

# The Star of Zion.

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

VOL. VIII.

PETERSBURG, VA., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1884.

NUMBER 51

## 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.

NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL N. C. CONFERENCE.

The 24th annual session of the Central North Carolina Conference met in the A. M. E. Zion church, Monroe, N. C., at 12 M., on Wednesday, November 26, 1884, Bishop S. T. Jones, presiding.

A large number of members were present, the weather fine, and the proceedings marked with harmony and good feeling. The pleasant, jovial manner of the presiding officer kept the conference in constant good humor.

Rev. J. A. Tyler, G. L. Blackwell, and George H. Haines were elected secretaries, and C. R. Harn reporter for the STAR. The usual committees were announced and the bishop read his opening address.

In the course of his address the bishop referred to the action of the late General Conference held in New York. He called attention to the fact that while the general tax of 50 cents per member remains the same as heretofore, the appropriations from the general fund for various purposes are largely increased, and that unless the receipts on general fund are largely increased, the bishops would scarcely receive enough for travelling expenses. If conferences would adopt the example of the mother conference, and require the collection of every dollar of the general fund, there would no difficulty. Not more than 25 per cent. of the fund is collected, that is two out of every five members pay the tax, and ministers justify the three who do not equally with the two who do. Preachers cry out that the people do not pay the general tax because the bishop has not visited them. But fees from other societies are collected from without the members ever seeing their general officers. Suppose that a citizen should refuse to pay his State taxes because the governor did not visit him, would he be relieved from the payment? It is the preachers business, not the bishop's, to collect the general tax.

The bishop referred to the present sense of disquietude on account of the recent elections, and said that excitement and alarm are needless. The moral sense of the nation will not tolerate great wrongs to our people. Thoughtful whites would not allow intimidation. He urged the ministers to avoid all exciting discussions and inculcate politeness, industry and discharge of our duty to God and the church. It might be on account of our remissness in these respects, the Lord has allowed these reverses.

He spoke of a plan he intended to propose at the Bishop's Meeting next week for a grand centennial offering to church enterprises from all parts of our connection. He took occasion to commend the Ladies Home and Foreign Missionary Society, and appointed Rev. Mr. Slade to receive contributions from the brethren in aid of that

work. The address was referred to appropriate committees.

Rev. J. McH. Farley, manager of the STAR, was introduced and proceeded to the discharge of his duties.

The passage of characters began, during which the question of a pastor's duty being brought up the bishop repeatedly stated that collections on general fund are to be made every month beginning at his first entrance upon work, and remittance made promptly to the conference steward. At the end of six months the pastor should call a committee consisting of members who have paid the tax, to decide whether or not those who have not paid are able to do so.

A list is to be made out of paying members, another list of those decided to be unable to pay, called the poor list, and another of members under 15 years (called minors list.) Before the close of the conference year those who are able to pay and do not pay must be tried before a suitable committee and excluded. Pastors are directed in duty if they do not enforce the law.

Previous to the sermon at night Prof. W. H. Goler, who had been previously introduced as a representative of Zion Wesley Institute in place of the President, J. C. Price, who had delivered a telling speech in its favor, came forward and called the roll of subscribers to the Zion Wesley Institute Fund. Sixty-two dollars and sixty cents were collected in subscriptions. A public collection was then called and ten dollars were received. Soon afterwards Prof. Goler left for the N. C. conference in session at Newberne, N. C.

On Thursday, Rev. Jacob Thomas, agent of the Book concern, arrived, and was introduced to the conference. In his humorous style he presented his "greetings" to the brethren of the conference.

The passage of characters was resumed. The bishop incidentally stated that the little book of discipline is of more weight than any man, though he weighs three hundred pounds. The men must learn to carry out the provisions of the law, and that with a fair construction of it, and not according to their own peculiar notions.

A committee was appointed to receive monies which had been ordered collected to defray the expenses of delegates to the general conference. Only a few dollars were realized, and the proceeds were paid into the conference fund.

Notes were required of the pastors in charge for half the amount due from their churches on general fund.

On Friday Rev. Jacob Thomas reported the condition of the Book Concern as follows:

Cash receipts (for one year)	\$ 1008 60
Disbursements	1004 14
Indebtedness	800 00
Due	741 32
Balance on hand	81 57
Estimated value of stock on hand	2000 00

The agent, stated that he had published a large quantity of catechisms. He called attention to our Sunday school paper, the Children's Guide, edited by Bishop Moore, D. D. Price \$15.00 per one hundred for one year, and other quantities in proportion.

He is ready to furnish Lesson Leaves and helps to teachers in the study of the International Lessons. Also Sunday school libraries at various prices. For all such matter including hymn books and disciplines, address Rev. Jacob Thomas, 183 Bleeker street, New York.

