

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.

THE PROSPERITY OF THE CHURCH.

ANNUAL ADDRESS

—OR—

REV. A. HILL,

Presiding Elder of Charlotte district, of the A M E Z Church, Delivered at the District Conference held at Rutherfordton, N C, October 1, 1884.

Hon Fathers and Dearly Beloved Brethren:

We have great cause to bless and thank God for the continued prosperity enjoyed by our church. Great and manifold have been the blessings of God upon the movements of Methodism in all the lands in which it has been planted, and let us pray for the continued success until it shall have extended its blessed influence over the whole world.

In December, 1882, I was transferred by Bishop Hood from the N C conference to the C N C conference, and assigned to the Charlotte district. From that time onward my observation of it has been closer than that of a general on a battle field. I have had an eye to every department of the work, and endeavored, so far as I was able, to enhance it; and I rejoice to know that my disinterested labors have not been in vain, as it is shown by our increased numerical strength, and increased wealth, and these should stimulate us all to renewed zeal in the great cause we represent.

There has been during that epoch about six hundred conversions, and many accessions to the church.

By the untiring efforts of Rev. R S Rives, a parsonage has been erected and completed in Charlotte, worth about fifteen hundred dollars. It is certainly gratifying to the connection to have such an addition to their church convenience, and it will be a standing monument to its benefactor. The church site, purchased by Bro Hurdle, at our mission work in the above named city, is another proof of our advancement; also, the parsonage at Lincolnton and this place.

It is with great pleasure that I remind you that our schools of learning have had divine recognition by the presence and influence of the Holy Spirit.

Glorious revivals of religion have taken place within their halls, under the guidance of Christian educators, and I hereby commend to you for constant prayer Zion Wesley Institute, and all other educational institutions, that God's blessings may be richly and abundantly poured out upon them.

What the rich treasury is to the poor man, the laboratory of healing

medicine is to the sick man, the armor of every kind of weapon is to the warrior, and the feast to the famishing man, such is the word of God to the Christian. Therefore, I importunately recommend daily reading of that Book of all Books—The Bible—and strict adherence to its teachings, and the way to make this the more enjoyable and useful to us and our posterity, is to pay strict attention to the education of our children, and never lose an opportunity to have them at a good school. And while on this subject of schools, I cannot pass without calling your attention to the efficiency of good Sunday schools. I consider them as nurseries of the church, and they should be, closely looked after and assiduously nurtured, and ecumenically cared for. It has been said by an eminent writer that oversight of the literature of children and youth, is of great importance. Also a jealous watchfulness over their companions. Yet we fear that many parents know very little about the character of the reading of their children, and allow unchallenged, loose, and even libentious literature the freedom of their homes, which literature poisons the thought, perverts the imagination, and depraves the hearts and lives of the children, and encourages a latitudinarianism which must weaken the future power of the church.—We should provide them freely of the choicest publications at our command. It has been well said that money spent thus is money saved with purity retained and integrity added.

Our Publishing House, No. 183 Bleecker street, New York city, will supply this demand. Yet we would recommend in connection with ours Rev D L Moody and Sankey's Gospel hymns and sacred songs.

Sweet Sabbath School, The place dear to me, Wherever through life I roam, My heart will often turn to thee, My childhood's Sabbath home.

You are here to vindicate the cause of a church which covers not only the widespread territories of our own country; but which extends into distant parts of the globe, which numbers its communicants by the hundreds of thousands, and the members of its congregations millions. A church which has for nearly a century preserved its peculiar organization and its itinerant ministry, and which unites simplicity of service with facilities for the highest culture, which calls into active exercise the talents of its humblest members, and blends into oneness of doctrine, usage and discipline, people of many nationalities and races. Thus we are bound together with bonds stronger than chains of iron or ropes of steel, more precious than links of gold or cords of silver, entwining around the heart, and binding each to the other, and the one to the whole, forming a grand army of visible workers reaching from the sedgy lakes in the North to the warm waters of the Southern gulf, where triumphant march shall be from the ice fields of Maine to the golden sands of California in America. And woe to the men or set of men who from their contiguity to satan continue to stand in the way of the church, for Hades will prove their exorcism.

In my humble opinion the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was never in a more promising condition than it is today. It is a historic fact that Methodism has been an overflow from its origin. Its evangelists have gone into various parts of the world preaching the Gospel of Christ

with great success, and its banners have unfurled, and its victories have been won on land and on sea, and among all classes and conditions. I might say it has been the great gulf stream in the Ecclesiastical sea. But all Christians, no matter of what denomination, are one in Christ, and the different denominations or churches remind me of the grand divisions of a vast army, while each is moving forward under the direction of its own officers, all are alike under the supervision and direction of the great captain of our salvation, and we are battling side by side in the same great cause, and against the same great enemy, and participating and rejoicing together in the same triumphs.

