

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA

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FROM FAYETTEVILLE, N. C. TO SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. BY BISHOP HOOD. LETTER NO. 4. In closing my last letter, I spoke of the Dalles and other scenery on the Columbia river which I had not time then to enlarge upon. The Dalles are a kind of rapids where the water rushes down through a narrow passage at such a rapid rate that no boat can ascend, nor can a boat pass down except on very high water. This narrow passage is supposed to have on each side a perpendicular wall descending to an unknown depth, as no bottom has ever been found. Below the Dalles the river is broad and has sufficient water for large steamers. Some miles below, however, there is another rapid where the water rushes over rocks in fearful rapidity, so that it requires two boats to convey passengers from the Dalles to Portland by water, and they have to transfer passengers and freight from one to the other. The Government has spent large amounts of money in work on a canal around these rocks, but like all such Government enterprises, it hangs on, because it affords a good fat place for Government officers.

As we proceed down the Columbia river, the mountains close in until at some points a way for the track had to be made by blasting the rocks which rise perpendicular from the water's edge to the height of five hundred feet, and on a ledge of rock thus formed, the track is laid and the cars run along a perpendicular wall on one side and the river on the other. Some places over hanging rocks threaten to fall and crush the entire train. At points where the rocky wall is little further from the water, the rocks do tumble, many tons at a time, completely covering up the track so that trains cannot pass. To provide against this difficulty, at these dangerous points, the road has been moved over the water's edge, a wall of rock having been built up from the water for this purpose, and yet it is exceedingly dangerous.

A merciful Providence brought us safely through as many others have been and yet we should not wonder to hear of a dreadful catastrophe at that point at any time. The danger, however, could only be wholly removed by the expenditure of vast amounts of money. To cut away these rocks, the workmen have to let themselves down hundreds of feet by ropes from the top. In passing down this river we see columns of rock rising hundreds of feet high. One appears as if it might be as high as the Washington monument. Probably the most interesting of all the scenery on the Columbia river is what is called the "Bridal Veil," or Multnomah Falls. Here the water comes rushing over a perpendicular rock from a height of 700 feet, and in its fall it has the appearance of a white veil, hence the name, "Bridal Veil." The cars stop here 15 minutes and the passengers get out and feast their eyes upon this grand sight which if once seen will never be forgotten, and has to be seen to realize its beauty.

As we pass on the moss covered mountains of rock stand up in awful grandeur, just far enough off for their tops to be seen from the car windows. Trees of small and larger growth mingle with the insensible mountain peaks, which point up to the heavens like a multitude of the finest church steeples or the towers of ancient castles. Leaving this scene of nature's grandeur and the course of

the Columbia river, we pass through a section of lower lands into the valley of the Willamette river. Portland is situated upon the west bank of this river. The cars run into East Portland, which is quite a town on the opposite side from Portland. We cross to Portland on a ferry boat. The Willamette is comparatively narrow and might be bridged without great difficulty, but the ferry company like all such monopolies, oppose this improvement. Portland is a city of 25,000 inhabitants. It extends for a mile or more along the river, being numbered from one or 1st st. upward to 12th. The streets that cross there are named going north from Main street, they have Salmon, Taylor, Yam, Hill, Morrison, Alder, and Washington. Going south is Madison, Jefferson, Clay, Market, Mill, Montgomery, Hall, Grant, Hood and Harrison. The city is built up far above 12th, but the streets are not opened regularly. The city also extends north beyond Washington and south beyond Harrison, but not in regular order as the portion above the streets mentioned. There is quite a gradual rise from the river up to 12th street, above that it rises almost mountain high, upon which elevation houses are now being built, many of which can only be reached by streets ascending gradually by winding around the hills.

I doubt whether any city grows more fruitful than Portland. Apples, peaches, plums, cherries, prunes and quinces are all grown in great abundance. The trees are just loaded at this time. Finer plums and cherries can hardly be found anywhere. It is remarkable that, notwithstanding the snow, which is perpetual on the mountains, visible here, and notwithstanding the coldness of last winter in the East, yet we are told that last March was as pleasant as summer, and all kinds of fruit is a month earlier than usual.

