

# The Star of Zion.

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### BE CONTENT WITH THY LOT.

BROTHER DANCY: Having held the "floor" recently far beyond my wont, ordinarily, I desire now simply to rise to a point of order, and I hope I may be pardoned for its length. And to save time, I will send to clerk's desk a paper which I desire to have read—not for its literary importance at all, but because it refers to a want in Zion quite as pressing, if not more so, than any I have seen discussed in your columns. I have been induced thus to detain your readers by the many solicitations I am receiving from Elders laboring on the frontier of Zion for transfers to the interior conferences and notably from brethren of the Canada and Michigan conference. Aspirations—possibly calls—for the Episcopal office—lean as it is, and to fill popular stations meet you at every point, and there are those who are too modest to refuse a D. D. in interest of our dear Zion. But if there is a clamor in any part of our borders to get to the front and spread the connection, it has not come to my ears. And yet, this is the great want of the connection. Brethren argue against Methodist history when they assure us that an increase of Bishops must of necessity bring us an increase in connectional area. Cartwright, and pioneers of his stamp in Europe and America to whom Methodism is indebted for the extension in nearly every country and direction; were not Bishops but bold, fearless, God-called, God-sent, and God-sustained preachers; and being sent, had the fortitude to preach, and the faith to wait and trust God, outside of the country in which they were born. Why, it is difficult to get many of our ministers to leave a fat appointment at all, even after they have exhausted the legal limit.

It is not so much "Bishop" we need to look after in our next general conference, as it is Preachers, Elders, and Deacons, whom God and the love of souls called to the work, rather than honors, ease and emolument.

Yours Fraternally,  
S. T. JONES.  
Pittsburgh, Pa., Aug. 17th, '87.

### ADDRESS TO THE CANADA & MICHIGAN CONFERENCE,

BY BISHOP S. T. JONES, D. D.

Members of the Canada and Michigan Conference of the A. M. E. Zion Church:

DEAR BRETHREN: The brief conference year has closed by the terms of your last adjournment, and we have again met, in order to measure the ground we have been successful in securing for the Master; the souls we have enlisted in his cause; the temperance and spiritual advancement of the entire field, and, thereby determine the actual progress we have made; for, in this work, the measure of success is ordinarily the measure of fidelity to the cause, and earnest and judicious management. There is foundation for fear that the work of the ministry in sparsely settled districts like this, fails to enlist the entire force, strength, ardency, and diligence, of those who labor in them—that it is not permitted to call out their best efforts; and, that in consequence, these fields are not cultivated to the extent necessary to produce results commensurate with their capability. The out-posts of an advancing mission sought to be maintained nearest the enemies' territory. The

glory of the conflict consists in the success with which these out-posts are maintained and the dominion extended. To do this, it is not only necessary to have good troops with which to maintain the garrison, but they must exercise the required vigilance and industry. But to succeed they must be satisfied that they are acting in the line of their calling just as efficiently, and rendering a service just as important to the success of the campaign, if not more so, than those troops that are acting in the interior of the dominion. There is reason to apprehend that as a rule those who enlist in the ministerial ranks of the army of the Lord, have their eyes on the territory already conquered, rather than that which is still within the enemy's lines—they seem to prefer to draw their swords and forth their challenge, where the lines of the foe are weakest rather than where they are strongest. Hence, while the air of the interior—the well established conferences—is made eloquent with the shouts of the brave, it is very difficult for Bishops to find many brave enough to go where real, earnest fighting is to be done—out-post conferences—and just as impossible to get real good interior fighters to stay. After they have encountered the real enemy, and sustained one or two skirmishes, (or scuffles rather), they are ready to ask for a "transfer" to some point where there is less danger, less fighting, easier work, and more money. We pray eloquently for the extension of the borders of our beloved Zion, and we are willing that it shall be done, by raw troops, by us never; our call extends to the "wilderness and solitary places," but does not take effect till after they have been made "glad" by God's pioneer corps. We never joined it. The "desert" is included in our mission; but not until it is made to "blossom as the rose"—we are ready to gather roses. Are we the legitimate successors of Paul and Barnabas, of Phillip and Peter? Do we claim affinity with Wesley, Whitfield, and these restless helpers? Do we, in any way, represent Rush, Galbreath, Johnson, Richardson, Stevens, Scott, and the host of Zion trumpeters by whose arduous labors we have a connection to-day? If we have a tithe of their heroic self-sacrifice, indomitable zeal and courage, and invincible purpose to gather souls by the tens, no less than by the fifties and hundreds—our border conferences within whose bounds hundreds and thousands of precious souls are this month without Christian organization, or pastoral care, simply because they happen from circumstances, not to live in thickly populated centres, have no fine churches, and but little means of management—will very soon rejoice in the enjoyment of organization, good houses of worship, hopeful Sabbath schools, improved domestic surroundings, and all the elements of true Christian civilization; and the interests of our Zion now lagging far behind their capabilities; in this district, in Arkansas, California, Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida, would loom up by thousands numerically and financially. We have on our itinerant roll quite a sufficient number of labor to accomplish all this and more; but, unlike Gideon's band, they cannot drink until they get a cup—many want a glass. Either the terms of the ministerial call and the obligations which it imposes must be greatly altered from what they were originally, or many are making very grave mistakes in reference to that whole matter. I feel