And now dearly beloved brethren, my earnest prayer is that God may bless you and keep you, and cause the light of His countenance to shine upon you, and make you instrumental in spreading the redeemer's kingdom until the final shout of victory shall be heard among all nations. Live on the field of battle; be earnest in the fight; stand forth with manly courage, and struggle for the right; watch on the field of battle; the foe is every where; his fiery darts fly thickly like lightning through the air. Pray on the field of battle; God works with those who pray; die on the field of battle, 'tis noble thus to die; God smiles on valiant soldiers—their records is on high.

Hark! I imagine that I hear the clang of broken chains ascend, and see dark millions leap to new born life. Come let us renew our journey and pursue it with the help of God, with renewed vigor, and never stand still until the master appear.

NEW ALBANY, IN., October 16, 1884.

Mr. Editor:

Please allow me space in the column of your valuable paper to say something about our beloved Zion in this part of the Master's vineyard. I took charge of this church on the second Sunday in September, and I am pleased to say that the outlook is fair for better times. We held our first quarterly meeting last Sunday, October 12th, and I can say we had a good time, and the power of the Lord was felt in our midst. Elder E. H. Curry, of Louisville, Ky., was to have preached the sacramental sermon, but he did not get over in time, so Rev. R. T. Anderson, of Jeffersonville, Ind., preached at the hour set apart for the Lord's supper, and he preached a good sermon. May the Lord bless this young divine, and may he live long to preach the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. On Monday night we had a love feast long to be remembered by the members of the church. Our collection amounted to \$31.70.

Mr. Editor, I want to say something about the good people of New Albany; Saturday night last about 10 o'clock, I heard some friends singing at my door,

"A charge to keep I have, A God to glory."

I was called to the door by a knock and on opening the door in came a number of good people, most of them being members of the church. May God bless them all. They had many of the good things of life for their pastor, and his family. And may the great Head of the Church keep and preserve them until He shall say they have done enough, come up higher.

D. W. SHERMAN, Pastor.

Mr. Editor:

For the first time I take my pen in hand to write a letter to our connectional paper, my father being a subscriber. I have had the pleasure of often reading the STAR and have been delighted with its contents. Having noticed the many glowing reports that have come up from other parts of the country where Zion's borders extend, I thought I would favor your readers with a report from our section; viz: Fort Lawn, S. C.

Near Fort Lawn is the Union Circuit, consisting of Union and Mount Zion churches. This is one of the largest circuits in the South Carolina conference. At the last annual conference Rt. Rev. Thomas H. Lomax, assigned Rev. G. W. Clinton to this circuit. He came to it immediately after the conference, and began to acquaint himself with the people, and the condition of the work. We are sorry to say that he found the work in a very unfavorable condition. You may imagine that it was quite taxing upon a young man of 25 to meet confusion, disunion and other impediments on entering upon his work. But he came with his heart in the work and bent his whole soul and all his energies in the work. He took charge of the public school at Union church, leading the little children and young men and women on in the path of intellectual culture, and preaching to the edification of all from the pulpit. He soon won a place in the hearts of all by his winning manners and earnest pulpit efforts, which were always presented in a manner to benefit all his hearers, whether learned or unlearned. Though everything seemed odd at first, and inviting as the season changed from chilly winter to balmy spring, the church seemed to catch the spirit of the season and lay aside its wintry garb and take on the warmth and vigor of the spring. Under the pastorate of the Rev. G. W. Clinton, the circuit has enjoyed one of its most successful years of prosperity since its first organization. The spiritual prosperity of the church has surpassed the expectation of all. At Union church during a revival of two or three weeks' continuance, 84 persons united with the church, and 37 professed saving faith in Christ. On the last night of the meeting a glorious love feast was held after a stirring sermon by the pastor from the words selected from Nehemiah 3-8: "The bread wall." He discussed the subject for the benefit of the young Christians, showing to them that having secured religion, and united with the church, they had a broad wall about them, and he told them the benefits of this broad wall, and how they might keep within its bounds. It was enjoyed by all present. We have never witnessed a deeper interest in religion here or anywhere else. Men, women and children were making the same cry and experiencing the same happy change. Husbands and wives all came into the army during this meeting. Immediately after the meeting, associated by his board of trustees, he began the construction of a neat three roomed parsonage upon a piece of land about one quarter of a mile from Fort Lawn depot, and in three weeks as near a building as there is in the little town was seen rearing its roof in one of the most conspicuous as well as beautiful places in Fort Lawn. It is fully worth five hundred dollars. He is now living in the parsonage. Mt. Zion church, of which I am a member, has made much improvement. Besides taking her share in the construction

of the parsonage, she has made spiritual progress too. Thirty-three have united with the church and have professed religion.

I cannot enumerate all the improvements that have been made.