Mt Hood, St Helens and the Three Sisters are all in full view of this city, though more than 50 miles away. Their snow covered sides and summits spread out in majestic grandeur before the admiring gaze of the thousands of enthusiastic Oregonians and others who are so fortunate as to enjoy this rare treat. Mt Hood stands up in majestic grandeur far above them all, his snow-capped peak like a monster pyramid towers far up into the heavens. We viewed this mountain near sundown, the overhanging heavens were clear, but there was a cloud along the horizon which hid the tops of other mountains, yet this mountain peak completely covered with snow seemed to rise a thousand feet above the clouds. The rays of the setting sun shining upon this monument of snowy whiteness gave it a grandeur of appearance which can only be surpassed by the great white throne which John saw in his apocalyptic vision.

Our church at this place has been badly handled. Excepting Bro. Lodge Smith and the present pastor, the men who have come here to preach have generally been adventurers, on the make, and have cared but little for religion. That the church has survived the ordeal through which it has passed, is evidence of its great vitality and that God has decreed that Zion shall live in this place. Our first house of worship here was on Third street, in the business part of the city. Two years ago they sold it for \$5,000 and bought a church and parsonage on the corner of 11th and Main streets, for \$4,000, leaving \$1,200

in hand. The preacher, who seems to have cared only for his own pocket, having only six members, yet charged them \$70 per month till this money was all gone. When Brother Mitchell came, he found him preaching at three p.m. and the church nearly \$800 in debt. The church is nicely built and has sufficient accommodation for any congregation we are likely to have here for some years to come. The parsonage has parlor, sitting room, bedroom, kitchen and bath room all on one floor. The system is not finished, but would make two very good rooms.

Brother Mitchell has succeeded in getting the people together, so that we have had splendid congregations on Sabbath. We continued the meetings through an entire week including two Sabbath. The meetings of the week were not large, but were quite interesting. Several came forward for prayer and two expressed a hope in Christ. Two were added to the church. Several who have been waiting to see whether the church would live or die, say they are going to join. Brother Mitchell comes back. This may seem foolish to persons who don't know how bad preachers have lived and acted out here, but when Brother Mitchell came here, confidence was gone, and they watched him for months before they took hold of him. One sister finally said as did the Sanamite woman, "I perceive that this is a man of God who comes to us to save us." He began to provide for him. We shall hope for better things hereafter. We have been entertained by nearly all the prominent colored families in the city, of all denominations. They have lavished their best upon us and urged us to come again. This is certainly a delightful country, the air is balmy and health giving. Though I have preached nine times in eight days and lectured twice, I feel fresher than when I came.

We lecture to-night on "The Negro - His capabilities and future." We leave to-morrow night by the steamer Columbia for San Francisco, where we hope to arrive on Saturday morning. We had hoped to reach there in time to open conference on the 24th, but the steamers only leave here once in five days, so that we had to leave here three days earlier or two days later than we intended. The time here could not be shortened without a sacrifice of the best interests of the church, while a longer stay is quite advantageous. Indeed we could put in a month or more here to great advantage. Our people in the East who see bishops frequently, cannot realize how greatly the visit of a bishop is appreciated here.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT CONFERENCE. The conference was called to order by the Presiding Elder at 10:30 o'clock a.m., and at his request opened with devotional exercises by Prof. Price. The 27th Psalm was read by him, and Rev. B. B. Morris led the conference in singing and prayer. The Presiding Elder in his opening address made some very appropriate remarks respecting his work in the district during the last three years, citing as evidence of the utility of the office, the fact that several missions had been firmly established and the churches generally are found in a prosperous condition, many delicate members of church administration having been assisted without the presiding elder's aid. His opening address was

well received, and if anything was needed to be added to the fact of the many sacrifices he has made to serve the district to convince the opponents of the presiding elder system, his eloquent remarks at this time certainly supplied the need.

Prof. Price was formally introduced by the Presiding Elder, and made a soul stirring and inspiring address, honoring and lauding the work of the presiding elder, laying the foundation of our beloved Zion, and urging the young to work in unison with them in perfecting the work so nobly begun. The Presiding Elder was well posted in all the interests of the connection from the path of a mission to the legislation of the General conference that we were charmed by his presence and cleared in thought and mind by his well chosen and eloquent remarks on every subject that came before the conference.

