

The Star of Zion.

The Christian Advocate
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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

FROM WILSON, N. C.

Mr. Editor:

Though we seem to be quiet in our town, yet we are not dead. As the earth makes her annual revolutions upon its (earth) surface, the people of Wilson are alive to the fact that the world is going forward. So they have thrown off their lethargy and are beginning to work. Improvement now is their watchword. They are improving financially, educationally and religiously. The latter is demonstrated by the energy the people are now putting forth to build a new Zion church. A new and comfortable church has long been the desire of the people of Wilson, and now that desire is beginning to be satisfied. Two years ago everything seemed to be dark about building a church, but now since we have taken hold and pushed things ahead, a new life has been awakened in the people. The young people deserve special mention for the energy they have shown in trying to build a new church. The enterprise started last March under the management of Mr. S. H. Vick and Mr. Whitted was only one of the many which have been started since then. We cannot speak too highly of the first named gentleman for his untiring efforts in behalf of the new church and the progress of the colored people in general of this place. He has shown himself a lover of his race and their progress. Such men are always desirable in a community. Other young men have also acted well their part.

The young women too must have their merit, "Honor to whom honor is due." Women in all ages of the world have had their influence upon society. That influence has some time been bad, but mostly good. This seems to be an age in which the rights of women are discussed. Her dignity is assailed, her sphere of usefulness discussed, her motives suspected, her capabilities analyzed; one crying out that she has too little to do, and another asking what more can she do? During all this the women do not become excited, do not waste their breath in discussing such sophistries, but act their part in their limited sphere. In this they are doing more for suffering humanity, for the amelioration of their race and for the cause of God, than those who make the most glaring speeches on women suffrages. Some of those who are doing their duty in their modest sphere are to be found in Wilson. Pardon me for mentioning some of their names. They would undoubtedly reject my pointing them out, but duty on my part and merit on their part compel me. I speak proudly of Miss Sarah Roundtree, Miss Sidney Freeman, Miss Millie Bryant, Miss Cynthia Hall, and Miss Mary Blount. Other young ladies I might mention, but will not consume so much of your valuable paper in pointing out names. The older people have also done their part on the new church.

Our collection for the new church on the last Sunday in April amounted to \$40. That may seem small to the collection taken up in some churches, but it is rare in a small church like ours. So we call that a good collection. The corner stone of the church was laid on the 9th of May. Quite a number turned out to witness

the occasion. The Masons turned out in full uniform. We want to dedicate it next fall. So you see we are not dead, but living. So, Mr. Editor, when you visit our little town again, we will have a nice little sanctuary for you to preach in.

I cannot close without telling you something of our Sunday school. In this as well as in the church, we find Mr. S. H. Vick acting his part. Up until last summer our Sabbath school had been languishing, when Mr. S. H. Vick and Mr. E. C. Simms took hold of the school with renewed energy and the school has ever since been awakening from its dormant state. It has a nice library with a good number of Bibles and other suitable literature, and also a nice lot of music books and lesson sheets; it has also a fine corps of teachers. It is pleasant as well as profitable to go there and hear them sing and explain the difficult points in their lessons. On last Sunday the Sabbath school gave a concert which consisted of Bible recitations, and also a speech was delivered by Mr. E. C. Simms on "The Bible." Five prizes are to be awarded to the successful contestants. The judges could not decide on the first prize, so the contest for the first prize will be decided next Sunday. The contestants for it are Miss Annie Washington and Miss Annie Conner. The second prize was awarded to Miss Sarah Roundtree, and third to Miss Oelia Hill, 4th to little Geneva Battle, and 5th to Master John Darden. Everybody seemed to admire the exercises. The school is undoubtedly doing good work, although it is financially weak.

