The Star of Zion.

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

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LIFE'S VOLUME.

Open before my wondering eyes,
Great God, life's mystic volume lies;
I wait to see thy hand define
The fadeless record of each line.

No leaf once closed may I retrace
To add a word, or word erase;
Nor may I guess the joy or gloom
Inscribed on pages yet to come

The past in light I clearly count,
Judge their intent, tell their amount;
But hid in clouds I cannot see
The history yet awaiting me.

But knowing this, that, great or small,
My Father's hand will write it all;
I trust the future and submit
To what is past—what's writ is writ.

But hear this prayer, O Power Divine!
That lift'st each leaf, and writ'st each line,
That where my hands have left a stain
Christ's blood may make all pure again.

Where the last sentence hath its end
In mercy, Maker, Father, Friend,
Write for the sake of thy dear Son,
"Servant of Jesus Christ, well done!"

—*The Rev. Charles F. Deems, D. D.*

BRIEFS.

The Farm Mortage bill has passed in the Senate.

C. E. Silcott, the defaulting cashier of the House Sergeant-at-Arms, is in Canada.

The New York State Branch of the Federation of Labor has declared for ballot reform.

Stanley expects his new book to be ready in May. He declines all offers to lecture.

Ex-Mayor Seth Low was installed President of Columbia College, Monday of last week.

Suffering is reported among the poorer classes in Raleigh. They need both food and clothing.

The Hawaiian minister denies the report that King Kalakaua will visit this country this winter.

Lieutenant-Governor Lampson, of Ohio, has been unseated by the Democratic majority in the Senate.

The President appointed William H. Taft. of Ohio, solicitor general, to succeed the late Judge Chapman.

The Czar has declined to arbitrate between Holland and France in their dispute over the boundary lines of Guiana.

The white longshoremen of Charleston have seceded from their Protective Union because of the admission of Negroes.

The Supreme Court has decided in the North Carolina bond cases that a State cannot be sued, even by a citizen of another State.

It is not until we have passed through the furnace that we are made to know how much dross there is in our composition—Colton.

A memorial asking for the repeal of the Fifteenth Amendment has been reported favorably in the Mississippi House of Representatives.

Resolutions calling for a special non partisan Committee on Ballot Reform have been passed by both houses of the New Jersey Legislature.

Briggs: "Wonder what possessed him to jump into the river?" Braggs: "There was a woman at the bottom of it, I believe."—Terre Haute Express.

The Senate has passed the bill which proposes to refund to the several States and Territories all moneys collected under the Direct Tax act of 1861.

Extensive revivals are in progress in the Saratoga Street church, Boston, Dr. J. W. Hamilton, pastor, and in the St. John's church, Dr. L. A. Banks, pastor.

The National Convention of Builders refused to declare for the eight hour movement, and adopted a resolution favoring the payment of workmen by the hour.

The President has formally recognized the Republic of Brazil and received the credentials of Senhor H. G. de Amaral Valente, the new Minister accredited by the Provisional Government

A lively campaign is in progress in Salt Lake City The Gentiles or anti Mormons expect to win the election which takes place February 19. by 2,000 majority. The Mormons have always carried the city.

The platform just adopted as a union of the Kansas Farmers' Alliance and State Grange demands that no more National Banks be chartered, and that the securities of such institutions be taxed like Government notes.

During the last session of the county court of Knox County, Tennessee, a bill was introduced by Esquire S. R. Maples for the establishment of a house of correction. The Knoxville World pronounces it the wisest measure introduced into the court for many days.—N Y. Age.

The Philadelphia Tribune is jubilant over the recognition accorded the race in local Republican ranks by the selection of Col R. Hubert and Stephen P. Gibson for the Common Council and Christopher J. Perry and Joshua S. Williams as members of the city committee.—N Y. Age.

SELECTED.

No one can avoid thinking often and much of his dear departed kindred. They made too profound an impression upon his sensibilities when living, to be forgotten when dead That impression will last as long as life lasts.