On Saturday eight applicants were received into conference, notwithstanding the examinations were strict and there are already many supernumeraries. The bishop charged them to work their way up. Don't be carried by other men, let your own limbs support you. Don't be in a hurry to get up. Never think a circuit too little for you. Be studious. When patted on the shoulder for a good sermon, don't bid farewell at once to your books. Keep humble, thank the Lord for your success, but keep humble.

On Monday a vast amount of committee work was reported and adopted. Among them, reports on Zion Wesley Institute, on Sunday School and on Temperance, and on Elders' Orders.

The following are the recommendations of the Committee on Temperance, adopted after several good speeches from prominent members of the conference.

1. That we regard it as of prime importance in all temperance work, that the individual mind and conscience be reached, and hence we hail with pleasure the recent action of various State Legislatures introducing into the public schools text books upon the subject of temperance.

2. That the distribution of temperance periodicals, tracts and books, and the delivery of temperance sermons and addresses, are well adapted to promote the cause of temperance, and should be encouraged and promoted by all lovers of the cause.

3. That our thanks are hereby tendered the National Temperance Society for temperance publications distributed among our committees and members.

4. That we favor the creation of a public temperance sentiment which will demand the passage of prohibitory liquor laws in every State and community.

5. That we, as pastors, will call the special attention of our class-leaders and members to the requirements of our rules in relation to abstinence from intoxicating drinks, and will strictly enforce said requirements.

6. That each minister having a charge, preach a sermon on temperance in each of his churches during the month of June, 1885, and that the number of said sermons be reported at the evening district conference.

7. That, as the use of tobacco is an injurious and offensive habit, we pledge ourselves to use all the means in our power to discountenance its use in the community.

Fearing I may trespass upon the columns of our STAR by a more extended report, I close with the statement that our former presiding Bishop Rt. Rev. J. W. Hood, was present during the closing hours of the conference, and was cordially received by his old friends and co-laborers.

Conference adjourned Tuesday, December 2, to meet in Wadesboro, N. C., on the 1st Wednesday in December, 1885. REPORTER.

Fayetteville, N. C., Dec. 3, '85. All persons who are several weeks behind in settling for papers received will find their papers stopped after this week. This do not apply to those who make regular monthly payments. Subscribers whose time have expired and they have been notified by our red marks will find their papers stopped unless heard from at once.

God hath set our eyes in our foreheads to look forward, not backward; not to be proud of that which we have done, but diligent in that which we are to do.

## FROM TENNESSEE.

JOHNSON CITY, TENN., }  
October 30th, 1884. }

The district of the Greenville or the district of the East Tennessee conference of the A. M. E. Zion church met on the above named date, Elder B. M. Gudger, presiding elder, in the chair. The elder read the 17th chapter of psalms.

Brother H. Hill announced hymn on page 228 and offered prayer.

On motion of Elder Cypress, H. R. White was elected secretary.

The elder then made some touching remarks to the brethren in regard to the interest of the connection, which, we think done much good.

Then the elder proceeded to appoint the several committees.

The Committee on Rules announced the conference would open at 9 A. M. and adjourn at 3 P. M.

Committee on Devotion announced that Brother Starling would preach at 7 o'clock.

On motion of Brother Cypress, the conference adjourned to meet at 7 o'clock the next day to arrange the presiding elder's salary.

Benediction by Brother Hunter. The district conference convened at 9 o'clock.

Elder Gudger in the chair. Brother Bayliss announced hymn on page 439, and opened with prayer. Roll call.

Minutes read and approved. The conference then took up the order of the day, namely, the presiding elder's salary.

After some remarks made by Elders Starling, Bayliss, Moulden, and Kelley, the elder appointed the following committee on salary: Josh Nelson, John Dickson, Gordon Crockett.

The Committee on Home and Foreign Missionary submitted their report, which was adopted after some remarks by the different brethren.

The Committee on Presiding elder's salary submitted their report, making the Presiding elder's salary \$600. The report was confirmed by the conference.

On motion of Brother Cypress, the conference adjourned.

Benediction by Elder Starling. The conference re-assembled at 8 o'clock P. M.

Elder Gudger in the chair.

The cause of Missions was called up. The Presiding elder appointed the following committee to draw up by-laws to govern the Missionary Societies in this Presiding elder's district: Messrs. White, Cypress, Starling, Scott, and Molden. This committee will meet at Rodgersville, Tenn., on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in January, 1885.

Elder Starling moved that we have a Missionary Convention this year. Adopted.

On motion of Brother Cypress, this committee will meet in Bristol on Thursday before the third Sunday in January.

On motion each minister will bring 50 cents and each delegate 25 cents to the convention.

On motion Elder Molden was elected treasurer of the Society of Ministers.

B. M. Gudger, president.

F. R. White, vice-president.

W. A. M. Cypress, Secretary.

J. A. Scott, Recording Secretary.

J. H. Starling, Corresponding Secretary.

Brother Kelly was elected martial. Brother H. Beryllis, guard of the private meeting.

It was moved and carried that Elder McDonald preach the missionary sermon and Elder Cypress preach the opening sermon.

