

# The Star of Zion

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

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### ALONE WITH THEE.

Alone with Thee, my God, my King,  
In worship and in work alone;  
A servant's sacrifice I bring,  
And humbly bow before Thy throne.

Alone with Thee, my Spirit guide,  
Thy gracious comfort now impart;  
With me in storm and calm abide,  
Direct my steps and cheer my heart.

Alone with Thee, my Saviour, friend,  
My spirit knows no dread nor fear;  
Alone with Thee until life's end,  
I then shall joy to feel Thee near.

Let Death his sting and terror cease,  
And to the grave my flesh consign;  
With Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
A lonely hour shall ne'er be mine.

Detroit, Mich. Dr. Jas. H. Potts.

### BRIEFS.

Mr Gladstone has made another speech that is said to have been unusually interesting even for him

Strenuous efforts are being made by the Republicans in Congress to secure the early admission of Idaho and Wyoming.

Assistant Postmaster-General Clarkson, it is said, contemplates resigning his position to take charge of a daily newspaper in Chicago.

Miss Carrie Burham Kilgore of Philadelphia, has been admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. This is the fourth of her sex.

Senator Blair has introduced bills appropriating \$50,000 each for statues of Major-General John H. Starks at Manchester, N. H., and Edwin M. Stanton at Washington.

The business men of Baltimore want ballot reform. They are moving in the matter and have prepared a bill for reform which they will present to the Maryland Legislature.

U. S. Minister Ryan reports that he does not believe there is a city in America in which life and property are more secure, day or night, than in the city of Mexico.

Sir Francis de Winton says that in spite of the scores of explorers who have been traversing Africa in all directions, since Livingston began his travels, the larger portion of the many millions of natives have never seen a white man.

The claims of various cities to the site of the Columbus World's Fair were presented before the congressional committee at Washington, during last week. Mayor Grant headed the New York delegation, and Chauncey M. Depew was one of its speakers.

Many Episcopals are very much worked up over the fact that Phillips Brooks is to take part in the installation of Lyman Abbot as pastor of Plymouth Church. They fear that in some way or other the doctrine of the apostolic succession will get lost.

Will the gentleman from Alabama kindly brush the cobwebs off his rhetoric and inform us without unnecessary padding, what is the real cause of all this squabbling? Is it the black man's color that agitates the Senator, or is it his condition?

Some excitement is being caused by the continued negro exodus from North Carolina. Congressman H. P. Cheatham, the colored Representative from the Second District, has left Washington to stump against the movement. His district is said to have already lost several thousand votes.

The Terror's Understudy—The Terror—You're sister's beau, ain't you?

The Beau (dude persuasion)—Why, yes. Do you like me?

You bet I do. When papa gets onto you, you'll take some of his attention from me. It will be real jolly to see him playing steady with you in the woods.

Always keep an enemy in hand—a brisk, hearty, active enemy. The having one is proof that you are somebody. Wispy-waspy, empty worthless people never have enemies. Men who never move never run against anything; and when a man is thoroughly dead and utterly buried, nothing ever runs against him. To be run against is proof of existence and position; run against something is proof of motion.

The Afro-American League met in national convention at Chicago, last week, and elected W. A. Pledger, of Georgia, President, and Pelham, of Missouri, and H. C. Smith, of Ohio, Secretaries.

### SELECTIONS. GLADSTONE AS AN ORATOR.

Appropos to the subject of the preceding note, take the case of the Grand Old Man. He has just celebrated his eightieth birthday. Yet a fortnight before he made one of the greatest of a great series of great speeches. He spoke for an hour and a half in a clear, and ringing voice, with apparently exhaustless energy. One of our London exchanges says of it: "When he rose to his full height in a passion of indignation, his back was as straight as a guardman's, his face instinct with juvenile eagerness when he bent to his audience. In familiar talk his action was as easy and grace ful as a lively boy's. England has had many miracles of genius, but never in all her previous history could she produce an octogenarian orator like this."—N. Y. Christian Advocate.

