

The Star of Zion

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

VOL. XVIII.

SALISBURY, N. C. THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1894

NUMBER 20

EPISCOPAL ADDRESS.

BY BISHOP A. WALTERS.

[Delivered before the Philadelphia & Baltimore conference, May, 1894.] To the Ministers and Delegates composing the Philadelphia and Baltimore conference: Dear Fathers and Brethren—We are grateful to almighty God for having spared us to assemble in another annual conference session. It is because of the continued illness of Bishop C. R. Harris, D. D., that I appear again for the second time as your presiding officer. At the last session of the Board of Bishops which was held the second week in March at Charlotte, N. C., Bishop Harris was given a year's vacation. He is now recuperating in California; I received a letter a few days ago from Mrs. Bishop Harris stating that he was greatly improved in health, and is on the road to complete recovery. I notice a remarkable change in him for the better during the three weeks I was with him on the Coast. No pains will be spared to save this scholarly and pious prelate to the church. Our losses by death in the last twelve months has been so great that we cannot afford by any neglect on our part to sustain any additional losses. In the first instance death removed from our midst an ex-member of this conference in the person of Rev. N. J. Green, D. D. He was a dignified, painstaking, erudite, genial, christian gentleman; his place will be hard to fill. Ever this would had time to heal the wound connection was shocked at the news of the death of the foremost educator of the age, fearless advocate of human rights, and fearless orator of the race, Rev. J. C. Price, D. D., president of Livingstone College. A great many thought that his death meant the destruction of the institution, but happily for the church and the race his work was not of an evanescent nature; he built not with "hay and stubble but with gold, silver and precious stones, materials sufficient to stand the fire." His associates in this laudable enterprise were strong men and women who were able to take hold where he left off and carry on the work to complete victory. While shedding tears of sorrow over his untimely taking off we were saddened by the intelligence of the demise of our venerable senior Bishop J. J. Moore, D. D. He may be classed as one of the greatest preachers ever produced by the church. For deep research, vivid imagery, scholarly attainments and gentlemanly bearing, he has not been excelled by any. A short while another one of our strong preachers was called to his heavenly reward; I refer to Rev. George E. Smith, of the New York conference. I am afraid that our men have not taken as much care of their health as they should have done. In our haste to build up the church we have driven on too rapidly. We must pass the word along the line, "Take care of your health." All must heed this admonition, from the bishops down. Let this be a part of our instruction in the future. Mr. Wesley laid great stress upon this point; indeed it is one of our ecclesiastical rulers that we are not to talk too long or too loud. CONDITION OF THE CHURCH. Notwithstanding our political chaos and financial straits occasioned by an imbecile administration, social upheavals as exhibited by "Coxyism," and continued outrages perpetrated upon our race by lynching, discriminations, etc., the church has enjoyed a season of unusual prosperity. Especially is this true of our organization. We have received several strong religious bodies and more than a score of ministers into the connection within the last twelve months. On the 20th of February a church edifice, two or three ministers and 1200 members were received into our connection at Cincinnati, Ohio. Two churches came to us from the A. M. E. connection, one at Mobile, Alabama, and another at Washington, D. C. The Mother church (M. E.) has furnished us with some strong men in the persons of Drs. Johnson, Carter and Moreland, and I understand there are others to follow. Our Zion has been blessed during the fall and winter months with great revivals East, North and South; hundreds have been added to her communion; she is moving on gloriously. We are proud of her ministry, pleased with her conational institutions even if they are not all we desire them to be. We are hopeful of her future. What we need to make our institutions what they should be, is more money. It is apparent to a great many in the church that the time has come when we must increase the general fund. We have done all in our power to collect the 50 cents; still there is a large deficiency. We are told that we have enough members to meet our demands at 50 cents; this may be true, still I am prepared to say that I don't believe it will be done. There is not a bishop on the bench who

