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THE EGYPTIAN EDUCATION OF MOSES.

BY REV. JAS. ED. MASON.

The Scripture contain but few references to the Egyptian education of the great law-giver. These are in such sweeping language as to leave us in doubt as to the exact influence of Egyptian learning upon his life. A kindly providence threw him under the protecting care of Pharaoh's daughter and that doubtless secured for him all the aids of a thorough education. A single remark of Luke declares that Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. The scope of that peculiar knowledge is not made known

Without special study of the history of Egypt in Moses' time, we are left in doubt as to how much that education aided him to originate and perfect the civil and religious constitution of Israel, and to develop that people into a great and influential nationality. We ask ourselves "Did Moses incorporate any of the civil or religious ideas of Egypt into his laws and administration?" The correctness of the answer depends upon the facts revealed.

Any reader of the Old Testament will be impressed with the wonderful order of the host of Israel immediately upon beginning its march toward the wilderness. That very order was the result of Egyptian education. No nation of earth was ever so observant of life and so minute in making records. They saw and recorded everything. Says Herodotus, "No Egyptian omits taking accurate note of extraordinary and striking events." The Egyptian looked upon nature as a vast mystery, and was continually putting questions to that mystery. The sphynx, a vast, mythical animal with the body of a lyon and head of a man, lying in the desert sand, silently questioning the Infinite, represents the spirit of Egyptian religion.

Perpetual questioning led to many discoveries, and nothing is more astonishing than the vast range of Egyptian learning in that day. They were painters and sculptors. They made glass with gold figures enclosed, so minute as to require a microscope to observe their beauties of finish. They tanned leather and made shoes. Their carpenters used saws, chisels, planes, squares, hammers &c. They used glue and veneered with wood. They used the blow pipe in the manufacture of golden ornaments. Rings, bracelets, armlets, and necklaces were worn by the women. Indeed, the Egyptians knew many of the arts which so much contribute to modern luxury and convenience.

Nothing but wonderful skill in the mechanical arts could have built and moved those immense pyramids and monoliths, a single one weighing three hundred tons, and one nine hundred tons. And Herodotus describes a monolithic temple which must have weighed five thousand tons, and which was carried the whole length of the Nile to the delta. According to an eminent authority, there is the roof of a door-way at Kamak, covered with sand-stone blocks forty-five feet long. And there are sculpture and bass-relief three thousand five hundred years old, where the granite is cut with exquisite delicacy.

The Egyptians were a nation trained to order and obedience. The Israelites, as slaves, were also familiar with that order. That each tribe should fall in like a regiment of soldiers, was a part of life's drill, and contributed to a great result.

The doctrine of immortality was a prominent doctrine of the Egyptian religion. We often wonder at the meagerness of reference to it in the Old Testament. Moses, however, had reason to show it, while he borrowed freely from the Egyptian in other things. The Egyptian doctrine of immortality was joined with belief in the doctrine of transmigration. The Egyptian believed that man might reappear as an animal. He believed there was no essential distinction between the animal and the human soul. The Egyptian theory was the most carefully lined out of any previous to the time of Swedenburg. But it was so intimately associated with the idolatries of their religion and the worship of Osiris, that Moses seemed to have ignored the most distinctive teachings.

Still we are not compelled to look far without finding many traces of the religious customs of the Egyptians. The Egyptians had in their temples a special sanctuary more holy than the rest, corresponding to the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle and temple. The ceremonies of the great day of atonement, in which a victim was offered and a prayer of confession made over its head, were apparently borrowed from Egypt. The figures of the cherubim overshading the ark of God seem to have been borrowed from similar figures seen engraved on Egyptian tombs. God through Moses was evidently anxious to separate the nation from the idolatries of Egypt. He did not hesitate to conserve any great idea which would aid either the civil or religious development of the people

Just as Jesus took the ordinance of baptism and made it one of the great ordinances of the Christian church, so Moses took Egyptian ordinances and used them for the service of God. Even after forty-five centuries, we see the ideas of Egypt in the Christian church and theology, showing that the Egyptian "being dead, yet speaketh."

Ithaca, N. Y.