Nothing can afford a pleasanter sight than on the Sabbath morning as the Sabbath school bells ring to see nice laughing boys and girls wending their way across the green to the Sabbath school. It seems as if they are beginning in the right way to make young men and women of themselves. Not young men and women who will be a blot or scourge upon society; but young men and women who will be an honor to themselves, an honor to their parents, an honor to society, and above all an honor to the noble cause of God.

Will let you hear from me again.
Yours for Zion,
J. N. RASBERRY.

FROM NEWPORT, TENN.

Mr. Editor:

I assume the present opportunity to inform the many readers of the Star that I live near Peyton river; also we have a membership of sixty members at Russell chapel. Our beloved pastor Elder Banks is an able preacher and a great worker for the connection; also our Sabbath school is in fine condition, numbering 75 pupils. Elder Isaac D. Banks sent on to New York city to Rev. J. Thomas, and got us the International Lessons, and also hymn books and catechism.

We need more enthusiasm in gathering the older people into our ranks. We have the leading element here in our Sunday school and church also. Elder Banks certainly tells the people of Zion. He says that you will hear from him when he gets more subscribers for the Star. Our quarterly conference convenes here in Russell's Chapel, May 30th, at 2 P. M., with A. L. Cowan. We anticipate a grand time. We hope to have a visit from Rt. Rev. J. W. Hood, our beloved father, as we have not had a visit from any one of our leading men, only Bishop S. T. Jones.

NANCY CARSON.

FROM KINGSTON, N. C.

A MINISTER'S RESPONSIBILITY.

BY H. C. GRAHAM.

A minister's responsibility is very great and should be well considered. He is to stand as a watchman over the flock of Christ, and souls, preach the glorious truths of the bible, and compel men to come to the feast of Christ, and be filled with the holy spirit. A minister is divinely appointed to occupy a most responsible position between the living and the dead, between heaven and hell. Being accountable to God as a spiritual watchman, he must not shun nor fail to declare the whole counsel of God to man.

He must not become a traitor to God, and souls, crying peace and safety, when there is none.

He must be true, earnest, faithful, and please Christ, that the blood of souls may not stain his garment.

It is his duty and privilege by rich grace, to keep in the love of God, edify the church, and to save souls who are lost.

He is the principal architect of his own fortune, the creative agent in forming his own character, recorder of his own biography, and witness to the truth of God, and to the just distribution of reward. How careful and prayerful should he be with such crushing responsibility resting on him as a watchman for the Lord! A minister is especially responsible for his influence. In the old dispensation as well as in the new, this declaration holds emphatically true. The righteous and the wicked have their diverse influence, fruits and rewards. For example, see Eli's sons, the false priests, and the wicked Jews, who sinned and perverted others, and went to their own account. But Moses despised the treasure of Egypt, and the short-lived pleasure of sin, choosing rather the cross of Christ, and a share in the work and afflictions of God's people. Caleb was true and faithful, and enjoyed the promise.

Good old Joshua was valiant, and successful in the field, and God rewarded him gloriously. Said he: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

The true minister is empowered by gifts and his position, to tell what of the night and what of the day. How responsible is he while souls are asleep and exposed! He is to witness for God, to all truth, at all times and places. He is to avoid sin, and all appearances of evil, and be not partaker of others' sin, but rebuke iniquity by word and deed. His responsibility is equal to his authority, capacity and opportunities, and is commensurate, and runs parallel with God's commands. He is to seek for grace and power to preach, win souls to Christ, and receive God's plaudit "well done." How can you be guilty of the blood of souls? You may become thus guilty by constant neglect, by unfaithfulness, by suppressing truth, by indulging yourself, your children or others, in sinful gratifications, by substitutions, by obscuring and falsifying to truth, by error and unbelief, by coldness and worldliness, by vain amusements and intemperance, by crime and hypocrisy. We hope better things though we thus speak; for some have been unfaithful, and have born the blood-spots, the evident tokens of perdition. It is all by mighty grace that we ever make our calling and election sure.