does not use all his influence to have the brethren collect the whole of the general fund, and yet with all our efforts we had but very little, if any, increase in the last two years. In the last year we actually had a decrease in the general amount. The matter has been pretty thoroughly worked up, and about all the members who are going to pay their 50 cents are paying it. I am sorry to say that there are some people who will never pay any general fund. It is only the loyal members who pay; these same members, who are interested in the conational institutions and who glory in their prosperity, will pay the dollar or as much of it as they can. What we need to do is to convince them that it is needed. Our educational work is suffering for the want of financial support. The buildings at Livingstone College are greatly in need of repairs, and the teachers are far back in their salaries. The High school at Madisonville, Ky., will be closed and the property taken away from us if immediate relief is not given. Jones University must have some financial aid or close her doors. Other institutions are in like condition. Shall we stand by and see them perish because a few persons object to the increase of the general fund? Nay, nay; let us have the courage to make such assessments as will meet the demands of the work. We may boast of our members as much as we choose, and talk about what 50 cents will do, but I am convinced that without an increase in taxation we shall be forced into bankruptcy. We made a great mistake in 1884 when we failed to increase the taxation at the suggestion of the bishops. If the assessment was one dollar, 25 cents of it would go into the educational work, 25 cents to the church extension fund and the other 50 cents for other conational purposes, such as supernumerated preachers' quarterly, Sunday school Department, STAR, Quarterly, Book Concern, widows and orphans' fund salaries of bishops and general officers. There are several large cities in this country where we have no churches; if we had a strong church extension fund we would be able to loan to struggling organizations sufficient money to put them on their feet, and would be improving the work. The Board of Bishops at their last session acted wisely in requesting that every member of the connection contribute one dollar towards building a church in Chicago. We need strong churches at Baltimore, Md., Atlanta Ga., New Orleans, La., Nashville, Tenn., Kansas City, Mo., Cleveland Ohio, Denver, Col., Buffalo, N. Y., Richmond, Va., St. Paul, Minn., Omaha, Nebraska, and at a great many other points that I cannot just think of. While we rejoice that some money is being collected for the theological department at Livingstone College, yet it is a very meagre amount that is being paid in. We must have a regular system of collecting money for educational work; these spasmodic efforts won't do. A friend speaking of a certain western city the other day said that when schools were supported by voluntary contributions they were no good; rarely ever continued more than three or four months; but when the citizens made up their minds to levy a tax upon the people for school purposes it was not long before they had a ten months' school and the teachers paid regularly. The increased taxation may be a little galling for a while, but when the members see the increased influence, splendor and general prosperity of the work they will rejoice at the increase of the tax. I hope this conference will be the first to go on record in favor of raising the general fund to one dollar. O brethren, won't you hear and answer the prayer of help from our worn out preachers (who have spent their best days in building up the work) by increasing the fund? Our educational cause demands an increase of the assessment. THE STAR, Quarterly, all our publication departments are pleading for and must have financial aid. I appeal to you to-day on behalf of the institutions of the church and future of the connection to help out in this struggle. I am not here pleading for the salary of the bishops alone; God forbid that I should be that narrow and selfish. I am pleading for the future success of our Zion. VARRICK MEMORIAL BUILDING. We have just secured a beautiful building at Charlotte, N. C., for a publishing department. Hon. John C. Dancy has been appointed collecting agent for it. We hope our brethren will assist him in his efforts. The building is to be known as the Varrick Memorial Building. The second Sunday in August has been set apart as Memorial Day in honor of Bishop J. J. Moore, D. D. A collection is to be taken up on that day for the benefit of the Varrick Building. Let us brethren fail to observe the law in this respect. CENTENNIAL. We are nearing the time of our Centennial. We hope to make it the greatest affair of the kind ever attempted by the