sure that whatever may be accomplished by this *dauntless policy of evangelism*, it never could have made Zion what she is to-day, nor is it likely to extend her borders. Let us hope that we may mark encouraging signs of the reports soon to be made, and the evidence of good cheer as to prospective result.

Pressing needs, and obligations in other parts of this Episcopal field, coupled with sickness, have prevented my visitation, which I hoped would extend to all parts of the district by the sitting of this conference. Happily the adjustment of last conference of a limited Presiding Eldership, afforded some relief of the situation, for which I feel grateful. I hope it may very largely compensate my personal observation, and thus enable me to determine what is best for the several fields of labor.

The General Conference meets in May of 1888. It becomes the duty of the present session, therefore, to decide upon the number of delegates, both clerical and lay, this conference will be entitled to, and the amount it will require to defray their expenses to and from the General Conference, and apportion the same among the members of the several charges in the district. The pastors will collect the same and forward it to the conference steward on or before the first of February 1888, to be disposed of as per Discipline.

I need scarcely remind you of your obligations to all the general interests of the church, your attention having been so repeatedly called to it; I despair of arousing an interest in any at this late day. Dull indeed must be he who needs to be told of his duty in this respect, and stoically indifferent to the well-being of Zion is the man that fails to perform it.

Grateful to God for life, health, and blessing, let us now proceed to the faithful discharge of our duties, assured that we shall only succeed as heaven guides!

### SYNOPSIS OF THE SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION OF THE CAPE FEAR DISTRICT.

BY G. W. HERRING.

The fourth session of the Cape Fear District Sabbath School Convention convened in Carver's Creek Church, West Brook, N. C., at 12 o'clock, m., August 2nd, 1887. Rev. W. J. Moore, Presiding Elder of the District, presiding. The Convention was opened with praise and prayer by Elder Moore and Rev. E. D. Jones, Rev. J. W. Davis acting as secretary, singing by the choir. Mr. L. W. Russ, being the chorister. The President appointed the various committees. The committee on credentials reported in short, and delegates were then enrolled. A good representation. A permanent organization was effected by electing G. W. Herring Secretary, Rev. J. W. Davis Compiler of minutes, and Mr. J. M. Lloyd Stenographer. The choir was allowed a seat in the Convention. The address of Welcome was then delivered, by E. Morton, in a pleasing and graceful manner. We were truly made welcome to the Pastor's garden containing many uncommon flowers, the touch-me-nots are receiving a very high culture, young and tender, be careful to leave my garden as you found it, said he. Rev. J. W. Davis, ably responded in behalf of the Convention, "after looking into Rev. Morton's garden," said elder Davis, "I

concluded to build three tabernacles, one for the President, and two for me." His response was a credit to the Convention. At times the audience would be roaring with laughter at others with tears and spellbound. Music, "Shall we meet beyond the river?" The President stated that he had a severe route to travel in getting here but was assured that he was amply repaid by hearing the welcome address, the music and able response of Elder Davis. After some preliminary transactions the Convention adjourned. "Praise God" ac. was sung by the Convention.

