

Christian Advocate
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The Star of Zion.

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

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NUMBER 17

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

FOURTH DAY.

Saturday, April 18th.

Conference convened with Bishop J. P. Thompson M. D., in the chair. Scriptures read, roll called, minutes read and approved. Presiding Elder Cooper of the A. M. E. Church was introduced to the conference. Letters were read from several churches. Elder A. Anderson presented a document pertaining to Rev. Jervis Nelson of the A. M. E. Church. A motion to receive him on the face of his elder's warrant coming from the A. M. E. Church, without coming by recommendation of the quarterly conference was lost. Resolutions of sympathy for Gen. Grant and ex-Secretary Frelinghuysen were read and adopted.

Committee on devotion reported for Sunday services:

10:30 a. m., Bishop J. P. Shompson;
 2:30 p. m., Rev. Abram Anderson;
 7:30 p. m., Rev. John F. Robinson.

Delegate Geo. H. Fletcher was introduced to the conference and made known the wants and condition of the Atlantic church. Adjourned with benediction by the Bishop.

FIFTH DAY.

Monday, April 20th.

Conference convened with Bishop Thompson in the chair. Rev. Mr. Mace, of Grace M. E. church, was introduced to the conference and made a few cheering remarks. A letter was read from the Flemington church donating money to conference. Delegate Benj. Richardson of Newark was introduced. Elder Wilson introduced Sister Amanda Dyaon of Jersey City church who presented a donation to conference. A vote of thanks was tendered the church and societies. Conference Steward made his report which was adopted. Presiding Elder W. H. Dumpton made very favorable report of his district. At this juncture the Sons and Daughters of Conference, of Pine Brook were introduced to the conference and made a donation of money. A vote of thanks was given.

Quite lengthy discussion over the presiding elder office was participated in by Revs. Biddle, Anderson, Bradley and Berry. Delegate L. Merritt from Jersey City made known the wants of his church. Adjourned with benediction by Rev. E. M. Stanton.

SIXTH DAY.

Tuesday, April 21st.

Bishop Thompson presiding. Rev. G. E. Jackson of the New York conference was introduced to the conference and made some cheering remarks.

Committees on Temperance and Ministerial studies made reports. The following was passed by the conference:

WHEREAS, Wm. H. Hillery has brought suit against the Rt. Rev. J. P. Thompson for holding the New Jersey annual conference, at Jersey City in April 1883, thereby depriving him of his salary as an episcopal officer, therefore be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of this conference to sustain the action of that conference in soliciting Bishop Thompson to hold said conference, and also to sustain the Bishop in holding said conference, seeing that the

conference acted in accordance with the law, per discipline on page 45 article vii, the latter clause of section, commencing with 7th line.

It was moved that when conference adjourn, it adjourn to meet in Atlantic City. Rev. W. T. Biddle offered a resolution seconded by Rev. J. H. White, praying the President of the United States to protect the Sabbath, defend the temperance cause and destroy polygamy. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Election of fraternal delegates was as follows:
 Phila. and Balt. Conf., E. M. Stanton.
 New England " W. H. Dumpton.
 Genesee " Jno. H. White.
 Allegheny " D. F. Bradley.
 Virginia " H. M. Wilson.
 Arkansas " E. E. Hammett.

On motion a committee was appointed to examine ministers on studies in the interim of conference at the district conferences, and candidates for admission to conference one day before the conference meets. H. M. Wilson, E. M. Stanton, J. H. White, W. T. Biddle and A. Anderson were appointed. Rev. A. Anderson was elected presiding elder. Committee on temperance and education reported. Committee on Sabbath school and Zion Wesley College reported. Conference adjourned to meet at 4 p. m. Benediction by P. L. Stanford.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Daughters of Conference of Red Banks were introduced to the conference and donated \$5 to the conference. The society was addressed by the Bishop, Revs. White and Biddle after which a vote of thanks was tendered the society. Rev. W. H. Dickerson made a parting speech to the conference, which was responded to by the Rev. G. E. Jackson. Motion that the Sunday school convention meet at Burlington, the 3rd Wednesday in September. Moved that \$30 be appropriated to print the minutes. Appropriations were made for the secretaries. Preacher R. F. Butler was ordained to the office of deacon. The conference adjourned to meet at 9 p. m. Benediction by Rev. W. N. Dickerson.

