

# The Star of Zion.

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ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

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NUMBER 24

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

FROM FAYETTEVILLE, N. C. TO SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

BY BISHOP HOOD.

LETTER NO. 2.

My last left me at Denver Colorado. Denver is a flourishing city of 40,000 inhabitants. It is the capital of the state and a great railroad center. This is the terminus of the Kansas division of the Union Pacific Railroad, 636 miles long, running from Kansas City, Mo. It is located on an open plain thirteen miles from the Rocky Mountains.

This majestic and awe-inspiring range is in full view from Long's Peak on the north to Pike's Peak on the south, while to the east and north a vast, boundless upland plain stretches out before the gaze in enrapturing grandeur. We lay over here about six hours, but the Pullman car passengers do not have to change cars; the sleeper we take at Kansas City takes us through to Cheyenne. The sun shines hot and the heat forms a striking contrast to appearance of mountaintops, which are covered with snow. What! snow on the 10th of June, when the sun is climbing to cancer? Yes, these mountains are known as the "Region of perpetual snow."

Our next important station is Greeley, named in honor of Horace Greeley. It is a town of 8,500 inhabitants and it is said to contain some of the finest grist mills of the entire west. It is also noted as a temperance town. For many miles after leaving Greeley the land is a perfect plain and the road perfectly straight. Sitting in the rear end of the car one can look back at the railway as far as the eye can carry. In the dim distance, the two rails come together. If a freight train is passed, it still remains in sight when many miles in the rear. It becomes a little black speck under the horizon and finally is lost from view as a slower vessel at sea is left out of sight in the rear.

At 5:35 p. m., we arrived at Cheyenne. This is the capital of Wyoming Territory. It is 6,041 feet above the sea level. It is the largest town on the main line between Omaha and Salt Lake. Its population is about 4,000 and is rapidly increasing. The hotel at the station is owned by the railroad company, and is said to be the best kept of any between the two oceans. It is the great center of the stock interest, and near the recent gold discoveries of the Black Hills. I presume this had, at one time, as had a reputation as any town in America. It bore the fearful sobriquet of "Hell on wheels." When the road was in building this was its terminus for a winter, and during that period roughs from every quarter gathered. Knock-downs and robberies were common occurrences. Finally a vigilance committee was organized and a court held by "Judge Lynch" put an end to about a dozen desperadoes, and now churches have come to stay, and the gamblers have gone away.

Here the passengers who come by Denver change cars. Those who come by Omaha do not. There is a rush of passengers who come by Denver, to get a good berth in a sleeper. On this occasion it is especially so, for a wash-out on the Southern Pacific road sends an unusual number of passengers this way just at this time. Fortunately for us, our course lays not upon the main line, and a Portland sleeper runs through from Omaha, and it is not so much crowded. Several passengers, however, took a berth in it for the night, that being the best they could do as the Ogden sleeper was full.

As we leave Cheyenne, looking off to the right, we see the Black Hills of Wyoming stretching toward the north. To the left, Long's Peak lifts its snow-capped summit high above the clouds, by which it is often obscured. This is one of the famous mountains of Colorado and is always covered with snow. At granite Canon, the third station from Cheyenne, the road runs high

upon the side of a ravine, and through deep cuts of reddish granite spurs and stunted pines, like lone sentinels, are seen upon the bleak hills. At Buford station the "Twin Mountains" are seen on your left. There are two lofty peaks in the Black Hills, which lift their rocky heads high above the barren waste around them.

Near these mountains it is said that a noted desperado once had his retreat. The country is here cut up by ravines partly covered by short buffalo grass and scrubby pines. A short distance to your right, Crow Creek rises and winds its way among the hills to the plains below. Fine springs also, are said to abound in this section. Sherman station is the highest point on the road. It was, when built, the highest railroad point in the world. (There are higher places now reached by rail in South America). Its elevation is 8,242 feet. It is reached by a gradual ascent averaging 87 feet to the mile. It is 38 miles west of Cheyenne and 2,201 feet higher, and yet we raise so gradually that only those who are used to the motion of the cars notice the ascent. The steady pull of two powerful locomotives, attests the force it requires to make the ascent. Snow sheds are frequent in this section. To prevent the snow from drifting in and filling up the cuts, sheds are built over the larger ones, formed like tunnels. There are said to be 40 miles of these sheds on the main line of the Union Pacific. To guard the smaller cuts, two or three lines of fencing are built.