### THE SOUL'S REST.

The soul of man is too large to rest until it rests in God. It has capacity for too wide an outlook to be shut in by just what the eye can see and the ear hear and the hands handle. A quaint old writer compares the hunger of the soul for God to hunger of the stomach for food. A hungry man must be fed with that which is suited to the needs of hunger or the craving will not be satisfied. Give the man music, give him company, give him pictures, give him houses, give him honors, there will yet be no satisfaction. But set before him good wholesome food and let him eat, and the craving he felt will soon be appeased. So it is with the soul. The soul gets hungry and it goes out in sallies after its proper food. Give to the man who is soul hungry the amplest profits from trade and the largest credit at the banks, and luxuries and pleasures of every sort and kind, still he is unsatisfied with them, for will the soul be hungry still. But give to this same man God; set God before his hungry soul, and let him feed on Him as on the Bread of Life, and there will be satisfaction. This is the way we are made, and it must be so—rest only on God.—Dr. F. A. Noble.

### TEMPTATION.

Temptation is a necessity, and not only a necessity but a benefaction. If you were to construct a man you would have to put into him a certain percentage of temptation that he might become fully developed.

We have too low an estimate of human nature when we imagine that it will respond only to self-interest. It is rather that we have not faith enough in the truth, and have not learned the secret of inspiring noble motives and pure desires.

Simply weed a man so that he shall produce nothing evil, but never plant him, so that he shall produce something good, and what is he worth? It is the cultivation, the Desert of Sahara is the most cultivated spot on the globe.—Life Thought.

Some excitement is being caused by the continued Negro exodus from North Carolina. Congressman H. P. Cheatham, the colored Representative from the Second District, has left Washington to stump against the movement. His district is said to have already lost several thousand votes.—Ex.

### JOKING HIS INFLUENCE AWAY.

PASTORS MAY NEUTRALIZE ALL THESE EFFORTS TO DO GOOD IN MANY WAYS. Disappointed alms or impure conversions or want of reliability in a preacher will render his exhortation and prayers of none effect. Few pastors are in danger of falling into these snare; but one may destroy his influence by behavior which is not so seriously offensive and obviously wrong. Bishop DUMCAN, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, said at one of his conferences recently: "I have a letter saying, 'We must have another pastor; our present pastor has laughed and joked away his influence among us.' Surely there is a time to laugh, and no sensible man will complain of a preacher because he frequently indulges in a hearty laugh; but when a pastor displays a volatile and frivolous spirit he may be popular with triflers, but cannot make effective progress in leading sinners to Christ, comforting those that mourn, and building up the waste places of Zion."—Christian Advocate.

### THE ABSTAINER'S CREED.

I believe that the Demon of Strong Drink is the gigantic foe of God and man; that it ruins man alike for happiness on earth and blessedness in heaven; and that two thirds of all the pauperism, crime, and woe of earth may be traced to him as his progeny; that he was conceived of Satan, born of the depraved appetites of men and and inflicts only suffering upon his victims; that under his rule reason is crucified, love dies, and conscience is buried; that man descends into a hell even upon earth, and has no resurrection for his manhood nor redemption for his enslaved soul but in the power of God; that no drunkard can enter into the kingdom of God or abide in His presence who shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the saving and keeping power of the Holy Ghost; that the whole catholic church should unite and overthrow this awful traffic in strong drink, and deliver humanity from the curse of the strong-drink; that the only salvation for humanity is in uncompromising total abstinence for the individual, progressive prohibition for the community, and, above all, the embrace of the Gospel of Christ who alone can redeem body and soul from the slavery of sin and thrill us with the power of life everlasting!—THE REV. A. THUR T. PIERSON, D. D.

### BRILLIANT JOURNALS PAY TRIBUTE TO BRILLIANT SONS OF BRILLIANT MEN.

We reproduce the following tributes paid by the Methodist Christian Advocate and New York Tribune respectively, the former to John E. Bowen, son of the great Editor of the Independent; and Walker Blaine, son of the great Statesman James G. Blaine. They both died young, but each had accomplished a great work and had risen to high places of distinction and preferment. Their lives show conclusively that young men can make themselves eminent by stud, industry and perseverance.

### JOHN E. BOWEN, PH. D.

"We tender our sincere sympathy to The 'Independent,' its proprietor, and editors, in their great loss in the death of the office editor, John E. Bowen, Ph. D. Mr. C. Bowen had seven sons, all men of ability and character. Perhaps none of them who survive would think us invidious should we represent the deceased, who was the fifth son, as the finest of them all. He was scholarly, devoted to his profession, honest to a degree seldom surpassed, with an admirably balanced mind. He died within two days of the date fixed for his marriage to a young lady of Brooklyn, who was with him in his sickness and at the last. It is one of the instances that gives color to the line: "Death loves a shining mark."—N. Y. Methodist Christian Advocate."