According to the "London Christian" certain parts of the African coast are "peopled by brutalized human beings whose punishment seems to be a never ending thirst for drink." Intoxicating liquors find their way wherever other traffic goes. The fiends who hunt down the natives of Africa, burn their villages, and carry them away into slavery are condemned by the whole world, and the great powers of Europe combine to put an end to their inhuman cruelty. But those who introduce intoxicating drinks among these already degraded people and drag them still lower down are permitted to go unpunished and unhindered. The rum-trade whether in Africa or America, is not one whit better than the slave trade.—Ex

Mr. Gladstone is reported to have made some wise observations in a brief interview which he had with Dr. Talmage in London the other day. It is not an uncommon thing for the great statesman of England to speak memorable words. In common conversation as well as in his public addresses sentiments of rare beauty and value proceed from his lips. This is one of the finest we have seen: "Talk about questions of the day; there is but one question, and that is the Gospel. It can and will correct everything needing correction. All men at the head of great movements are Christian men. During the many years I was in the Cabinet I was brought into contact with sixty master minds, and all but five of them were Christians. My only hope for the world is in bringing the human mind into contact with divine revelation." There was a time when those who advocated the claims of Christianity were obscure men, while the statesmen and scholars and leaders of thought denounced it. Now the leading statesmen, scholars, thinkers, and reformers of the age believe in the Gospel, and rely on it as the chief hope of humanity.

SOLDIERS.

To most boys there is something very pleasant in the thought of being a soldier. They think much of the bright uniforms, brass buttons, swords, drums, fifes, and marching, but seldom remember the hardships, the battles and wounds, hunger and pain, which come into every brave soldier's life.

But all boys can be—soldiers of the cross, fighting against wrong, conquering giants of selfishness, pride, disobedience, and deceit. They will not have any uniforms or gay music, but, better than these, they will have the pleasant voice of an approving conscience while fighting here, and will hear the great General say, "Well done, good and faithful servent "when the fighting is over.

Here is what a writer says of a Russian soldier, and Christ's soldiers are like him in this—at least, that they are willing to give up their own selfish wishes for the good of others:

"I have seen him in heat and in cold, in hunger and in thirst, in peace and in war and I have always found in him the same desire to oblige, the same abnegation of self for the sake of the safety and the good of others These special characteristics of the Russian soldier—his self-denial, his simple and natural self sacrifice—give him peculiar powers as a warrior."

KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS

Turn and listen to the simple universal rule given by our Lord, the rule which all can understand and all can accept—Keep the Commandments. If thou wouldst enter into life, if thou wouldst know the good, you need not hurry about the world after this robot and you need not hunt up the pieces in the building mania of wrangling philosophers; you need not run to and fro and waste yourself with trouble and anxiety, in terror lest you should have missed the true receipt or taken the wrong training; you need not lose yourself in endless disputes and inquiries. No, it is all perfectly plain how it is to be done

There is no royal road peculiar to the privileged, no doubt about it which can entitle you to defer it to tomorrow. Whatever concerning the good as, if it were a curious riddle which lacked an answer If there would enter into life there is one receipt, and that is open to you and to all—Keep the Commandments The Commandments! They are points at which the will of man closes with the will of God They are the moments at which this fusion occurs

The Commandments express the very nature and character which constitute the enormous goodness of Him who is the only good, and in keeping them we come into touch with Him; we are made one with Him; they embody the temper in which communion takes place. Whenever we loyally keep a commandment then our will is God's will, and we unite the good and become one.—*Canon Scott Holland.*

UNIFYING POWER OF SPIRITUALITY.

Differences of opinion on points of creed not vital to Christian faith may exist, on the part of controversialists, in connection with genuine epiritual life. The sharp theological discussion agitating one branch of the American Church at the present time furnishes abundant proof of this. Beneath the surface hidden far from human sight, there are secret chords of holy sympathy responsive to every expression of loyalty to Jesus, the King of kings. His name, spoken in the midst of debate, causes all to bow together before Him in reverential silence; softens the asperities of the moment; establishes a sacred band between opposing forces, and draws all hearts toward each other by drawing all unto Himself. Allusion, even the most casual, to the sacrifice of Himself for sinners, comes like a breath from heaven to calm the turbulent waters. The simple mention of the Holy Spirit, the agent of conviction for sin and the believer's indwelling Comforter, immediately lifts the subject under consideration to a higher plane—to a summit of observation where noth intellect and conscience fulfill in a truer sense their proper functions

Whatever may seem harmful in these religious controversies about non essentials is more than counterbalanced by the exhibitions of this Christ like spirit. What the world needs to see is that Christ is supreme in the hearts of His followers; that their belief in the Holy Ghost is held with tenacity, and fidelness, and that nothing is so real as the transforming power of divine love in the soul Here, then, is the value of spirituality as one of the Christian evidences. We are thankful that the Church of Christ so widely retains this grace We believe that genuine divine life in believers has never been more highly appreciated by the observing world, never has had so much to do in solving difficult theological problems, and never has given so hopeful promise of the approach of that blessed time when "they all shall be one as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me."