On motion it was resolved that we hold a Sabbath School Convention at Jonesboro, Tenn., Thursday, before the first Thursday in May.

On motion of Brother Cypress the convention will convene at Jonesboro, Tenn., on Thursday before the first Sunday in May.

On motion of Brother Cypress the proceedings of the conference be sent to the STAR OF ZION for publication.

It was moved and seconded that the next district conference be held at Roaring Springs, Va., commencing on Thursday before the last Sunday in September, 1885.

The Presiding elder announced the following brothers to preach: At 7 o'clock H. Bayliss; 11 o'clock Saturday, J. J. Kelley; Sunday at 11 B. M. Gudger; 3 o'clock Elder J. H. Starling; 7 o'clock F. R. White.

So closed one of the most pleasant conferences that we ever attended.

Benediction by Brother H. Bayliss. F. R. WHITE, Secretary.

INCREASED 240 WITHIN 60 DAYS.

BY REV. A. MCIVER.

SPRING BRANCH, BLADEN COUNTY, N. C., September 2, 1884.

Mr. Editor:

Dear Sir—As a brother and a friend to the STAR OF ZION, I now present my third letter to its many readers. Owing to the debility of our much beloved Presiding elder of the Cape Fear district, I was appointed by him to assist in holding his quarterly conference, and accordingly I started from home August 20th en route to my work, but having some other matters to see after, I was therefore detained in Elizabethtown three days. The morning of the 28th of August was a token of a beautiful day, the whole heaven above presented one unbroken sheet of serenity, the hammer of industry and the shouts of the merry hearted farmer, could be heard from the flats of the bending creeks of the Cape Fear river, which seems to make merry over the glad tidings of the approaching fall. The same day at an early hour, I was met by my friend Mr. Robeson with a horse and buggy, and started for Sampson county. On August the 29th, soon in the morning, I arrived at Clear Run, and here I found Rev. J. S. Henderson, the pastor of Miller's circuit, standing at his post, surrounded with his many friends. I spent the afternoon with the Rev. and his lady, after which I returned to my room, where everything was arranged for the comfort of a minister. At the hour of 4 o'clock P. M. I was to attend a school which is known as the official and local preachers' institute. The honor of chairmanship was conferred upon me, which I accepted, according to rule. See Discipline, page 27 and rule 235 for local preachers. This institution is somewhat strange to them, as they never knew such a thing before. But Brother Henderson knows just how to bring a dead work to life, and it is the opinion of the writer that this school will prove a blessing to the Zion church in Sampson county, in bringing about a higher feeling in her people.

On Saturday morning at 7 o'clock, we all started for Johnson's chapel, where the quarterly conference was to convene. At 10 o'clock we met at the

appointed place. All of the best men of the circuit were there. At the proper time the conference opened, myself in the chair.

Brother Henderson then introduced me to the strange brethren, and I received a unanimous reception from the brethren.

This conference was one that reflected credit to the connection. The four points of this district were all represented, and each board member with his report ready, and at the close of the conference all of the presiding elders expenses were promptly met and something left for the pastor.

On Sunday morning we held our love feast with the largest crowd that I ever witnessed, and all of them seemed to be filled with the spirit.

At 11 o'clock I preached myself, and at 3 I administered the Lord's Supper to 78 persons. But there would have been more than a hundred to partake, but it was late and they could not wait.

At night there was a large congregation, and the glory of the good Lord was there. Seven were received in the church, and the work is still on the increase.

Now there is something startling as to how this work increased within 60 days. The 2nd day of July the presiding elder and his committee met on this work to consider the case of Sanderson, and his case being sufficient to exclude one from the Kingdom of Grace and Glory, he was therefore suspended according to law. Before this court was called I was sent there to hold the presiding elder's quarterly meeting, and there was not 50 out of 200 that would accept of sacrament, and all of the four churches was considered as having gone to other churches, and one of them had resolved not to support the Presiding elder, and did show sign of fight, but on the 3rd of July the Presiding elder appointed Rev. J. E. Henderson, to fill the pulpits of this work until something could be done to save the work. This good brother went there and within thirty days, he had gained the unity of all four of the churches, and each board reorganized, and added to these barren spots 120 members, and within the next 30 days he purchased one acre of land and lumber enough to build a house 40x60 feet, without costing one cent, and added to this work 141 members, making a total gain within sixty days of 240 members! Everybody seems to be devoted to this brother, so much so that the whites crowd all of his churches and helps to support him.

I am proud to say that I was treated all right, and they have voted for the return of the Presiding elder or his proxy, and I am pleased to say that my work is in a good condition, and promises to make a good report for conference.

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A. McIVER.

NOTICE!

All who wish to have any communication with Rev. J. W. Alstork, will address him at Montgomery, Ala. Pastor in charge of Clinton's Chapel.

December 1st, 1884.

We note that the Bishops recommend no change to be made in the mode and manner of raising the presiding elders salary, other than the usual way of agreement between the pastors and people of the P. E. district.

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