### WALKER BLAINE.

The sudden death of Mr. Walker Blaine removes from public life a young man of marked talents and unusual promise. Raised at an early age to a conspicuous and important post under the Government, he had discharged its duties with rare industry and with entire acceptability, and a career of still greater activity and influence seemed to lie before him. The Secretary of State and his family will have the sympathy of the whole country in the bitter affliction that has befallen them.

Mr. Blaine was a graduate of Yale College, and a member of the University Club in this city, where he had many acquaintances. He was a conspicuous figure in Washington official and social circles for many years. In outward appearance he bore a strong resemblance to his distinguished father. He had the large and expressive eye, the prominent nose, firm chin and determined outline of the mouth which are the striking features in the Secretary's face.

In his manner, too, he had a great deal of the father—affable, polite, patient, a good talker and a still better listener. He had a large circle of

devoted friends, attracted to him by all the qualities which go toward making a young man popular and respected. Had he lived he would have made his mark, and fulfilled in a high degree the sanguine expectations entertained by those who knew him best.—N. Y. Tribune.

### THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS.

He is below himself who is not above an injury.—[Quarles.]

No one can lay himself under obligation to do a wrong thing.

Life is too short to be spent in minding other people's business.

To be without friends is to find the world a wilderness.—[Lord Bacon.]

In the race of life it doesn't take poverty very long to overtake lazy naves.

Revenge is only the pleasure of a little, weak and narrow mind.—[Juvenal.]

Large charity doth never soil, but only witen, soft white hands.—Lowell.

Understand that every man is worth just so much as the things are worth about which he busies himself. Receive (wealth or prosperity) without arrogance; and be ready to let it go.—[M. Aurelius Antonius.]

Selfishness is that detestable vice which no one will forgive in others, and no one is without himself.—Becher.

Truth is stronger than error, righteousness is stronger than evil, life is stronger than death.—[Phillips Brooks.]

No beginnings of things, however small, says Plutarch, are to be neglected because continuance makes them great.

Benefits oblige, and obligation is irradical, and unrequited obligation perpetual thralldom which is hateful.—[Hobbes.]

Each day we used to take a me forward step, till we gain power to study nobler things.—Sophocles.

Be moderate in your pleasures, that your relief for them may continue. Always to indulge our appetites is to extinguish them.

He who is false to the present duty breaks a thread in the loom and will find the flaw when he has forgotten its cause.—[Henry Ward Beecher.]

Many a flower is crushed beneath the feet of the wayfarer. Nature, rich and inexhaustible, replaces them with usury. Imitate nature.—[Carmen Sylvia.]

Whoever looks for a friend without imperfections will never find what he seeks. We love ourselves with all our faults, and we ought to love our friends in like manner.

If you were willing to be as pleasant and as anxious to please in your home as you are in the company of your neighbors you would have the happiest home in the world.

### EPISCOPAL ADDRESS OF RT. REV. S. T. JONES, D. D., TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.

Brethren of the South Carolina Conference.

I congratulate you on our assembling in this, the Metropolitan city of the Palmetto State. I hope I meet you one and all in the enjoyment of health and fine spirits, encouraged by a review of the labors of the past year and buoyant with hope for the future, in the line of your calling. It gives me great pleasure to be able to enter upon the duties of presiding officer of your body once more, after the afflictive dispensation of Providence, through which I have passed since our last meeting. Though feeble, I give thanks to the God and Father of all mercies that he still hides my life above, and gives me strength to perform, though in a degree far more limited than I could desire, the duties of my calling. We are all under great obligation to Almighty God for the health and strength which permit us to meet here; and I hope you all feel as I do, grateful for his loving care and preservation. I trust our reports will indicate that we have faithfully performed our duty and that God has blessed our labors.

I regret that I have not been able to visit the work more thoroughly, and inform myself as to its wants by personal observation. It was a sad disappointment to me that I was not permitted the pleasure of dedicating the half dozen or more new edifices which your industry had prepared for me last spring and summer; but a threatening malady in May while holding the Phila., and Baltimore conference made it necessary for me to abandon my trip South and seek the cooler climate in the East. I hope to be able to attend to whatever remains to be done in this particular, during the present fall and winter. It gives me pleasure to inform you that the other portion of the episcopal district is not only holding its own, but is hopefully increasing in new church edifices; in general fund, and in intelligence and the successful management of church work. Four new churches have been reared in the Allegheny conference, three in the Philadelphia & Baltimore conference; one of these a magnificent metropolitan church in Washington, D. C., which will be dedicated on the first or second Sabbath in next month, with the most elevated steeple. I have ever seen on any colored church. And I believe the South Carolina conference has erected eight or ten within her bounds, within little more than a year; thus adding at least fifteen new and important church buildings to the Episcopal district in that brief period.