THE EVENING SESSION.

The Convention re-assembled at 8 o'clock to hear the annual sermon. The desk was gracefully filled by the Rev. R. A. Morrissey, assisted by Rev. E. D. Jones, who lined the hymn, "Why should we boast of dying grace" &c. A fervent prayer by Rev. M. S. McKay. Hymn 204, was lined by Rev. Morrissey, and sung. Elder W. J. Moore then rose and said, "I live for something each day of my life, hence it is my greatest pleasure to introduce to you one of Zion's brightest stars, Rev. R. A. Morrissey of Snow Hill Circuit, who preached a stirring sermon from Ex. 3rd, chap. and 3rd, verse; theme, The church still lives. Prayer, by Elder Jones. Collection raised, amounting to \$169. Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock a. m. "Praise God" &c. was sung. Benediction by Elder W. J. Moore.

SECOND DAYS SESSION—MORNING.

The Convention met at 9 o'clock, opened by reading the 63rd Psalm by the President and the lining of 107th hymn—"Delightful work young souls await" &c. The house was packed to its utmost capacity during the day. Roll called, minutes read, and stood approved. Programme; Address on the History of the Sunday School, by Rev. R. A. Morrissey. It made a lasting impression. On the duty of parents, by Rev. E. D. Jones, in an eloquent manner. Pastor in the Sunday School, by Rev. E. A. Carroll, with much credit and riveted attention. Question Box, Music, and several questions were asked. An address on Temperance, by Rev. W. H. Graham, made a splendid impression. The peculiar work of the Sunday School, by Rev. I. B. Williams and Mr. G. W. Johnson. Music. Adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock p. m.

EVENING.

Service of praise and prayer; calling of the roll, and reading of the minutes, an address. The chorusing of the young, by Revs. S. H. McKoy and J. W. Davis. Elder Davis never fails, he pleased, enthused and encouraged. He sustained his reputation as a deep and a logical thinker and a forcible speaker. We are proud of the little Elder. My report is not a fair one of his excellence. On The Curiosity Box of the Bible, several questions were asked, and received prompt answers. The following, at this junction read very interesting essays, Miss S. J. McFall on Convocation, Miss M. P. Simpson, and Miss V. J. Robison, on Politeness. Rev. E. D. Jones—G. W. Herring, Temperance; Rev. S. H. McKoy, Miss Anjou Bussel, and others, on motion of Elder J. W. Davis, that Prof. G. W. Herring furnish the STAR a synopsis and \$1.50 be sent to the STAR for its publication.

On motion of Elder Davis, the Secretary be paid \$1.00, the Stenographer 50 cents, Sexton 50 cents. On motion of Mr. L. W. Russ, a vote of

thanks was tendered Elder W. J. Moore, for his able and impartial manner of presiding over the deliberation of the Convention. On motion of Rev. R. A. Morrissey, we return a vote of thanks to the good people, the minister, Trustees and members of Carver's Creek Church for their hospitality and the manner in which they have sustained the Convention. Adjourned sine die.

Mr. Editor—I fear my epitome will do the Convention an injustice. It was a very interesting Convention from the beginning to the end, and I will effect much good throughout the District, we are going to make it what it should be. Unobscured please find \$1.50.

### OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

BY REV. J. W. SMITH.

A very able white divine who has his eye upon the colored race said to me last week that the A. M. E. Zion connection has as able preachers as any connection in the land. Of course it has. The Ecumenical and Centennial conferences are proofs of this assertion. Naine a minister in any denomination that can surpass Prof. J. C. Price, D. D., in oratory. At both of these memorable conferences where were gathered from all parts of the land the brainiest clergymen of to-day, they called him the orator of the occasion. Wherever he goes now and speaks—let the subject be religion, temperance or politics—white and colored alike shower upon him the same high honors. Rev. J. H. A. Johnson, one of the ablest men in Bethel, told me a week ago that in his travels and lectures he always refers to Prof. Price as one of the finest orators in the land.