We cannot be too watchful, prayerful, faithful, grateful, and persevering under such infinite responsibilities, and especially now, when iniquity comes

in like a flood, and when satan's devices are so deceptive and charming.

The true minister is to go among both friends and foes, declare God's word, and every plan of salvation to sinners, and look to Jesus for divine aid and power.

O for grace and the prevailing of the holy spirit, to enable the minister to preach the undeniable word of God, that the church may be encouraged, backsliders made to confess their wanderings, return begin the Christian life in early youth, sinners convicted of their sin, and converted to Christ. The minister has not a moment to lose as it requires all of his time and talent to seek that which is lost.

His commission is from God, the great head of the church, and he should be faithful to his high calling, and labor earnestly to save souls, promote God's church, and accomplish every duty assigned to his hands.

NATIONAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

The following resolutions were adopted May 12th, 1885.

"1. Resolved, That, in this centennial year of the temperance reform, we heartily congratulate the friends of temperance throughout the land upon the many and important victories already won, and upon the wide-spread and rapidly increasing popular interest in the cause of total abstinence, and for the entire prohibition of the traffic in alcoholic beverages.

"2. Resolved, That we earnestly urge all temperance organizations throughout our own country, and in other lands to unite the month of September next in celebrations to fitly commemorate the completion of the first century of the temperance reform, as inaugurated by the pioneer labors and the historic essay by Dr. Benjamin Rush, of Philadelphia, "An Inquiry into the Effect of Ardent Spirits upon the Human Body and mind," first published in 1785.

"3. That we recommend that centennial tokens of appropriate temperance literature be distributed during the year 1885 to every household in the land as a centennial temperance seed-sowing; and that we solicit all churches, temperance organizations and communities generally to make "centennial offerings" for the circulation of a temperance literature especially among the freedmen.

"4. Resolved, That the missionary works of this society especially its important work among the freedmen, which during the past year has been widely extended and largely blessed of God for good, appeals with great force to all churches and to all Christian men and women, and should be more amply provided for by generous donations and bequests.

"5. Resolved, That we hail with much satisfaction the recent adoption by the legislatures of three additional States—Oregon, Rhode Island, and Tennessee—of joint resolutions proposing constitutional amendments for the entire prohibition of the manufacture and sale of all intoxicating beverages.

"6. Resolved, That among the significant signs the times—a practical acknowledgment of the strength and progress of the temperance reformation, and that prohibition the national, State, and local organizations of brewers, distillers, and liquor-vendors for defensive and offensive warfare for their continued dominance of parties and to control legislation for the perpetuation and extension of the liquor-traffic.

"7. Resolved, That this Society is strictly non-partisan in its relation to political parties, its membership including members of all parties; and since it applies one test alike to each and all, that of uncompromising hostility to the manufacture, importation, and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to the license system by which the liquor-traffic, for beverages purposes, is legally sustained and perpetuated, therefore it is truly national, and entitled to the consideration and support of temperance people throughout the entire country.

"8. Resolved, That we rejoice in the marked progress of the past year in providing for scientific temperance instruction in the public schools, and we exhort the friends of temperance everywhere renewed and increased vigilance in educational temperance work among the children in all schools, secular and Sabbath, at the fireside, and in juvenile temperance organizations.

"9. Resolved, That we have been greatly cheered and strengthened the past year by the numerous and pronounced testimonies adopted by all the leading Christian bodies in the land against injurious social-drinking usages and for the suppression of the traffic in intoxicating beverages.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

Mr. Editor:

Allow me a small space in your paper, *Tempus fugit*.