race. All branches of the christian church are to be invited to participate with us in our one hundredth anniversary, which is to be held in New York city during the latter part of September or the early part of October, 1896. I know the Philadelphia and Baltimore conference will not be backward in performing its part in this gigantic enterprise. Everybody in the connection is expected to give one dollar or more during the Centennial year; it is to be the grand rallying year of the connection. Let our versatile penmen grasp their pens and write quickly and continuously either in prose or poetry, (for we are blessed with the ability in this connection to do both) that \$50,000 is needed and must be raised during the Centennial year. ORGANIC UNION. I am afraid that some of our brethren don't understand my position on the subject of Organic Union. I am as much a Unionist to-day as I ever was. I believe these two churches would do a greater work together, but because of the seeming indifference and insincerity on the part of some of our leading brethren in the A. M. E. church, I have deemed it wise to be silent on that subject for a while. If the A. M. E. and A. M. E. Z. churches should fall to unite I am sure that it will not be the fault of our church. Let me reiterate this—if the A. M. E. Z. and the A. M. E. churches fall to unite, it will not be the fault of the A. M. E. Z. church. We are for union; every one of our conferences have so declared; a large majority of our members or our members are for union. But I am afraid that some of our A. M. E. brethren started out to swallow us up, and not have a mutual affair of it; when they discovered that Zion was likely to divide honors with them in the consummation, they backed down. I found that they were taking advantage of the situation by telling some of our members in localities where they were stronger than we were, that they might just as well come over to them, as the two churches were united, or about to unite. When I saw that move I thought we ought to do something to thwart it; at least let our members know that there was no likelihood of union until we had reinforced our selves to such an extent as to convince the A. M. E. brethren of the advisability of uniting. The A. M. E. brethren believe they are stronger than we are numerically and financially, hence don't care to take us as equal. Perhaps they are. If this is true, it is only a matter of time until they will be forced to change their opinion along to our line. While I am anxious for the consummation of the union, I don't want it consummated until we have demonstrated to them that we are their equal in every particular. My chief business now is, to help put the forces to work which will convince them of this fact. "It is not that I love the union less, but Zion more." This is why I allowed my address on "Unity without Uniformity" to be published in The Quarterly. More: I was anxious for some of the "Anti-Unionists" to make whatever capital out of it they could, and so wrote my friend, Dr. J. W. Smith. The man who thinks that the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is lacking in ecclesiastical diplomacy and dexterity is greatly mistaken; I am afraid some people are finding this out to their confusion. If the Zion church is noted for any two things, they are piety and diplomacy; she is a strict observer of the admonition of the Saviour: "Be ye wise as serpents and harmless as doves." I mean no braggiado, for if there is anything a minister ought to avoid it is the contemptible business of braggiado; it is not Christianlike,—there is no christianity in it. There ought to be no disagreement as to the unity of the churches being right; the chief feature of the controversy is, the advisability of the consummation under the existing conditions, which are mainly alleged superiority in numbers and wealth—and in some instances, prejudice. When these causes shall have been removed you may expect the consummation of the union. In the meantime let us do all in our power to remove these hindrances; let us put nothing in the way of the union, but do everything that we can to encourage it, since it is right and "right the day must win." Let me assure you that I have not lost faith in the union. THE NEW HYMNAL. Our new Hymnal has been published at considerable expense and we are anxious to put it on the market. It has a short ritual service which ought to be introduced into every church in the connection. If for no other reason this alone should be an inducement for our members to buy the book. Besides, it contains a great many hymns by our own bishops and ministers. It is the best book of the kind that has ever been published in a colored church. In the next place, the Book Room management is greatly in need of funds, and must make sale of its literature if it would