The delegates from the various churches having been received on their credentials, reported their churches in a prosperous condition. Letters were received from Rev. W. H. Abbott, pastor of New Haven church, G. H. S. Bell pastor of Hartford church, and J. E. Allen pastor of Middletown church, regretting their inability to be present. The Middletown church sent \$2 toward the support of the conference and \$5 towards the Presiding Elders salary for all of which the conference tendered them a vote of thanks. At 12 o'clock the conference adjourned till 3 p.m. during which time the members of the conference were entertained in the old fashioned Methodist way at the homes of the members of the church and congregation.

Conference reassembled promptly at 2 o'clock and the reports from the Sunday school superintendents were called for and received. Supt. A. J. Ward of Providence, reported his school in a flourishing condition having received over 70 new scholars during the past year, and that the school was a willing instrument in the hands of God through which many souls had been reclaimed from sin and had joined the church. Over \$130 had been turned into the church from the school fund, and thus the school was a great help to the church both spiritually and financially.

Supt. Mendel V. Jones of the Worcester school, reported his school as self-sustaining and in a prosperous condition, increasing in members and devotion. A young Supt. Spellman of the Cambridgeport school, reported his school in good condition but somewhat retarded in progress on account of poor school room accommodations, but still greatly encouraged with a bright prospect of improvement in that respect. Supt. C. J. Jackson of the Attleboro school, reported his school in prosperous condition self-supporting and proficien. A young Supt. Spellman of the Taunton Mission school, reported his school in an advancing condition. The school at Middletown reported by letter as being in good condition. Pastors Kingsold, Bradley, and Monzingo reported their schools in good condition. Also Rev. J. G. Smith reported his school at Waterbury as in good condition.

Objection having been made to receiving the pastors verbal report of the Sunday school, after extensive debate on the question the P. E. ruled that all new members be reported by proper persons to report the condition of the respective schools to the district conference. On motion the following committee was appointed to investigate the P. E.'s salary, Rev. B. B. Bird, Bro. Walter Booth, A. J. Ward, Bro. W. H. Abbott, G. L. Terry, Bro. Piner and G. L. Terry. After mature deliberation, the committee reported as follows: Assessment of the Boston ch. \$60, N. Haven ch. \$60, Providence 60, Hartford 60, Bridgeport 35, Worcester 35, New Bedford 20, Cambridgeport 17, Middletown 20, Waterbury 15, Derby 15, Attleboro 15, Hampden 5, Norwich 7, 8, Taunton 5, Pawtucket 5, Taunton Miss 5. Making a total of \$443 as apportioned for Presiding Elders salary. The hour of 3 o'clock having been assigned for the discussion of Sunday school work and interests, Rev. J. G. Smith introduced the subject by advancing the subject of regeneration; questioning the possibility of the child growing up into Christ without undergoing a specific and instantaneous change, and knowing beyond a doubt the time and place thereof. His doubts and fears of the perpetuity of Methodism were conclusively answered by the Rev. R. R. Morris, through his very pertinent reference to the 26th article in our book of discipline, and his insisting upon that portion that maintains that "We hold that all children by virtue of the unconditional benefits of the atonement, are members of the kingdom of God" (Art. 26, sec. 2, item 1, page 82.) The subject was further debated by Prof. Price. In a few eloquent words he sustained the doctrine of the gradual regeneration of childhood, and the possibility of them growing up into a living and saving faith in Christ without their knowing the exact time or place when they were changed from nature to grace.

The subject of Sunday schools was further debated by Rev. W. B. Bowen, who eloquently pleaded for more time and labor for the spiritual training of our children. He sustained his arguments with elaborate illustrations from the beneficial influence and results of a secular education without the conserving influence of christianity, and urged the churches to accept the recommendation of the last annual conference and devote one entire Sabbath service to the Sunday school session. Brother Walter Booth delivered a very ingenious and powerful argument against thus interfering with the customary services of the churches. He was very ably seconded by Brother Richard Grant. The discussion was pleasantly closed by Prof. Price, eloquently pleading for more time on the Sabbath for the children.

On motion the following persons were appointed Presiding Elder stewards in their respective churches: Boston, J. J. Smith, N. Haven, J. W. Ross, Providence, Walter Booth, Hartford, Samuel Jones, Bridgeport, J. H. Stevens, Cambridgeport, G. H. Terry, Middletown, R. E. Smith, Waterbury, Emma Brown, Derby, Jas. Quimby, Attleboro, S. A. Piner, Hamden, Boss Neal, Norwich, Alex. Brent, Taunton, Abbie Grier, Pawtucket, C. Brichman, Danbury, George Young.