This improvement in all departments, during the forced absence of the Bishop, through illness, save to a very limited extent, is all the more creditable to the presiding elders and pastors and emphasizes the possibility of progress without incessant, protracting, and enervating episcopal travel; which saves to the general fund a large amount of needless travelling expenses to swell the pro rata of our connectional interests, and furnishes time to the bishops to contribute to our limited sum of church literature and other important interests.

The last semi-annual meeting of your Bishops in Louisville, Ky., in September last, was not only an episcopal love feast, but was entertained with such manifestations of appreciation on the part of the people, as has no parallel in the history of that meeting since its inauguration; indeed all our gatherings since March last, whether mission board, committee on Book Concern or for any purpose have been unusually cordial and harmonious; and as a result prosperity attended our efforts nearly everywhere.

The affairs of the Book Concern which in the course of their adjustment created no little anxiety have been so amicably settled as to leave no sting of censure or discontent, with out hurt or harm to the church or any individual member thereof. It proceeds for the present under the management of the committee created by the general conference with a clerk as custodian, with improved apartments, enlarged and well assorted stock and brilliant hopes of compensating results.

The Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society which has already done a commendable work at home and abroad, and is destined to become a potent financial force in the furtherance of our connectional interests, has carefully readjusted its affairs and thereby widened its field of operation. It is now made the duty of Vice Presidents to visit their districts and in co-operation with the pastors to organize Mite Societies, auxiliary to the parent society, and the imperative duty of pastors to give presidents all needed co-operation, thus bringing the whole female departments of the church in active and healthful co-operation, with their sisters through the year, instead of leaving the entire work to the pastors during the year and to the conferences and the congregations where they are held once a year.

Our institutions of learning as appears from reports is proceeding hopefully. I am glad to see that the Children's Day contributions have been encouragingly increased during the current year. I trust that all present who have not done their whole duty in its interest will fulfil their obligations before we separate.

I desire to call special attention to the obligations imposed upon each pastor by the general conference in reference to African mission day which seems to have been overlooked. One collection is ordered to be taken in each church and Sunday school on a Sabbath in September, of which due notice must be given and the proceeds of said collection must be sent to the secretary of the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, Mrs. Maria E. Harris, on or before the first Monday in October following, to be appropriated to the pay of female teachers of the A. M. E. Zion mission work in Africa. The object is to raise one or more dollars from each church and Sunday school to sustain that important interest. The membership of the church and, especially the children will be glad to respond to this call, if pastors will give them the chance and thus hold a light, however dim, to guide souls to Christ in that far off and benighted land. Let no one stand in the way of this Christian effort.

I omitted to remind you while calling your attention to the adjustment of the affairs of the Book Concern, that it was ordered that all outstanding accounts due the Concern, except accounts of hymnals and recently ordered disciplines, be collected and paid forthwith, and forwarded to Rev. Dr. Jacob Thomas, late agent for services rendered. It is expected therefore that all such accounts due by members of this body will be settled and paid during this session.

I hope your commendable record as to general fund fund so far from suffering any reversal may give evidence of steady and cheering improvement to the end that at no distant day the accumulation of back salaries will cease, and that they may be wiped out, and every member dependent on the fund shall written their receipt in full for all demands.

And now with grateful hearts to Him whose servants we are. Let us proceed as best we may in the discharge of the duties of the hour; and with a fixed purpose to devote our life to God's cause. May peace and harmony prevail.