Night has now set in, darkness prevails and we retire for the night and sleep soundly, for the night is cool in this region of perpetual snows. Late, very late on the third morning of our journey from St. Louis, we awake and find that we are passing through the Red Desert. Near this place is an immense basin, 500 feet below the level of the country around it. The country here is a barren waste and reminds us of the language of Pollock: "Where utter nothing dwells." Here utter nothing grows, nor is sign of living creature seen. As we approach Green River, however, the scene changes, birds are on the wing, cattle feed upon the hill-sides and we realize that we are approaching a section in which the earth will bring forth seed after its kind.

At the point where the railroad crosses this river, the valley is narrow and enclosed on either side by high bluffs which have been washed into many fanciful shapes by the storms of time. They, in many places present the appearance of columns, towers and battlements of castles tumbling to ruin. We took breakfast at Green River, and a fine breakfast it was. We did not reach it till after nine, and therefore had a good appetite.

The water of the Green River, when its banks are not filled with freshets of its own or of its tributaries, is said to be pure and sweet and of the usual color of clear water, but that its peculiar apparent color is owing to the green shade through which it runs, and which is seen in the bluffs in the vicinity and which is supposed to contain arsenic or chloride of copper, which becomes detached by drainage and fastens itself to pebbles, stones and the bottom of the stream, causing the water, as you look at it, to bear the same color. The scenery along its banks is generally rugged, sometimes sublime. Its tributaries nearly all have fertile valleys, which are being occupied by stockmen and which afford both hay and shelter for stock. This river is destined to become a popular resort for explorers, fossil hunters, gem searchers and sportsmen.

"Brown Hole" is a beautiful scene, just below what is called Red Canon. The water is calm, quiet and as peaceful as a mirror, with reflection quite as distinct. This, we are informed, is the last quiet stretch of the river ere it enters into the turbulent passage of the deeper, gloomier and larger canon below. The sandy beach here shows numerous foot prints of deer, bears and elk which frequent this section. "Brown Hole" is an expansion of the Green River valley; it is about five miles wide and thirty miles long. This is a favorite wintering place for stock. Very little snow falls in the valley, and it is so well surrounded by the high mountains that the bleak

winds are out off. "Giant Club" is the name given to a rock which rises with almost perpendicular sides to a tremendous height. Some regard its appearance as that of having existed at the bottom of a lake. Its formations are peculiar and lay in regular horizontal strata, and contain fossils of plants and fishes. At the place called "Burning Rock Cut," the road passes through thin layers of a sort of cream-colored, shaly limestone, interspersed with strata of a dark brown color, saturated with petroleum, so as to burn freely. The cut deserves its name "Burning Rock" from the fact that during the building of the road, the rocks became ignited and burned for several days, illuminating the labor of the workmen by night and filling the valley with clouds of smoke by day.

At the mouth of "Henry's Fork" on Green River, there is a view of great beauty. Its vivid colors are truly enchanting. The waters of the river appear as the purest emerald, the banks and sand-bars are of a bluish whiteness. One perpendicular bluff is about 1,500 feet above the level of the river, and of a bright red and yellow color. It is called the "Flowing Gorge," and when illuminated by the full flood of noon-day sun-light, it well deserves its title. Leaving Green River, the railroad crosses the bridge, turns to the right and runs along under the over-hanging bluffs which rise to the height of about 350 feet, for about three miles, when it suddenly turns to the left and passes through an unnamed tract of hilly, broken country.

"Sweetwater" is the name of a stream which rises in Wind River Mountains, in the great southern pass discovered by General Fremont "The Path Finder." South of it is the "Sweetwater" mountain range, and on the north are the Rattlesnake Hills which are said to be one continuous chain of broken, ragged rocks, heaped upon each other in confused masses, and are utterly barren and desolate and void of any living thing but the snakes, from which they are named.

### BALTIMORE DISTRICT CONFERENCE.

The Baltimore District Conference of the A. M. E. Zion Church assembled in its first session, in Moore chapel, in Laurel, Md., Friday June 12th at 10 a. m. The Presiding Elder, W. H. Day, called the conference to order. After the reading of the 23rd Psalm, the P. E. announced hymn 930 which was sung by the conference and Elder Z. T. Pearsall led in prayer. The Presiding Elder then made some general remarks regarding the work to which he was appointed and requested the ministers to do all that is in their power for the good of Zion. He further stated that he now have put himself upon the altar of God to be sacrificed for His cause. He stated that the first business in order is to elect a secretary. On motion of Elder N. J. Green, Elder Geo. R. Morris was elected secretary and on motion of Z. T. Pearsall Bro. J. H. Mason was elected recording secretary.