There is no better time to dispel an evil than when it is tottering. Dagon fell before the ark of covenant, and was broken to pieces. So the idols of tobacco will fall when they find they have no defence or place in the Christian church. I hope the Star of Zion will open their mass batteries on every side, Baltimore, Salisbury, Florida, and elsewhere, until we have driven the enemy out of the church and Christian society. There is a few of us who will not retreat nor take back seats on this question. My fort is very small and it being said I am slow to speak, if I am I am no coward. I expected an attack from Fort Tobacco, as I hear none I must have the field. I know Fort Tobacco has some big guns. O, look, puff, puff, puff. What is that great cloud of smoke. It is the big guns and some small ones practicing at Fort Pipe and at Cigars Battery. They can't do any harm, can they? Yes. How can they? Because they are Christians at the guns; they show bad example, they don't practice what the bible sets forth. It says come out from among them. Up into Thee our living head.

Let us in all things grow:
Until Thou has made us free indeed
And spotless here below.

Yours in Christ,
June 3rd. E. S. LANE.

If any one of subscribers desires to obtain a copy free, of one of the most attractive of the magazines for children and young people, simply send a postal card to D. LORING & CO, Boston, Mass., with the following request:

Please send me a copy of The Pansy mentioned in the Star of Zion.

Be sure to give your full name and address.

Notice to all who send money for papers sold, subscription or otherwise please don't send stamps whatever a postal order (three cents), can be had. As the weather is getting warm these stamps stick together with such force, that many of them get destroyed in trying to open them. There is no objection to sending a few stamps, but in all cases send a postal three cent order in sending small sums.

FROM POPES' STATION MISS

Mr. Editor:

Please allow me a small space in your paper to inform my friends of things through here.

I held the first quarter on the Zion Wing Circuit, for the P. E. the first Sunday in this month. The work is in good condition, we took up the quarterly collection which amounted to twenty Dollars. It is one of the best parts of the country that I have had the pleasure of visiting during my stay in this part of the work. One of our Baptist Divines opened his church for our benefit and he with his congregation, joined us in communion. My Circuit is Popes Chapel, Wesley Chapel and Tolliver Chapel. The congregation of each church is good, and attached to each as a flourishing Sabbath School. I am getting ready to make a visit home on account of sickness in the family, to help pay my expenses Popes has collected for me Thirty-five Dollars—Wesley Thirty-five Dollars and Tolliver's Four Dollars. For these contributions I extend to them many thanks through your paper. Our P. E. L. J. Scurlock through his indefatigable labors drawing the districts to a higher standard of their duty, my people may look for him soon.

Inclosed find Eighty cents please continue my paper at the end of subscription. W. JONES
May 26th, 1885.

FROM TENNESSEE.

Mr. Editor:

In the interest of Zion in the Greenville district of the East Tennessee Annual Conference, after eight months of hard labor in the Gospel work on this district, I am glad that it can be said in God's name that the work is moving on with about three hundred souls added to this district during the last eight months. Brethren, pray God that we may have more souls to go to glory with us.

Now brethren, as ministers of the Greenville District our District Conference will convene at Rogersville, Tenn., on the 23, 24, 25 and 26th of July, 1885. I hope all the brethren will be able to make a full report of the general fund up to July 23d, 1885. Brethren we are glad to let you know that Jonesboro church has revived again. Elder L. L. McDonald was assigned to that work from the Annual Conference held at Marysville, Tenn., last October. He came to that work and stayed five or six days and left to return in a few days, but failed to do so. Elder J. H. Starling is in charge at Jonesboro, and is doing a good work. Elder F. B. White is in charge at Abingdon, and is getting ready for the Annual Conference, which is to meet at Abingdon, Va., the first Wednesday in October, 1885.

Yours for God and Zion,
B. M. GUNGER.

NOTICE! NOTICE!

Printing Press for sale. A good Washington Hand Press capable of printing a six column sheet, 16 by 20. The Press is in good condition and ready for work. Apply at 106 Shore street, Petersburg, Va., or to Rev. C. R. Harris, Salisbury, N. C., where this press is located. Will sell very reasonable for cash.

If thou art wise, thou knowest thine own ignorance, and thou art ignorant if thou knowest not thyself.—*Lucifer*.