Rev. G. W. Clinton is dearly loved by his whole congregation, for whom he has been an intellectual light, a spiritual guide, and a moral example during the present year. He has duly enlightened the people on the general fund subject, and urges upon them to pay it all. He has collected the whole amount from some, and has the promise of all who are really able to pay it.

We feel that with such pastors and men of his culture and energy, Zion will soon hold the front rank of colored Methodism in South Carolina. He is contemplating and asking the cooperation of the trustees of the old Union to build a suitable house of worship. I am in favor of all such men as Rev. G. W. Clinton.

He has organized the Ladies Home and Foreign Missionary Society in each of his churches.

The members of this circuit want Rev. G. W. Clinton or a man of his standing in knowledge.

His pastoral influence has been great.

Now with these words, I close. Yours for Zion,

JAMES H. McMULLEN

BISHOP T. H. LOMAX'S VISIT TO HULL SWAMP.

On Tuesday night, October 7th, pursuant to an appointment by our pastor, Bishop T. H. Lomax met with us in our lovely Zion, and preached a powerful and awakening sermon from the 9th verse of the 2nd chapter of Hebrews. This was the Bishop's first visit among us, nevertheless, he will always be remembered. After preaching the Bishop entertained the congregation for awhile with some very interesting remarks.

1st. He spoke in praiseworthy terms of our pastor.

2nd. He gave the choir very unexpected applause for their harmonious music.

He then spoke in behalf of our church. Said we were about a great work. He also gave instructions concerning the connection in general of the Z W Institute and of the different schools.

After the close of our beloved Bishop's remarks, our pastor came forward and called for a collection for the Bishop, which would go in the direction of general funds, &c. To our great surprise at the commencement of the collection in came our friend and elder A. B. Singer, of Beaufort, accompanied by Prof. Lewis Randolph, of Newbern, the principal teacher of the Washburn Seminary High School at Beaufort, and a host of other friends and relatives too numerous to mention at this juncture. They all responded to the call of our pastor very liberally, and there was raised for our Bishop the handsome little sum of \$8.50, for which many thanks was tendered by him.

The doxology was then announced by the Bishop and was sung by the choir. Benediction by Elder Singer. Yours for the STAR in hope of success for Zion's great work everywhere. J. S. BELL.

Wildwood, N. C., Oct. 14.

The Job Office of the STAR of Zion is now complete, and ready to do all kinds of job work.

A WORD FROM THE GULF COAST.

KEY WEST, FLA.

Mr. Editor:

Walking up one of the principal streets of Key West our ears were suddenly saluted by the sound of some earnest divine sowing the seed of eternal truth. We inquired and was informed that it was Elder E. Hunter, of the Mount Zion church. In a very few moments we found ourselves seated within its consecrated walls, surrounded by a most beautiful congregation; and the young giant stood on the wall proclaiming: "Whosoever will may come and partake without money and without price." It was a grand season to the hungry souls. The holy ghost seemed to overshadow the congregation, and you could have heard the good old Methodist amen, glory to God and the Lamb bursting forth all over the church. At the conclusion of the sermon we had a soul cheering prayer offered up by one of the brothers which was setting fire to every heart. As we arose from our knees the choir burst forth in one of its delightful strains. The house could not stand it—burst out the door and leaped through the windows bounded away out on the gulf until the angels caught the sound and wafted it home to the high courts of glory. Thus ended one of the most delightful services we have ever witnessed. Elder Hunter is small in stature but a Sampson in the pulpit, a number one church manager, a great Christian.

His Trustee Board is composed of some of the business men of the island, of which Mr. Roane Dupont is the chairman, which renders the Elder great assistance in managing the financial and other affairs of the church. He has a very fine Sunday school with over twenty teachers—young ladies and gentlemen. The number of scholars is between three and four hundred; average attendance 150. The little David is moving onward toward the annual conference. He expects to get in at the seventh hour.

A preacher must have faith in God, To travel life's tedious road. Must not notice the storm of life, But push for the city of light.

When attacked by satan's agent, Must fly to the arms of Jesus, Seek protection from danger Until the battle is ended.

After the storm is over, The clouds have all disappeared, You may make a new start for glory, You with the saints in heaven may appear.

And when in the port of glory, And the storm of life is o'er, You may sit down in heaven With your brethren that has gone before.

By REV. W. B.

NOTICE TO SALEMEN.

Notice.

Mr. Editor:

Cape Fair District Conference will meet on the 21st of October at Zion chapel, Sampson county, 12 miles from Magnolia. All the local preachers are requested to bring the sum of \$1 without fail; all the delegates must be there to represent the district fully. All the superintendents of the Sabbath Schools will attend to represent the schools in the district. All the local preachers will not fail to bring their license.

REV. E. H. HILL,

Presiding Elder.