DEFENDING HIS CONFERENCE.

FACTS ARE STUBBORN THINGS. INVENTED MATHEMATICAL SKILL CAN'T BLOT THEM OUT.

BY REV. P. A. CLINTON P. E.

I shall not attempt to reply to my friend P. E. Alstork in his subterfuges and glittering generalities on Bishop Pettey, but in the next breath lambs him over the head by saying "when the lion (Bishop Lomax) comes up he is more than a match for you." Give Dr Warner an invitation to sing "Good by Babylon" want brother Dancy to hold on to the Star &c, &c, &c. Now this is what I call preaching from Genesis to Revelation without regard to the text. "Have nothing to do with attacking the Bishops in this banner question, nor the singing of Dr. Warner, or the holding on to Editor Dancy. The question is have I made a mistake, have I set up a just claim, is Mobile District the banner District? We say yes until facts other than those furnished by our brother Alstork can be produced. Does my good brother mean to "head wink" as in the face of his own figures or not. According to his figures, not mine, the Montgomery District raised for all purposes $7,884 59, raised on General Fund $658.74. The Mobile District raised on General Fund $343 80, and for all purposes $7,850.08. This is a showing of $264 53 in favor of our District unless my friend in search for truth has discovered a new mathematical equations by which the new conference can be depreciated to suit ones convenience without destroying the value. The mathematicians of the country will await in breathless silence the hearing of his new discovery. He is not satisfied with his new discovery, but attempts to snow us under by kindly remembering us that in '87 "Little Zion went out on a pleasure trip, was therefore due $400.00." Well my good brother I will consent to this and let us see how we will come out. On your District you raised $658.60 General fund, in ours we raised $848.00, this shows $189.90 in our favor. We will of this amount lend Little Zion $150 00 bring up her $400.00, and then we are still $39 00 ahead of you. Is this what you call "beating Clinton?"

Brother Alstork would do well to remember that

"He that's convinced against his will
Is of the same opinion still."

Thanks my brother for your kind invitation in regard to Elder Tyler Elder Tyler has played the part of a champion; tips his hat, bows gracefully, accepts results, yes submits to the inevitable without a murmur, wail or sigh.

I am now after the world be "Zaccheus" up a tree, surrounded by an impregnable array of figures would presumptuously exclaim "I have been Clinton."

Enough for the disturber, now for the Conference.

Bishop Pettey is mistaken in his estimate of our membership. The four Presiding Elder Districts will show not more than 9,000 members. On the two third plan we would have to raise $8,000 00 the East Ala. with 11,000 members would have to raise $3,666.00. We raised $2,468.00 leaving us short of $531.09. East Ala. is short $1,194, which leaves her behind the West Alabama $662.1.

Facts are stubborn things, eh! brother Alstork?

We agree with brother Dancy you in your personal mention of P. E. Alstork where you say "he means to so make his conference the banner of the connection next year." To this we offer not the slightest protest. This year if you please, not last year. Friend Alstork reminds me of Leigh Hunt's beautiful allegorical vision, which runs thus, *Abou Ben Adhem*, (may his bible increase;

Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,
And saw within the moonlight in his room,
Making it rich and like a lilly all in bloom,
An angel writing in a book of gold,
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,
And to the presence in his room said "What writest thou?" The vision raised its head
And with a look made all of sweet accord
Answered 'the names of those who love the Lord'
'And is mine one?', said Adhem
'Nay not so,' replied the angel.
Adhem spoke more low,
But cheerily still, and said; 'I pray thee, then
Write me as one who loves his fellow men.'
The angel wrote and vanished. The
night is came again,
With a great awakening light,
And showed the names whom love of God had blest;
And lo, *Ben Adhem's* name led all the rest!

I ask my brother Alstork as he sits by his table in his room, when writest thou? He raises his hand, and says: "The banner Alabama A. M. E. Zion district, and is that mine?" Well Clinton, they seem, replied my friend. Then said Clinton, would you as one who strives to lead. He, Alstork broke and then retired. Several weeks passed by, and the Star came shining light, and showed the name of Dancy whose witnesses work hard. And behold, Clinton's district led all the rest.