LADIES' HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

MEETING IN LANCASTER, S. C.

The Ladies' Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the A. M. E. Z. Church convened according to adjournment, in Lancaster, S. C., June 11th, at 12 o'clock m. In the absence of the president, Mrs. M. J. Jones, Mrs. I. C. Clinton, vice-president, presided. She called the house to order and Rev I C Clinton conducted the devotional exercises, assisted by Rev E Hinton. Rev I C Clinton read the fifth chapter of Ephesians. Rev Mr Hinton announced the hymn, "A charge to keep I have," which was sung with much earnestness. It was followed by a fervent prayer.

Rev I C Clinton delivered the address of welcome. He spoke of great needs, and gave a short history of the work. Rev Hinton replied in an able manner. The secretary called the roll and read the minutes of the last meeting. Mrs G W Clinton moved that the minutes be approved. Carried. The secretary read her report. Then the reports of the vice presidents that had been received in the order as they appear on the roll.

Mrs Jackson of the New York conference writes, there had been some misunderstanding as to who was vice president of that conference. The report of Mrs Hamer of the Baltimore and Philadelphia conference was read. She reports for three years: '82-3-4, $115.20; expenses for the same, $28. for '85 $39.40; expenses $6.20. The society moved that she should have credit for the amount expended. At this point it was found necessary to have an assistant secretary. Mr D W Clinton was nominated but declined in favor of Mrs J S McCain who came forward. On Motion of Mrs E J Clinton, seconded by Mrs E J Massey, Miss Laura Lomax be allowed a seat among the officers of the Lancaster Auxiliary Home and Foreign Missionary Society.

On motion of Mrs E J Clinton, seconded by Mrs Amanda Ingram, the report of Miss P D Farley, the vice president of the Virginia conference be received. On motion of Mrs E J Massey seconded by Mrs M E Massey the report of Mrs J W Hood, the vice president of C N C conference be received. She reports 28.7. On motion of Mrs E J Clinton seconded by Mrs E J Massey, the report of Mrs Annie Hall, the vice president of the East Ala conference. She reports $7.85. On motion of Mrs E J Clinton seconded by Mrs Amanda Ingram, the report of Mrs Delia Johnson, the vice president of the West Ala conference. On motion of Mrs E J Massey seconded by Miss Ella Hudson, the report of Mrs M E Scurlock the vice president of the Miss and East Tenn conference be received. On motion of Mrs E J Clinton seconded by Mrs M E Massey the report of Miss F Darby the vice president of Florida conference, she reports $18.50. On motion of Mrs E J Clinton seconded by Miss Carrie Bradley, the report of Mrs J J Clinton the vice president of the New Jersey conference be received.

No motion being now before the house, the president suggested the Revs Rice and Consuxt speak a word of encouragement to the society. The suggestion was approved of and the house was quiet to hear the gentlemen. They spoke in very high terms of the efforts being made by the Home and Foreign Missionary Societies throughout the country. They expressed their approval of the good work and their intention to organize similar societies on their fields of labor. To an inquiry of Elder Hinton, whether or not the auxiliary societies of the several conferences be governed by a general constitution. The secretary Mrs Elder C R Harris, answered no; but that every conference association is at liberty to draft its own constitution. On motion of Mrs E J Clinton a committee on constitution be appointed, the chair appointed Mrs E J Clinton, E J Massey, Amanda Ingram, M E Massey and Mrs Elder I C Clinton. On motion of Mrs E J Clinton seconded by Mrs E J Massey, the card soliciting a benefit sent by Bishop J P Thompson to the secretary, be referred to the Board of Missions. On motion of Mrs E J Clinton we do now adjourn to meet at 7 p m.

Zion Church Lancaster C H, S C, 7 p m June 11, 1885.

