

The Christian Advocate
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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.

FROM SUMMERFIELD, ALA.

SUMMERFIELD, ALA.,
November 17, 1884.

Mr. Editor:

I never like to intrude upon one's precious time, and an editor's needed patience, but do indulge me this once, and give space for a brief sketch of our District conference of the third district of W. A. A. conference, which took place, through your kindness, has appeared in the columns of the *Star* for several months.

At the appointed time Elder Butler read the 5th chapter Ephesians. Rev. A. L. Scott, lined the hymn: "Hark, how the watchman cry," and after singing prayer was offered by Elder Banks.

FIRST DAY.

Presiding Elder Butler in the chair. On motion of Elder Scott, J. C. Saunders was elected secretary.

H. R. Gaines assistant secretary. On motion of Rev. H. R. Gaines, Rev. A. L. Scott, was elected statistical secretary.

There has been a remarkable turnaround in the third district since our notice appeared in the *Star* calling a district meeting; it has done much good for the third district.

A vote of thanks were tendered to the general conference for conferring editorial honors on Elder Scott.

Tuscaloosa is noted for its shady streets and educational facilities for all parties. There are institutions for both white and colored. A normal school for the training of colored children, with Mrs. M. A. Kernon, as principal; and Zion's palace, with Elder Bynum, the leading colored minister of the city, as its pastor, for her aid.

Our much esteemed presiding elder delivered his address, which cheered their minds and comforted the souls of the brethren.

The Rev. J. M. Butler was looked upon as father of the entire conference. We all agreed, by motion that he was the right man in the right place.

Elder Butler announced a large number of committees of various kinds, and then explained to the brethren the great responsibilities that rest upon them, and that he had taken up two ministers, Rev. S. F. Randleson and Joseph Hanner.

On motion of J. C. Saunders, our old and efficient superintendent, Bro. J. Barnes, was made an honorary member.

Brother Barnes made a few brief remarks and then entered the bar.

The Committee on Credentials then reported eight lay delegates in attendance.

Rev. A. L. Scott presiding.

A message came to the conference that Elder Bynum was sick and could not be out. He [Elder Bynum] told the Elder that his mind and heart was with him in the work.

The Committee on Devotion reported

ed that Rev. H. R. Gaines would preach at 7:30 p. m., and Rev. P. Goodrum would associate with him.

Benediction by Rev. J. M. Butler. Rev. Gaines preached a fine soul stirring sermon, from the words: "Ye shall see me again."

Prayer by Brother Saunders. Elder Scott lifted a collection.

Elders Scott, Gaines, H. Hamner, J. Hamner and J. C. Saunders made reports of this year's work.

The great question, the presiding elder's system, then arose. The chair requested the brethren to table it until the next day. Carried.

Benediction by Rev. Gaines.

SECOND DAY.

Elder Scott read 2nd Corinthians, 11th chapter, and with matchless eloquence.

Rev. Mr. Rosser read the 206th hymn.

Prayer by J. Ruffin. Rev. J. M. Butler presiding.

Mrs. A. Kernon, (white) was introduced to the conference, she made a short but very lovely speech. She said: "I am not only willing to be introduced to this honorable body, but I am willing to take the front ranks in this great work." Our hearts were made glad.

Mr. S. W. Taliaferro also introduced to the conference.

On motion of J. C. Saunders, Elder Scott was requested to reply, which he did. I tell you he did, and that with credit to himself and honor to the conference, and strength to the connection, for his oratorical manner of replying.

Saunders moved that the speakers should be complimented by the conference with a vote of thanks. Carried.

Revs. S. Booker and Banks reported.

Mr. Shepherd and Thomas Madin, students of the ministerial school, were introduced to the conference.

The conference was so much in sympathy with the presiding elder that they all agreed to get him a new suit of clothes.

A good many of the delegates asked for the return of their same preachers.

The report of the Committee on Sunday Schools was very good. Adjourned until 7:30 p. m.

After some reports, benediction by Elder Scott.

The night session consisted of hearing the reports from the delegates.

The fourth session of the Sunday School convention of the 3rd district, of the W. A. A. conference, A. M. E. Zion church, they formed themselves under a good constitution, which provided for a reunion at the next annual conference at Selma.

Programme for the Next Convention:

Subject: Duties of Superintendents. By Stephen Potts.

Subject: Good of Sunday Schools. By M. A. Hamilton.

Subject: Sunday School Teacher's Qualification. By Edward Russell.

Subject: Value of Sunday School Conventions. By J. L. Spearer.

STEPHEN POTTS,
Secretary.

More to follow.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STAR OF ZION.

To the Presiding Elder and Conference, brethren:

We, the committee on the *Star of Zion*, beg leave to report:

That it is the sense of all good men that a paper to any institution is not only useful, but very useful. Through which news go as though it were upon the wind. It carries comfort to the

nearest house, the lonely has been reached, the sick has been helped, and the cast down mind has been raised by the reading of a good paper, and through such mediums different nations have understood each other. Therefore be it

Resolved, That every minister and preacher should subscribe for the *Star of Zion*, our connectional organ.

