
Henderson, October 27.  
Charlotte, October 29th to November 4th.

The next session of the Virginia annual conference of the A M E Zion church in America will meet at New McBride church Comdem, N. C, Wednesday November 12th, 1884 at 10 o'clock a m, Bishop S T Jones, D D, will preside.