EVENING SESSION.

Conference re-assembled at 9 o'clock Report finance committee read and adopted. Rev. W. T. Biddle offered the following:

WHEREAS, The demands of the age calls for further usefulness of the church of Christ, a closer alliance of connectional interests, therefore be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of this conference that a connectional convention be held at the earliest possible date. That this conference solicit the co-operation of all annual conferences.

It was adopted and Rev. White then moved that a copy be sent to the New York and New England conferences. A collection of \$13.27 was lifted for Elder T. W. H. Hinton, after which the appointments were announced as follows, by the Bishop:

Presiding Elder—A. Anderson.
 Jersey City, H. M. Wilson, D. D. Patterson and Mahwah, J. H. White.
 Hackensack, Lodi and Paramus, Wm. Dumpton.
 Rossville station, A. Anderson.
 Tomerville and Flemington, P. L. Stanford.
 Rahway and Westfield, J. F. Robinson.
 Newark, J. F. Tilghman.
 Red Bank and Reytown, W. T. Biddle.
 Camden, J. H. White.
 Trenton, E. M. Stanton.
 Burlington, T. N. Harris.
 Timbucto, R. F. Butler.
 Matawan, A. J. Reed.
 Asbury Park, Filmore Smith.
 Atlantic City, D. F. Bradley.
 Eatontown and Pine Brook, E. E. Hammett.

Englewood, M. M. Edmonson.
 Supernumerary—Thos. H. Hinton and Jas. T. Pinion.

Supernumeraries—F. E. Owens.
 Missionary Agent—Silas Holmes.
 Conference Steward—J. H. White.
 New Jersey annual conference will meet at Atlantic City on the third Wednesday in April 1886 at 12 m.

JOHN N. WHITE,
 Conf. Reporter.

FROM PLEASANT HILL, S. C.

Mr. Editor:

In accordance with Mr. J. D. Ballard's letter to the "Star", dated March 17th, on transportation, you will please append the following: With love and Godly fear, I willingly agree with every act that tends to the redemption of his people; and as I feel this to be a divine inspiration, I give my name not alone, but my heart, mite and prayers. I am glad of this opportunity to tell the readers of the "Star" that I am a true friend to Africa and long to see the day when the descendants of the deserted children of Africa will tread upon her productive soil while the soul sips salubrious breezes from heaven.

It would be grand for Zion to have a ship afloat the billowy deep, with one of Zion's harbingers standing upon her deck like Paul, telling Jesus died for all. REV. MOSES THOMPSON.
 April 10th.

FROM BLADEN COUNTY, N. C.

Mr. Editor:

Death is the gate to endless joy, but yet we dread to enter there. One of the oldest members of our church at Turnbull, fell in the shafts of death on the 21st inst. Mother Irena McKay was born in the year 1834. She was a member of the Methodist church for many years and enlisted for Christ 21 years. She never had a church trial nor gave it any trouble. She was one of the founders of the church at Turnbull. She was a kind wife, and a loving mother to her eleven children whom she brought up in the admonition of God.

We all must die, some one way and some another; some suddenly and some with severe sickness. Sister McKay had a long and severe attack of sickness, which confined her to her bed nearly two years. Her dear companion and children attended her kindly, but with all they could do the Lord saw it was best to take her to heaven that she so much prayed for.

On the day of her burial, Elder J. W. Davis preached her funeral from a text she selected herself. Quite a number attended her funeral.

Yours for God and Zion.
 W. H. GRAHAM.
 Turnbull April 22d.

Mr. Editor:

Please allow me space in the "Star" to say something for the Faithful Few. On the night of the 18th inst. while we were reposing, singing was heard at my door, which was opened and the Faithful Few entered and spread my table with some of the good things of this life, for which they have my thanks. May the Lord bless them. Their names are: Misses Sallie and Harriet Brown, Mrs. Byne Brown, Mrs. Isadora Brown, Mrs. Frances Jones, Messrs Argus and Benjamin Brown, and Alex. Neill.