Sympathetic Alstork G. W., weep not for me, but weep for yourself and district. Dr. Warner will sing "Baby lon" for you in the near future, and wishes me to invite the "Old Ship" to Montgomery, to dance to the music.

NOTES FROM ABINGTON, VA.

APPEALING TO THE PRIEST OF THE TENNESSEE CONFERENCE,

BY REV. G. W. HIGGINS.

Mr. Editor:

I have been watching the successive issues of the STAR for more than a month, and in every issue I see that the Zion heroes are earnestly and busily engaged fighting for the prize. My reference is to the Central North Carolina, the North Carolina and the East and West Alabama conferences. It seems that the men of these conferences are fully determined to reach the desired climax, and I must say that if they continue in the way that they are going, they will soon reach it.

They seem to have the connection and all of her interests at heart. They are straining every nerve and putting forth every effort within them for the advancement of the connection Good. May God bless the men of the above mentioned conferences with long lives.

Now, Mr. Editor, I simply spoke of the above in order to find out just what my brethren of the East Tennessee conference are going to do this year. We have been watching the columns of the STAR and have not seen as yet, any move as to what we are

Brethren of the East Tennessee, let us not run behind in this great race Let us manifest just as much concentional pride as the boys of the Central North Carolina or the braggers of the East and West Alabama conferences. Can't we do it? Haven't we the nerve and the brain? Can we not show our manhood? Let us not become affrighted at the boys of the Central North Carolina and the East and West Alabama conferences shooting off their big guns. They are right for they have plenty of brain, nerve and determination. So if we cannot shoot off the big guns; if we cannot fire off the cannon, let us get a bunch of fire crackers and stick a match to them and make a noise so as to be heard. If we can't get the banner, let us try and get what we ought of the staff. Let us run if we fail to get a bit of the pie. This will show our desire and manifest our interest. Now brethren, let's see what we can do. Lead out Presiding Elders and we will follow where'e you go. What say you? Can't we raise four hundred dollars in addition to last year on General fund? Bro Ferguson, what are you going to do with Bro Bynum and the city church in Chattanooga? and Bro Monroe at St. Elmo, also the boys in the C. S. R. N? Let us hear from you on this matter.

Bro Gudger what are you thinking of doing? Where is Bro R T Anderson with his big city church in Knoxville? Let us hear from the principal cities of this conference. Let our principal cities make a move and the smaller towns will second you. Say Brother Keetler, what are you and Bro. E. J. Carter expecting to do with the third district this year? Can we fall in and run a short distance with the other conferences? Bro White your district came out behind last year, but we will try ourselves this year to see what we can do. Rev. Williams at Bristol is moving around. As for myself I am laboring under a great many disadvantages, but I am going to do all that I can for Zion. One of the disadvantages that I am laboring under is that our connection hasn't fully been introduced here as the noble and honorable A. M. E. Zion connection. It seems that our church here has been acting as an old maiding has on a lot of wild duck eggs, and thinks she should have hatched the hawk, as soon as the eggs were hatched scattered them around. Our church law hasn't been carried out. My people seem to be wholly unacquainted with it. If one of our disciplines has been read and explained to the members of their church here before by one of our ministers, they must have put it in fire and after it had burned into ashes they gathered up the ashes, bundled them in a bag and tied them round the neck of a scape goat and let him go. Nevertheless, I am still in hopes of being assisted by my dear companion, Mrs. H. A. Higgins, who is staying right by me in the work, being followed by a few true Zion sisters, namely, Sister Susan Laws, who recently gave an entertainment for our benefit and raised $3. Also Sister Angeline Black, Emma Brody and a few others. Mrs Higgins is moving off nicely with the Sunday School. She had four new pupils last Sunday. We are doing all we can for the STAR.

Now Mr. Editor, I shall not say any more just now. We hope through the help of God to do much for Zion. Brethren sing out.

Abingdon, Va.

TOBACCO—ITS EFFECTS, NATURE AND PROPERTIES.

BY REV. DR E. J. MILLER.