Then where is the minister that can thrill an audience like Bishop Moore, D. D.? It is true his age prevents him from preaching as effectively now as he could twenty years ago, but let "the old man eloquent" get before a cultured and appreciative audience and, like an old lion coming up from Jordan in the time of a freshet, he will make it extremely warm for the minister who precedes or follows him. Four years ago, the late Henry Ward Beecher said that he knew more Secular history than the Bishop but that the Bishop knew more Religious history than him.

Name a minister that can excel Bishop Jones, D. D., as a debater. Why when he was simply an elder, years ago, he wiped up two or three bishops of the sister church, on the question of Union and made them acknowledge that our episcopacy was as legal as any on earth. His keen, cutting, logical powers as a debater are well known in religious circles, and when he is warm on a subject, he is a fearful opponent to meet. Men dread him. They better had. The Bishop never spoils for a debate, but when one forces him to take the floor he will tumble them with frozen facts.

The *News and Courier*, the leading democratic paper of South Carolina, in its issue of the 15th, inst. after speaking in high terms of the speech of Rev. G. W. Clinton, concludes by saying he is one the best educated colored men in the State, and that he is a conservative man, and numbers many white people there among his friends.

These are but few of the examples of our able men that I name now, to prove the assertion of our white divine. We have as much right as the other white and colored connections to brag on our men.

Rev. J. H. Anderson, of Washington, has been granted by his church a three week's vacation. At present he is in New England dividing his time fighting mosquitos, visiting friends and preaching "the everlasting gospel."

Last Sunday night while I was preaching the text: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, etc." the gas in my church went suddenly out, and those people who thought "the great day of his wrath had come" made a stampede for the door. The cause was—water in the gas. The gas is O. K. now and "people that sat in darkness have seen a great light."

The papers say that a colored girl, twelve years old, at Barnwell, S. C., has been found guilty of murdering an infant which had been given her to nurse and the court sentenced her to be hung on the third Friday in September. We hope that no such judgment will ever be carried into execution. It would be a lasting disgrace to that State. It is bad enough to hang crazy women; let the line be drawn at irresponsible children. If such judgment of the court was carried into execution, I believe the Almighty would allow another earthquake to go ploughing through that State.

### STANDING REPORT.

The New Berne District Conference will convene in Beaufort, on the 19, 20 and 21 of October at 10 o'clock, a. m. Pastors will collect \$1.50 from each circuit and station to fray expenses of the conference and send delegates to the annual conference. Local preachers are members and will please be present. One delegate from each circuit and station to represent their wishes and one delegate from each Sunday School on a circuit or a station. All of the Pastors who have not collected and sent in their Children's Day money, will do well to do so before the District Conference convenes. I have a note of the Brethren who have sent in, and those who have not.

A. M. ALLISON P. E.  
Aug. 20 '87.

### NOTICE!

The Pastors, Superintendents, and Delegates of Sabbath Schools of the Philadelphia & Baltimore conference district, you are hereby notified that the annual Sunday School Convention of said district, will convene in the A. M. E. Zion church, Carlisle, Penn., Rev. J. E. Price pastor, on Wednesday October 19th, 1887, at 2 o'clock p. m. Those having addresses and essays prepared to deliver at the convention will please send their names and the subject to the secretary on or before the first day of September, so as to be entered on the record. Delegates and Pastors from other conference districts are cordially invited. Each school is requested to send two dollars to assist in defraying the expenses of the convention.

B. F. GRANT, Rev. H. M. Ross  
Secretary, District President.  
No. 927 20th st., Washington, D. C.

### NOTICE!

The Semi-Annual Session of the Board of Bishops will convene in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Wednesday, September 28th, 1887, at 12 m.

By order of the chairman,  
S. T. JONES, D. D.,  
C. R. HARRIS, Secretary.