### SUPPLEMENTARY ADDRESS.

It would seem fitting and proper, in view of the fact that we are so little known, and so shamefully misrepresented in this portion of the State that a brief account of the origin of the Church here represented should supplement this address. I do not charge our white fellow citizens with misrepresenting us in our moral and religious efforts, for they seek to know very little about our people in these or other commendable respects; but glaringly take greater interest in giving publicity to our discredit, than otherwise. Therefore they familiarize themselves with the vices of our worst characters, rather than the virtues of our better element. But the colored people, as anomalous as it may seem, appear to take pleasure in misrepresenting us even in relation to our best endeavors. True to the old plantation sentiments that master John's Negroes were the best clothed, best fed, the sleekest and were really the superior stock; and that those of every other plantation were merely Negro shams. This vaunted feeling of superiority finds its false foolish and damaging echo in nearly all colored organizations, religious and secular, and accounts for the segregation and discord which unfortunately exists among us; instead of union and harmony which should cement us in a common interest in all commendable enterprises, regardless of creed section or denominational distinctions. It is not so much the fault, as it is the misfortune of our people, that these harmonious, fraternal and mutually helpful conditions do not exist among us to a greater extent; but the fact that they do not and have not here in South Carolina, is the excuse for this brief explanation. The church represented in this conference commenced its separate existence as a colored Methodist society in New York in 1796.

Its organizers and leaders had been and were up to that time, members of John Street Methodist church in that city, known as the mother church of the denomination in America. They organized the Zion and Albany societies in New York; and continued their relation to the parent church through white elders until 1820, when they finally withdrew in connection with other societies in Philadelphia and elsewhere. They organized a separate and independent connection of colored Methodists; so that now it is in its 94th year as a church and 69th year as a connection. The late, distinguished Joshua R. Soule, bishop of the M. E. Church South, then a young preacher of the M. E. church was a warm advocate of the colored connection and voluntarily served as secretary of several of its early annual conferences.

We have had twenty two episcopal officers, all were colored—eight of whom were Northern men and fourteen Southern. Our second bishop was the most energetic of the older ones, was a Charlestonian. I have no doubt but that his satisfied spirit hovers over this assemblage invisibly, but not less heartily congratulating himself and us on an event of which he never dreamed, the progress of an annual conference of the church which he blessed with twenty four years of successful episcopal labor, held in the city of his nativity; illumine not only the golden rays of the same sun which started his earliest vision over a century gone by, but also by the genial rays of the bright sun of freedom for all.

We now have seven bishops, twenty three annual conferences, over two thousand travelling preachers and three hundred and twenty five thousand members scattered over twenty seven states, four territories, the British dominions and West Africa. The South Carolina conference embracing the state consists of about seventy five appointments, nearly or quite two hundred churches with about fifteen thousand members under the supervision of four presiding elders, and was organized in 1866. The fact that we have not augmented our forces here does not prove that we have been remiss in our calling; since there are those whose spiritual need appeals for help outside of the large cities.

Our central institution of learning, Livingstone College, at Salisbury, N. C., is in a flourishing condition, with a largely increased number of students. Lancaster High School in your own State is in hopeful progress and the connectional schools in Tennessee and Kentucky promise well.

The central Book Concern in New York as well as the sub-book rooms in the south and southwest bids fair to remunerate our toils.

The Sunday School department at Montgomery, Ala., is making creditable advancement. The Women's Home and Foreign Mission Society has been inspired with new life and is destined to accomplish yeoman work for the Master in that line. The superintendent of African Mission writes encouragingly of the spiritual condition of his field, and speaks cheerfully of the beneficial influence of the female teachers among the natives. God is with us, and the outlook for our Zion was never more encouraging.

### ZIONS IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT FOR MOBILE.

Rev. F. A. Clinton was reappointed Presiding Elder by the last Conference of A. M. E. Z. Church to the Mobile district. He is an affable gentleman, jovial and winning, and well known as one of Zion's brightest. He was very successful in his work last year, and we welcome him and wish for him continued success.

Rev. A. English, a quiet, unassuming profound Christian gentleman, was reappointed to his district.

Rev. E. Hunter, a calm and deliberate Christian gentleman, was reappointed to his third year's pastorate at State Street Church. Rev. Hunter bravely and without ostentation with stood the imminent perilous threatenings overhanging his church at the incipency of his pastoral charge and at present, peace and harmony prevails.

Rev. Dr. A. J. Warner, the undaunted and beloved revivalist, was returned to Zion Church, making his fourth consecutive year. Rev. Warner is much beloved by his people.

Rev. H. R. Gains, a conscientious and scrupulous minister has returned for three consecutive years to the pastorate of Good Hope Church. The appointments are generally approved. It seems that the efficient Bishop C. C. Potts has brought about a reformation and Zion's interest advances.—Mobile Advocate.