Resolved, That every member should subscribe for the *Star of Zion*, for we are satisfied that there are information that would do them good if they would subscribe for and read it.

Resolved, That every member of this conference take a copy in which these minutes shall be printed.

Resolved, That it is the duty of every minister to get as many copies distributed through his station or circuit as possible, and that each superintendent take one.

J. C. SAUNDERS,
ZACK BOOKER,
J. CUTTS,
Committee.

We were with the Sunday school Sunday morning; had a good time; we pray for the district conference to meet at that place again.

The writer preached for them at 3 p. m. Subject: "The giving God." Elder Hamner preached at night. Subject: "Fight the fight of faith," very good sermon.

Thanks were tendered to the people and members of Hunter's chapel for their kind greeting and hospitality. Also the choir for their sweet music. Miss E. M. Winn performed at the organ with the skill of an organist, who was also thanked for her delightful and melodious voice, which rendered comforts to all present.

Just after the 3 o'clock sermon, Elder Bynum made his way to the church, although very sick. Elder Bynum is much thought of by the citizens of Tuscaloosa.

Yours in Christ and Zion.
JOHN C. SAUNDERS.

N. C. CONFERENCE.

NEWBERNE, N. C. Dec. 1, 1884.

We arrived in Newberne at 7:45 p. m., and in a few minutes we were in St. Andrew's chapel, where we found Rev. Mr. Meade, advocate of the temperance cause, preaching one of his soul touching sermons on intemperance. The manner in which he handled the subject and the many incidents he related relative to human depravity and the scenes in the drunkard's family, and the use of liquors brought solemnity and tears in many eyes. He concluded his discourse in such a touching and feeling manner that there was a glorious shouting all over the church. At the close of the sermon the conference re-assembled at the call of the Bishop, and the report on temperance and education was discussed at length by Elders J. Thomas, Small and others, and was adopted.

The night session then adjourned to meet at 10 a. m. Tuesday.

SIXTH DAY.

Bishop Lomax presiding. After the usual devotional exercises were had, the Bishop called for reports from the various committees, which were received and adopted. He ran through the discipline questions, had them all arranged according to order.

The question of the place where the next conference was to be held was asked by the Bishop. Kingston, Goldsboro and Washington were put in nomination, and heatedly discussed by the

brethren putting each place in nomination, and Kingston was made the choice of its next meeting, the 4th Wednesday in November, 1885.

The Bishop then put in nomination the following named brethren to be elected presiding elders: W. J. Moore, A. W. Allises, J. Hooper, and J. H. Mattocks; they were balloted for and elected.

Mrs. Freeman, vice-president of the Ladies Home and Foreign Missionary Society, was introduced to the conference by the Bishop. She came forward and made a short address to the brethren of the conference, asking their co-operation in the missionary work. She received by collection \$8.53.

Much business of interest was transacted to a late hour. At 11:30 p. m. the Bishop read the appointments.

We note that this conference was one among the heaviest of the four that we have just attended. Much important connectional business was transacted, and we were pleased to learn that Bishop Lomax presided over the conference with great ability and dignity; he won the confidence of the brethren. Full proceedings of the meeting will be published in our next issue by our reporter.

Ourselves, Bishop Lomax, Rev. Jacob Thomas, Book agent, and Rev. W. J. Moore, left Newberne at 9 A. M. Wednesday for Fayetteville, N. C., to meet the Board of Bishops. We had to lay over at Sandford all night, arriving at Fayetteville by 3 P. M.

We further note that Elder W. H. Thurber, his members, and the good people of Newberne had everything pleasant and comfortable for the conference. We could read in the eye of every one we met, the word "welcome." Our people in Newberne are advancing to a high point in intellect and wealth. Splendid new buildings are in course of erection throughout the city owned by our people. The new Zion church located in a prominent part of the city, is soon to be finished, which will add much to church edifices in the city of Newberne.

FROM ALABAMA.

SWEET UNION, WEST ALA.,
November 26th, 1884.

Mr. Editor:

As we seldom trouble you, allow us a small space in your valuable paper. I was almost discouraged when I took charge of the little church called Sweet Union, the congregation numbering only five persons, and one of them almost a cripple. While our number has increased many of them are from ten to fifteen years of age, but thank God, happily converted, and striving to labor for God and the church. Finding my task a tedious one, I sought the Lord by prayer and endeavored to press upon the minds of the little band to exercise faith in God, for He will answer prayer. The little cabin I found had neither stool nor bench, the sills were all decayed. We started to work without a dime, but felt assured of the promise: I will not leave thee nor forsake thee, and again said the psalmist, they that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, surrounded with great opposition. I was determined never to relax my hold, for I felt that the Lord would be our strength and our support. Many tried to discourage us, but I remember the Saviour's advice, Enter into thy closet and pray to thy Father, and thy Father, which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. I found that a balm for every wound, a cordial for every

I found comfort, joy and consolation. Truly it is said, ye shall reap if you faint not. We succeeded in repairing the church, and made it comfortable without owing a dollar, when it was complete.