Yours for God and Zion,
 E. D. JONES.
 Westbrook, April 24th.

Advertisements in and read the Star of Zion.

THE STAR OF ZION.

BY REV. G. B. WALKER.

"The stars are a part of God's creation. They are auxiliaries in dispensing the soft rays of light which illumine the weary travelers way. The stars attract the attention of the unlettered and the learned of every age. Scientists claim to have discovered the material of which the stars are composed; their magnitude, their velocity and their distance from the earth. Notwithstanding the grand achievements and demonstrations in this department, the knowledge acquired is not beyond questioning. It seems to be settled that these little luminaries which bespangle the vaulted heavens, are stars. Thus we term them. These members of creation that are to us apparently tiny, are of infinite use and purpose.

The divine writers speak of the stars. I think none of the glittering stars are known as the "Star of Zion," but in the scriptures the same writers which mention the stars, frequently speak of Zion. Zion is an appellation appropriated figuratively to the Church, whether on earth or in heaven—The temple of Jehovah. Zion is co-existent with mankind and always reminds him of the church triumphant. Thus we have the star reflecting the glory of the Creator and Zion, the place where God is adored.

In our great and beloved connection, we have the "Star of Zion." We submit the foregoing as an argument in favor of the suitability of the name, expressive of the purpose and indicative of the great excellency of this great church paper. This publishing organ of the church is not without its history and it is of inestimable value. The "Star of Zion," a creature of humane invention superinduced by the divine spirit, its object is to present to and impress the mind with those truths and subjects which contribute to the temporal and spiritual welfare of mankind. To raise man from his depravity and degradation and infuse in him a desire and inspiration for the sublime and immortal.

The "Star" bespeaks to the church the truths relative to the progress of the spiritual work and exposes the evils which essay to subvert the church of the living God. It is a truth conceded or admitted that much of the literature of to-day, read by millions who seek the knowledge of the material, the minds happiness, has an evil tendency on the mind, and exerts a destructive power on the morals. It is asserted by men of thought and experience, that to know the literature a person reads is an index to their character. To accept this, how happy must those be who read the "Star of Zion." Wholesome reading. The thoughts and sentiments of those who spend their lives in trying to make mankind better.

The power of the press is often contrasted with the power of the pulpit. If the press is a rival of the pulpit, it is unquestionably a great benefactor to man. The disclosing of important truths, the culture of the mind by reading, are superior advantages and the good and lasting impressions made upon the readers are innumerable. Eternity can only tell the vast numbers saved from error and false life, rescued from vice and destruction and lead to a saving knowledge and experience of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by the instrumentality of the "Star of Zion."

The light which emanates from the "Star" penetrates the hovels and homes of many who seldom hear Christ

preached, and thereby are awakened. We must contribute our money to keep this "Star" bright and teeming with light and reflecting the character of Him who said: "Let there be light" We all feel much indebted to the "Star of Zion" that speaks to all and for all. It places the good done, to public view for our encouragement and exposes the evil and folly of vice: for evil is an inveterate foe to propriety, peace and happiness.

We thank the "Star" for its contributions in prose, in poetry; its various topics, scientific or non scientific; political or non political; the progress of nations in State and in Church, the past times or the present century. We are grateful to the "Star" for expression, the propagation of knowledge, the spread of the holy influence of the gospel.

"Star, the creature of the Eternal, Reflect the glory of thy Creator, Until Zion thy Church universal, The perfection of beauty display."
 Indianapolis, Ind.
 April 25th.

FROM ELIZABETHTOWN, N. C.

Mr. Editor:

Please grant me space in the "Star" to say that while my work is not all that I would have it be, yet there seems to be a decided encouraging spiritual prosperity among my people. In accordance with previous appointment, Presiding Elder J. H. Mattocks held his second quarterly conference on my work on the 11th and 12th. At first the weather appeared unfavorable, but as the sun seemed to raise himself above the horizon, the misty whew and dark clouds banished away, and we had a pleasant and glorious day.