The following were appointed committee on credentials: Elders Z. T. Pearsall, J. R. Johnson and Deacon O. H. Wye.

The Presiding Elder stated while the committee on credentials are getting ready to report, we will have an address from Elder R. H. G. Dyson, he being the oldest member of the Philadelphia and Baltimore conference. Elder Dyson then addressed the conference in a most impressive manner, which was well received by the brethren. He spoke of the importance of the clergy being in unity, that he is a true Zionite, both soul and body.

The committee on credentials made their report as follows: We found the following persons with proper credentials representing their several churches: Wesley Zion, R. Tyler.

Union Wesley, J. H. Mason, Galbraith church, Charles Diggs, John Wesley, Curtis Tyson, Arlington, Thomas Owen, Laurel, Henry Sims, Rockville, Isaac Johnson, Burrville, Moses Wood, Glan, Md., Nelson Cooper, Bowie Station, S. W. Johnson, Elders Z. T. Pearsall, J. R. Johnson, Deacon C. H. Wye, Comm.

On motion of Elder Green, Brother Henry Sims was made a member of the District conference. Motion of Elder Pearsall, the same rules that govern the annual conference shall govern this district conference.

The P. E. then appointed the following committee on Presiding elder's salary: N. J. Green, Mrs. Selena Bungay, C. H. Tyler, C. H. Tyson and J. H. Mason. At this juncture there arose a discussion in regard to a Sabbath school delegate rejected from being appointed on any business of the conference. The Elder gave his decision in regard to the law. Elder Dyson took exceptions to the ruling. On motion of Elder Pearsall, the following resolution was adopted: Be it resolved that we bow with humble submission to the decision of the Presiding Elder, and beg him to appoint sister Selena Bungay. Adopted.

On motion of Elder J. R. Johnson, the following named persons were appointed committee on the general good of the church: Elders R. H. G. Dyson, Z. T. Pearsall and Moses Wood Mrs. Selena Bungay. Recess till 2 p. m. Re-assembled at 2, Presiding Elder in the chair. Singing by the conference and prayer by Deacon C. H. Wye. The Elder declared the conference open for business. On motion of Elder Pearsall the minutes were read and adopted with proper corrections. Committee on P. E. salary reported: We your committee on apportionment, beg leave to report, that Presiding elder's salary be raised by levying one cent a member a week from each and every member; that he be paid \$650 per year and this to include traveling expenses. That each pastor collect and forward monthly or quarterly to the Presiding elder or pay the same at quarterly conference.

J. H. Mason, N. J. Green, R. H. Tyler, Selena Bungay, C. H. Tyson, comm. On motion of Elder Pearsall, the following resolution was adopted: that it is the sense of this conference that no minister has discharged his whole duty, who could organize a Sabbath school on his work under Zion church and has failed to do so.

On motion of Elder Green the Laurel matter was brought up. He stated that something must be done for the Laurel church or the people will lose their property; that the church was about to be sold, and that he and Bishop Hood, Elders Pearsall and Cowles gave their notes for the said money and that the annual conference which met in Washington paid \$95, and the other note came due 30 days after that note was paid and the church has not done anything yet for itself. He said "I can never take the responsibility on myself again."

Elder Morris, the pastor, said he tried all he knew to get the people to raise some money for paying on the church, but every year he resorted to, failed. He further stated that the people have not the money, and that they gave when they had it, but now they have nothing to give, and the times are quite different now from what it has been. I am discouraged myself and I don't know for my life how they can pay for it. Elder Day said he disliked to hear that kind of news, but something must be done for Laurel.

On motion of Elder Pearsall, a censure was passed upon each minister that failed to attend this District conference and that a copy of the same be sent to the following named brethren who failed to meet this conference: Elders J. W. Smith, J. H. Hector and Deacon Logan Johnson. On motion Elder G. W. Offley, was excused for not attending this conference.

On motion it was ordered that the proceedings of this district conference be sent to the "Star of Zion" for publication.

On motion a vote of thanks was tendered the members and friends of Laurel for their hospitality to the members of this conference and to the presiding elder for his dignified manner in governing the conference, and to our secretary for his faithful performance of duty.

On motion the next district conference is to meet in Gettysburg, Pa., subject to the call of the P. E. Conference adjourned.