The minutes were read and on motion of Mrs E J Clinton adopted. Further reading of reports was had. Mrs Elder I C Clinton reported rec'd of the Lancaster auxiliary $1.45, of the Mt Zion auxiliary $2.50, of Union auxiliary of Nel $2.50|85 total $7.30 On motion of Miss Ella Hudson the report of Mrs M J Clinton the vice president of the So Ca conference was Reports and motions now being disposed of we had the pleasure for about an hour of listening to short but encouraging addresses and essays from the following ladies: Mrs E J Clinton, E J Massey, M E Massey, Misses Ella Hudson, Carrie Bradley, Laura Lomax, Cynthia Gill and Mary Massey. The last speaker of the latter was Mrs M E Hulvis, the Matron of Zion Wesley College. She in an able manner, very forcibly addressed the society. She traced the history of the Home and Foreign Missionary Society so far as it concerned her in connection with it. She had been a member five years and during that time the organization had raised $500. In conclusion, she said she had not met a people who treated her more kindly than those of Lancaster. She was proud to find them exercising so much interest in the Home and Foreign Missionary Society. In addition to the lady speakers, we had short but enthusiastic speeches from Revs G W Clinton and W G White. The whole occasion was enlivened with appropriate music by the choir. On motion of Mrs E J Massey, we adjourned to meet in Montgomery, Ala in October next.

Secretary's financial report will appear next week.

J. S. McCain, Ass't Sec'y.

THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH

BY REV E A CLINTON.

In writing upon this subject it should more properly have said "The non observance of the Sabbath for we need but to cast our eye both at home and abroad to see this holy day desecrated by all manner of sin and vice.

In this country with its thousands of eloquent and earnest ministers who almost daily deliver to the million of sinners gone, God's command to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy with the christian press sowing broad-cast over our land silent yet powerful ambassadors for good and with a population of fifty millions of souls who almost universally believe in the fatherhood of God the brotherhood of man who with but few exceptions accept the teaching of God's holy day is desecrated in many thought sacred word with all of these things, yet it is a deplorable fact that God's lessly, in others willfully, and to give a more lamentable phase of this question, the Christian church appears to be unable to remedy or counteract the evil. Now why is this the case? Is it because the ministry is powerless or is it that those whom God sent to "teach all nations" have become indifferent and unconcerned? The former I cannot believe. The latter I am unwilling to admit.

But as this holy day is not observed as God has taught us in the Scriptures there must be some reason for its non observance. It is my firm conviction that the cause of the desecration of the Sabbath arises from an erroneous conception of the makers command to keep the Sabbath day to sanctify it than from any real desire or intention to violate His divine law.

We find one class of men advocating the observance of the Sabbath simply as a day of rest from physical and mental labor and they claim that no man can constantly labor either mentally or physically and maintain a healthy condition of mind and body which he takes one days rest in seven and so we are advised by these men to remember the Sabbath day."

Now while I am willing to give the devils full credit for what they do and what they advise still I cannot agree with them in making the observance of God's Holy day, a mere problem of political economy and to measure the value of the Sabbath by statistical tables; nor can I unite with them in giving praise to our God for having so admirably conserved a plan by which man might preserve a beau- tiful equilibrium in the industrial and business world.

Not that I do not thank God for having set apart one day in seven as his own, but to look at it as being simply and purely a day of rest in order that we might repair or renew our strength for the business of another week I cannot conceive to be the correct view. Again we are told by some that we should rest every seventh day simply because on the seventh day God rested from his labor and therefore in order to follow His illustrious example we should perform no manual or mental labor on that day.

I believe that God in His wisdom set apart the Sabbath day for us to rest; not only rest the body from physical labor and the mind from mental exertion but for a season of thought true earnest" enquiry thought which is true rest to the soul. And right here I think we have the true cause of Sabbath desecration—a mistaken conception of the term rest as spoken of by God.

Dr. Taylor Sims says that "it is a gross and pernicious error that would make the idea of rest especially spiritual rest the same with that of indolence and passivity. It is as false as it would be in physics to confound rest with inertia. The former is the opposite of motion simply, the latter the negative and force. of strength

Rest is equilibrium a quality of forces and is repressing, renewing, strengthning and recuperative. Rest simply means resistance being arrived from re or sto. To be continued pointing out the many ways in which this holy day is desecrated.

Tuscaloosa Ala.

FROM PLYMOUTH, N. C.