The conference convened on Saturday, in Mt. Olive chapel, at 12 m with 35 or 40 members answering to their names. On Sunday, Elder Mattocks preached two of his soul-stirring and happy sermons to an over-crowded but anxious audience, and administered the Lord's supper to 150 communicants. We lifted a total collection of \$33.91 during the meeting, a handsome sum, we think, for a country circuit, in these hard times.

By request of Rev. G. G. Musgrave of the Magnolia circuit, I was with him and Presiding Elder Allison at Magnolia on the 18th and 19th. I assisted Elder Allison in his quarterly conference on Saturday and Sunday. Preached for him Sunday night, enjoyed a glorious and happy time with Elders Musgrave and Allison during Sunday and Sunday night. Accompanied them to Faison's Depot to assist them in looking after Zion's property there, which by the treachery of one R. F. Greame, a local preacher, had been much impaired. He was not only a local preacher, but a trustee, class-leader and secretary of the church besides by profession a school teacher. He had by falsehood and deception, fooled \$63.85 out of the hand of the church treasurer, used it in building himself a school house upon the church lot. Denied having the original church deed; wrote a bogus or false deed conveying the lot to himself, and signed all the trustees' names to the bogus deed. He was tried in quarterly conference on Saturday 18th and expelled from the connection.

He joined the church to me from the Congregationalists, on the 21st of July 1883. Having been expelled from the connection, legal proceedings were instituted against him for trespass and forgery, on Monday the 20th. He was convicted of the former charge and was bound over in the latter in the sum of \$400 to the May term of Superior court of Duplin county.

Having been appointed by Presiding Elder J. H. Mattocks to hold his second quarterly meeting on the Lisbon circuit, Rev. J. W. Davis pastor, I met the Elder at Ellis' Creek chapel on Saturday 25th. The weather being balmy and inviting the conference of 30 members convened at 2 p. m. The utmost harmony and decorum prevailed during the conference. Sabbath being a high day with the member of Lisbon circuit, Eldr Davis had his members marshalled into ranks and in love-feast by 8:30 a. m. There was preaching at 11 a. m., sacrament at 2:30 p. m. and preaching again at night. We administered the Lord's supper to 130 communicants. Had 6 accessions to the church and 4 at the anxious seat crying for mercy.

Collections during the meeting were \$20.10. Elder Davis is enjoying the utmost confidence of his entire congregation and is doing a good work for God and Zion among his people.

Yours in Gospel bonds,
 O. L. W. SMITH.

April 28th.

FROM BAST ALABAMA.

Mr. Editor:

At the last session of the East Alabama conference held in this city November last, I was appointed by Bishop Hood to the charge of Ebenezer circuit. There are two churches in this circuit: Ebenezer and Mt. Moriah. The first I found in a very low condition both spiritually and temporally, but through the assistance of God things are looking brighter. The set time has come for the good-Lord to favor Zion. I have held a protracted meeting for four weeks. Seventeen have been happily converted to God. I have baptized seventeen and received thirty into the church.

I have a new church building in the course of erection which I hope to be able to enter by July next. My work is in a very prosperous condition Mr. Charles Payne donated \$2.50 from a club for church purposes; Miss Mahaley Rainey donated 90 cents from a club to the church. They are not members of the church but they have a deep interest in the work.

Yours for God and Zion,
 HENRY TALLY.
 Montgomery, Ala.,
 May 5th, 1885.

FROM JAMES CITY, N. C.

Mr. Editor:

Please allow me space to speak of my work here. When I came to this place I found the people divided into three factions. Some for Moore, some for Phillips and some for Hunter. I could not say how many for Christ, but I suppose there were some. I was forced to go to my closet and beg for divine aid in the direction of my course, and I believe I was heard, for, by the help of the Lord, I have managed to bring them all together in one band of Christians. I venture to say we will soon have one of the best circuits in the conference.

We started a protracted meeting some time ago, but the weather was so bad we had to close, as our house was not comfortable. We had three converts. We are thankful for them and expect to start again soon.

On account of a lawsuit pending in which a party claims the whole town, we have not commenced work on our house. The people here and in Newbern are well pleased with our presiding elder. They say he is just the man for us and we all love him.

Yours for Christ,
 J. H. STEWART.

April 15th.