Then came on the quarterly conference at Jackson's Chapel. At the close of the conference we requested that the next quarterly meeting would be held at Sweet Union, which would take place in the month of September. The membership numbered then about 19 persons. We had an increase of 14. The brethren of the several churches laughed at us because we made the request that the conference should assemble at Sweet Union, looking upon it as a complete failure if the conference was appointed there. The little band acknowledged that they were poor, and very few in number. After having to meet the repairs of the church so as to make it comfortable, yet they felt that the hand that sustained them was an Almighty hand, they could trust him still, and as their was never a conference held there before for the good of those who live in that vicinity, and the cause that was dear to them, they desired it as a part and parcel of the whole. For Zion sake we will not hold our peace. It was then granted. It was then decided that the conference would be held at the little church Sweet Union.

When at the appointed time they met, according to adjournment, we had a very pleasant and happy time, a great many visitors attended. The meeting was conducted by Elder Evans, as the Presiding Elder could not conveniently attend. His address was such as cheered our hearts and caused us to feel that it was good to be there at 2 o'clock P. M. We retired to dinner, and a sumptuous table was spread with good things, for the accommodation of at least 80 persons. Being agreeably surprised they all returned satisfied and well pleased.

At 3 o'clock the meeting was called to order, the Sabbath school marched in singing one of the sweetest songs of Zion. After singing another of their beautiful songs we were seated. The superintendent then introduced the school to the conference. Here they extemporaneously repeated several psalms and other pieces. We never had before a Sabbath school or day school. Our advantages here has been very limited, but thanks be unto God, our heads are above the wave. We think we hear him say who is yet alive, it is I, be not afraid. We have been encouraged while we have pondered over letters that was written in the *Star* where sister churches with preachers have had like struggling, and have succeeded. It gave me encouragement to persevere, and with God's help the little band now numbers 23. We have engaged an acre of land and expect ere long to build a new church. I thought to let you know that Zion is not asleep in the South; her interest is to build up Zion. Yours very truly.

HANDY WASHINGTON.

TALLULAH STATION, LA.,
October 22, 1884.

WANTED.

Information concerning the whereabouts of PETER FIELDS, NANCY FIELDS and SARAH HAMPTON, who lived in Richmond, Va., in the year 1870, with a man by the name of Sam Seahan, a gunsmith.

Any information concerning either party will be thankfully received. Address REV. H. W. BARNETT, Tallulah Station, La.

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FROM MARYSVILLE, TENN.
MARYSVILLE, TENN.

Mr. Editor:

Allow me space in your valuable journal to inform your many readers the condition of my church. The Bishop and conference saw fit in their judgment to leave me here for another year, which seemed to please the people. On the first Sunday after conference adjourned, I began my labor by collecting general fund. And to encourage my members I went to the printing office and had 1,000 tickets struck off, which we gave to the members as a receipt for the general fund, that they pay from time to time, which seems to please them.

Though my members are not hard to please, so they are workers for Zion. The people say that Prof. J. C. Price, Elder Petty, and Elder Mc H. Farley, told them so much about Zion that they intended to work for the connection. So we collect general funds every Sunday, and even in class too. Mr. Editor, don't you think that it is a nice way to collect the general fund? Our free school will soon close, and as soon as it is out I am going to attend college another year at this place. We have 107 scholars enrolled. They all seem to be advancing in their studies.

Now I shall speak of what happened to me last Saturday night, while I was reading at a late hour. Behold, at once it seemed to me that 50 persons began to sing this song at the door of the parsonage: Seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened, and the love came twinkling down Kincaide; Jesus called you Kincaide. Jesus called you and the love came twinkling down. And I sprung up and opened the door, and it seemed to me like that there was still 50 persons in the yard. I asked them in. And so in they came with basket, papers and bundles of all kinds, and filled my table with the many good things. These are the parties: Sisters Eliza A. Coffine, Sintha Coffine, Vilet Annnum, Vilet Asbry, Maggie Wilson, Sallie Owens, Betsy Pleasant, Willey Hannum, Clody Porter, Maria Lillard.

So brethren, pray for us. Yours for Zion.
G. W. KINCAIDE.
A PRESIDING ELDER CANCELED.

On Monday night December 1st, 1884, at the close of the night session, (the North Carolina conference) Presiding Elder W. J. Moore of Goldsboro district, was presented a very fine gold headed cane, gotten up by the various ministers of the district, over whom he had presided for four years. The presentation was made by Elder J. H. Mattocks, who in a brief speech assured Elder Moore, that the cane was presented to him from the brethren, as a token of respects and high regards to him for the impartial, dignified, and satisfactory manner in which he had discharged the duties of a presiding elder for four years. Elder Moore, in a very modest and appropriate manner, thanked Elder Mattocks, and the donors, for such a valuable and serviceable present, he assured him that he would keep it as an esteemed present, he requested Hon. J. C. Dancy, to further respond on the occasion, which he did in a splendid speech, characterizing the faithful labors of Elder Moore for the four past years in the presiding elders work, he urged the rest of the brethren to be faithful in their high office and win the esteem and respect from their various districts, and receive from the hands of the ministers and people a like token of respects as Elder Moore has. The cane was a solid gold headed one.