Medical writers, without an exception, describe tobacco as a poison. It was its poison nature to a substance called nicotia, which is extracted from it in the form of a liquid by chemical process Nicotia is capable of producing death sooner or later than any other poison except prussic acid. result is from two to five minutes

One drop of it killed a rabbit in three minutes and a half. The sixty second part of a grain produced in several individuals who tried the experiment; burning of the mouth throat and stomach in two persons The sixteenth part of a grain brought on spasms, and the effects were felt for three days. Dogs to whom tobacco is freely administered, die in spasms and their blood is found after death not to coagulate. The same condition of blood exists after death as from other poisons enlightening On the other hand, healthy blood always coagulates on cooling. When tobacco is taken into the mouth the nicotia is absorbed by the lining membrane and carried into the blood. There it circulates throughout the body and comes in direct contact with with the brain and every other organ. In this way it produces in persons, not accustomed to it, nausea vomiting, prostration and faintness.

When tobacco is smoked in the cigar or pipe, the poisonous principle enters the smoke and is carried into the blood in the same manner by being absorbed in the mouth and lungs. Birds and frogs confined in tobacco smoke are killed. By it every person who neglects the smoke of a cigar or pipe must have the blood in his veins more or less impregnated with the poison nicotia. Tobacco is absorbed in like manner by the skin. If a cigar be unravelled and moistened and then applied over the stomach of a child it will soon being on sickness and vomiting, and may endanger life. Children have been killed by its application to the head in diseases of the scalp and also by injecting the infusion into the bowels. In short, tobacco in all forms is regarded by physicians as too dangerous for common use as medicine, and is employed only in lockjaw and a few other extreme disorders. But why need we argue against the propriety or morality of the vendetta. Do not its victims themselves almost invariably condemn it and wish that they had never become its slaves, and that they had strength to break their chains. The father who should train his children to chew or smoke would be considered a monster and yet every parent who indulges in tobacco is guilty of that sin. Let his preach as he may his example is infinitely more influential than his precept, as of the teaching Christian, or the children in the Gospel, who put into training, [illegible]

or stepping from a saloon, puffing his cigar. What respect has such an individual for that cardinal law of Christianity which requires him to do nothing that shall cause a brother to stumble.

Let the N Y conference take the admonish of Bishop J. W. Hood, on tobacco. I also favor Bishop Hood's instructions upon the local preachers being required to attend the district conference should examine every applicant for admission into the annual conference on trial. I also favor Rev. J. S. Caldwell's resolution, a limit for which candidates should be examined.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATING OUR GIRLS.

MISS SPEARIE ADAMS.

Mr. Editor:—Will you allow me to say something in our paper on this subject? All girls should be thoroughly accomplished and to this end they must be educated. Life's duties will never be performed without education. Girls have many responsibilities and they need to be trained in order to be fitted to meet these responsibilities. Education makes the faculties alive, active, energetic. Our girls need mental force and energy. Without education our girls will be dumpy dolts and absolutely useless. An educated womanhood is the peculiar and the particular necessity of the race. The condition of our race renders our women's mission unique, and by education and a firm moral basis we will be prepared for the labors [illegible] element in church school and state because of the particular duties devolving upon her through her position in society. Woman should and must be educated to occupy any position in the field of mental endeavor.

The education of our girls is more valuable than any other earthly treasure. The wise girl looks beyond the present into the future, while the ignorant looks at the present, and at this partially, for she has neither a hope or knowledge of what will be her future condition. Education is a very present reward in the the great store of knowledge and general information acquired. Det the women of our race strive for knowledge. May this be the object of their noblest endeavor. Educate! Educate! Show to the world that we are no silent factor in the solution of the puzzling problem, but a moving, living, active power.

King's Mountain, N. C.

MIDDLETON, CONN., NOTES.

BY REV. C. FAIRFAX.

Mr. Editor:

I have no doubt that receiving a bit of news from this charge will appear in the many readers of the STAR like news from the regions of the dead But we are happy to inform you that we are alive, if we are affected with "La Grippe."

The Heart and Hand Club gave second entertainment on Thursday night, January 23rd, which was a grand affair and a success financially This club was organized about two months ago by Mrs. J. T. Fairfax, and is composed of the young people of this place. It is a valuable auxiliary to the small membership. The work on the parsonage is completed, except the inside painting. It is a small but neat building and the finest in the New England conference. It cost one thousand dollars, which will be all paid by spring, (as we only owe $300).

Our revival will begin this week. "There remaineth yet much land to be possessed." Nowithstanding we have yielded to the popular but unwelcome visitor, "La Grippe," we are working hard for God and Zion.

Little Charles Badger, whose death was caused by "La Grippe," was buried on Friday morning. Now Mr. Editor, please send me four copies of the STAR weekly.