WM. H. DAY, P. E.  
Geo. R. MORRIS, Sec'y.

MINISTERIAL DELEGATES.  
Wm. H. Day, Presiding Elder.  
Elders Z. T. Pearsall, R. H. G. Dyson, J. H. Hector, N. J. Green, J. W. Smith, Geo. R. Morris, G. W. Offley, J. R. Johnson, Deacons, C. H. Wye, Logan Johnson, Wm. H. Tighman and J. R. Dangerfield.

### EPISCOPAL VISIT IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Mr. Editor: I thought an item respecting my episcopal visit to the South Carolina annual conference district would interest the readers of our dear little "Star." I left home on the 28th of May for Salisbury N. C. to be there on the following Sunday to deliver the Annual sermon before the students of Zion Wesley College. I arrived in Salisbury on the morning of the 30th and was agreeably surprised to reach there just in time to participate in the celebration of the memory of our fallen Heroes of a hundred battle fields.

I was met by President J. C. Price and Prof. C. R. Harris and other members of the faculty with kind greetings. We mingled with them in the celebration and took part in the decoration attended by a large procession accompanied by two fine bands of music. We marched to the cemetery and there had appropriate ceremonies, followed by strewing flowers on the graves. Thence the procession marched to the court house where appropriate speeches were made. Among the speakers was the distinguished President of Z. W. College. He favored the occasion with one of his sublime and masterly efforts, which I trust will go down to history in the defence of our race. The other speakers were all happy in their efforts; their names we are unable to give, except Mr. Richardson, ex-editor of the "Star of Zion." In all, it was a fine demonstration and a gala day for our people in Salisbury and its adjacent villages.

### ZION WESLEY COLLEGE.

This institution which we never had visited before, struck us with astonishment and admiration, having a good opportunity to view the location, with all its appointments and surroundings. In our contemplation of it, when we considered the wonderful progress it has made in the short period of its existence, and that it is to be a grand lever toward lifting up our race in this land, it created a deep thrill of joy in our soul, we never before experienced. We saw in it the

bright ray of the dawn of a new day for my race.

The institution has some fine buildings, but not half enough for its demands. Efforts are being made to secure as soon as possible the necessary buildings, which when secured will make splendid additions to the institution.

This young but glorious and promising institution has a most efficient Faculty of nine Professors, all of them being christian confessors, which adds to the institution hopefulness. This faculty is composed of graduates from some of the best institutions in the country. They are characteristic of energy and enterprise.

There are 160 students in the college; they present the most orderly deportment I have ever witnessed in any institution. About one-third of them are females, whose deportment evinces a high degree of refinement. Over one-half the students are religious. Surely, Ethiopia is stretching her hand to God.

Our sermon before the students was preached in the church. The students were assigned special seats in the church. They presented a very interesting portion of the audience, and they were indeed, an appreciative portion of the hearers. May God guide them through all the future of a hopeful life.

On Monday night June 1st, we had the pleasure of listening to an eloquent learned, philosophic and instructive address, delivered before the Hood Literary Society, by Mr. J. C. Dancy of North Carolina. It was a grand production.

On Tuesday we had to leave for the first appointment in our episcopal tour in South Carolina, which was Spartanburg; thus we entered upon our tour, and up to date have visited and preached daily or nightly at some point as we were traveling through the country, of which we will give an account in our next issue.

J. J. Moore,  
Lancaster, S. C.,  
June 20th 1885.

### ANOTHER CHURCH SAVED.

Mr. Editor: One of Zion's churches located 8 or 9 miles from Clear Run, Sampson Co., was saved last month. This church had divided and was on its way to another denomination, and had succeeded in moving the Sabbath school; but to their surprise, Rev. J. S. Henderson, the Lion of this county, heard of their intentions. Early on Sunday morning he made his appearance and addressed them upon church government, and when he closed his subject the whole membership came forward and promised never to leave Zion again. This makes the fourth church Rev. Henderson has brought back to the connection since July 1884. He has opened an avenue from Black river to Cape Fear—30 miles, and all his work is conducted on first-class plans.

June 22d.

To be far from Christ is to be far from light, from life, from mercy, and from Heaven. To be far from Christ is to be near to death, misery, hell. To be without Christ is to be without God without hope in this world.—W. H. Henderson.

Be always displeased at what thou art, if thou desire to attain to what thou art not; for where thou hast pleased thyself there thou abidest.—Quaker.

He who gains time gains everything!

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