The conference adjourned to meet to-morrow at 8 p.m. to the discussion of the educational interests of the connection, to hear an address on that subject by Prof. Price, and to partake of refreshments prepared by the good Daughters of Comfort. At 8 o'clock the conference reassembled, the minutes were read and approved with necessary corrections. The children of the Sabbath school sang and an original song entitled "Christian Exertion" was read by Mrs. Maria Allen of the Providence Sunday school, after which Prof. Price electrified the assembly with an address that for grandeur of diction, logic and

power to accomplish the end in view, could not be excelled. By his presence and eloquent speeches he has greatly aided us in our connectional work in this place. On motion it was unanimously voted that the minutes of the conference and the essay read by Mrs. Allen be published in the "Star of Zion." At the suggestion of the P. E., a collection was lifted as a donation to the "Star," and \$4 was realized, and the \$2 sent from Middletown for support of conference was added thereto and it was voted to send \$6 as a donation to the "Star." On motion of Rev. W. B. Bowen, resolutions of thanks and compliments were tendered to the Presiding Elder, Prof. Price, the pastor, officers and members of Attleboro church and the Daughters of Comfort. At 10 o'clock the conference adjourned to assemble at the refreshment table, and the feast thus inaugurated continued till about 11:30 p.m., and so ended the first colored conference in the town of Attleboro, Mass.

The following members and delegates were present: Rev. George H. Washington, P. Elder, Rev. F. K. Bird, Worcester Mass, J. G. Smith, Waterbury Conn, W. B. Bowen Cambridgeport Mass, E. G. Biddle Attleboro Mass, C. C. Ringgold Derby Ct, M. A. Bradley Norwich Conn, Joseph Murphy Taunton Mass, Moses Monzingo Pawtucket R. I., Richard Grant local preacher Providence R. I. Bro. A. E. Ward, Supt. S. S. Providence R. I., Mandel V. Jones Worcester Mass, Gilbert L. Terry Cambridgeport Mass, Spellman (acting supt) Taunton Mass, Sister C. J. Jackson Attleboro, Walter Booth Providence, R. I., Benj. Piner, Attleboro, Mass, Sister Abbie Grier, Taunton mission. GEORGE H. WASHINGTON, P. E. E. GEORGE BIDDLE, Sec'y.

FROM CLARKSVILLE TENN. Mr. Editor: We have succeeded in raising \$243 which amount was due to-day at 12 o'clock on Zion church lot. I came to this charge one year ago last March the 19th. I found the lot greatly in debt and members discouraged. A white man said he was saving money to buy our lot from us it was called. As he did not want us at first to get the lot as it was near his house, he put by the energy and labor of your humble servant, I raised the required amount. We have now only one more note to pay a year hence July 10th 1886. I must say the white citizens aided me very liberally and I was able to-day to pay the note. I tender my thanks to them. Our parsonage is paid for and we are moving on. I am satisfied God is with Zion in this city. I preach three times each Sabbath and have been doing so ever since I was sent here by our venerable beloved bishop (Thompson). Why Zion is now encouraged. We would like for our bishop to come and see us. Love to all the brethren and sisters in our beloved connection here in the U.S. and in Africa. Press on brother ministers, you make every thing yield to Jesus in Zion. May our last home be Heaven. H. W. SHAW, Pastor. B. S. Enclosed find my advertisement. More money next time.

power to accomplish the end in view, could not be excelled. By his presence and eloquent speeches he has greatly aided us in our connectional work in this place. On motion it was unanimously voted that the minutes of the conference and the essay read by Mrs. Allen be published in the "Star of Zion." At the suggestion of the P. E., a collection was lifted as a donation to the "Star," and \$4 was realized, and the \$2 sent from Middletown for support of conference was added thereto and it was voted to send \$6 as a donation to the "Star." On motion of Rev. W. B. Bowen, resolutions of thanks and compliments were tendered to the Presiding Elder, Prof. Price, the pastor, officers and members of Attleboro church and the Daughters of Comfort. At 10 o'clock the conference adjourned to assemble at the refreshment table, and the feast thus inaugurated continued till about 11:30 p.m., and so ended the first colored conference in the town of Attleboro, Mass.

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NOTICE. The Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in America will please take notice that they are to forward all general funds in their hands on the second Wednesday in each month to Rev. C. R. Hawkins, General Secretary, N. C.