Mr. Editor:

Please allow me space in the columns of your valuable paper to inform your many readers how pleasant the Mt Hebron S S picnic was spent. At 11 o'clock a m, the writer found quite a multitude of both members and visitors of the above named school, assembled at the A M E Zion church. While there we were highly entertained by quite a lengthy and pointed address by Prof J W Pope, principal Plymouth State Normal school, after which the party prepared for the pleasant stroll to "Canowe Park," where the venerable and hospitable mamas of the city had prepared such delicious nourishments that would suit the most fastidious taste. The delicacies of the picnic were so palatably arranged that each one could imagine that he was sitting at Delmonico's table. After enjoying the delicacies, they retired to the rear of the park to participate in the sports of various kinds, in which both old and young so freely indulged that their hearts longed not to see an unnirtural moment; but much to their regret it soon arrived by the inclemency of the weather, and a hasty recreat to the city was necessary to escape the dangers of a threatning cloud.

A programme for the occasion having been prepared, the party met at the church at 8 o'clock to rehearse. Open with instrumental and vocal music by the S S choir. Prayer by Prof. J W Pope. The superintendent began the exercises by a few spicy remarks and read the following programme: Origin of Methodism: Messrs J W McDonald, H M Wheelock and Miss M E Lynor. Origin of the S S: S L Moore and Miss T V Spruill. Morals: Misses Sarah F Fagan, Susan Felton and Hannah Dudley. Temperance: Messrs W O Wynn, M W Norman and Miss Marina James. Dying thoughts: Mrs Louisa Garrett and Mrs W T McClary. Music by the choir after each subject. There being two prizes offered—one to either sex that produced the most weighty points on either subject, the superintendent appointed the following as judges to decide: Messrs Samuel Wiggins, Prof J W Pope and C M Norman of Plymouth N C, Miss Alice E Ray and Joseph Pitman of Jamesville N C, and Miss Emma Jane Timberlake of Boston. Each one displayed such excellent oratorical qualities and points, that both the audience and judges remained mute for a considerable while and it was difficult to decide as to whom the prize belonged. While deciding we were entertained by Miss Emma Jane Timberlake. Prof J W Pope closed the exercises by making a few remarks upon "Dying thoughts" and the progress of the school, in which he said he had seen more religious advancement in this school than any in the town, though he seldom visited it. After which the decision was announce in favor of H M Wheelock and Miss T V Spruill. Every one being well pleased, the prizes were presented to them the following Sabbath morning. Many visitors were present from different schools of this and adjacent towns. They were so well pleased with both the picnic and programme, they bid us God speed in the good work of the Sunday school.

Yours in the work,
Thos. F. Bembry.

FROM SMITHVILLE N. C.

Mr Editor:

Please allow me space in your paper for Children's Day. The old town of Smithville was alive it seem to give new life to young and old. In the morning a sermon was preached to the children, at half past one o'clock the children exercises commenced which Supt. Bro. Antony Davis Bro. Moses Lee Mr Frank Gordon and others spoke encouraging words to the children. Prof. D T Williams gave quite a stirring address this show that the people of Smithville are moving for Zion.

I will mention that on Monday evening our hearts were made to beat with gratitude while Prof. D T Williams and myself were talking, he was just leaving for his home. We were surprised to see a large crowd so large that at first I supposed it to be the militia on drill until stopping at the gate singing as they entered bringing with them all the necessaries of life making us to feel they certainly entertain a feeling for our present and future wellfare for which we return our heart felt thanks.

E. J. Foster.

FROM CONCORD N. C.

Mr. Editor:

If you will allow me space in your valuable paper I will inform the many friends of Zion what we are doing here on the Rush Chapel circuit. I have been able to build a good church since conference 20x35 with a recess 4x8 I have all of the outside work done my windows in, and church seated. On the 5th Sunday in May Elder J. M. Hill of Concord preached dedicatory sermon to a large audience about 7 or 800 people; the Elder chose the 122 Psalm. Mr. Editor I can tell you he preached a most interesting sermon as you know he can, pray for Zion here, for I hope to build another church on my circuit soon.

Yours in Gospel bonds

R Harry