be relieved of this embarrassment. Let every minister of this conference send in his order at the earliest opportunity. See to it that the Hymnal is introduced in your churches; it will add greatly to the dignity of the service. If our brethren will send for a dozen or more we will allow them 30 per cent., on condition that they remit within 30 days. We have also published some new Class Books, which the brethren will do well to furnish their leaders with. We have secured Mrs. of Bishop Hood's "History of the A. M. E. Zion Connection," and are prepared to give a large percentage to agents. The book is now in print and will soon be ready for delivery. It will make between six and seven hundred pages and the price will be in the neighborhood of \$3.50 or \$3.00. DEPARTMENTS. I know you will give the following departments proper consideration: STAR or Zion, Quarterly, Sunday School Union, Educational, Missionary and Theological Departments. I hope you will not neglect any of them. I expect the representatives of the most of them here, and so encourage them by giving them all the financial help we can. MINISTERIAL IMPROVEMENT. I am glad to perceive a wonderful change for the better along all lines in our ministry. Our men are improving in skillfulness, neatness and intelligence. We quite a number of diligent students are going up; men who appreciate their responsibilities and are doing all in their power to prepare themselves for their tasks. It is a good sign for the future of the church and race when our brethren are willing to make sacrifices in order to procure for themselves first class literature, especially when they make proper use of the same. Indeed, some of them possess some excellent libraries, and are prepared to intelligently lead the people. The fact is, we are coming! Yes, we are HERE! Notwithstanding the hindrances mentioned upon us through the accused institution of slavery, we are fast rising above our baneful environments and are snatching victories out of our defeats. West we need to add to our piety and intelligence. Be sober, sincere, conscientious in what you do and say, and the victory is ours. The question is being asked in religious assemblies if Holy Ghost preaching is not falling into decay. It is the consensus of opinion by some of the best writers and critics of this age that it is. Says Dr. J. M. Buckley, of the Christian Advocate, N. Y.: "The power of the pulpit in the presentation of truth has sensibly declined. It is increasingly seldom that convictions are attributed to particular sermons. This arises from the fact that preaching is not as spiritual; that sin, guilt and punishment, and the need of regeneration are not preached with the clearness, solemnity and earnestness commensurate with their vital relation to salvation; and that churches are regarded as places of entertainment instead of solemn admonition. Revivals appear to be more and more superficial; conversions not deep; character not changed; converts, though entering and remaining in the church, speedily returning to their former associations and practices. Nor do revivals take hold of intelligent and strong characters as formerly." This is a serious statement; I don't think it is as generally true of the colored ministry as of the white; however, I believe that more spiritual preaching is needed in our pulpits as well as among the whites. A man can not do much good without the union of the Holy Ghost. "O that it now from Heaven might fall And all our sins consume; Come Holy Ghost, for these we call, Spirit of burning, come. Refining fire, go through our hearts, Illuminate our souls Scatter thy life through every part, And sanctify the whole." O, my brethren, you who have not been sanctified by the Holy Ghost do tarry at Jerusalem. Be constant in your prayers and the work in your consecration till you receive the baptism of power. You will never be able to do your full measurement of spiritual work until you receive it. All along with the baptism of the Holy Ghost we must look after our intellectual endowment. They both go together. One must not be urged to the detriment of the other. I am afraid this has been done in too many instances. The Lord wants us to have as much in the head as in the heart. If the head is full of knowledge and the heart full of religion, we will be equally potent. Where one is developed to the exclusion of the other, look out for an antichrist or an egotist. I have not had the pleasure of visiting but a few churches in the conference, district, hence I will have to depend upon the presiding elders for reports of the work. I have been informed that the work has met with unusual prosperity, especially John Wesley church, Washington, D. C. under the pastorate of Dr. E. A. Fisher. In the next place, the Book Room management is greatly in need of funds, and must make sale of its literature if it would

be relieved of this embarrassment. Let every minister of this conference send in his order at the earliest opportunity. See to it that the Hymnal is introduced in your churches; it will add greatly to the dignity of the service. If our brethren will send for a dozen or more we will allow them 30 per cent., on condition that they remit within 30 days. We have also published some new Class Books, which the brethren will do well to furnish their leaders with. We have secured Mrs. of Bishop Hood's "History of the A. M. E. Zion Connection," and are prepared to give a large percentage to agents. The book is now in print and will soon be ready for delivery. It will make between six and seven hundred pages and the price will be in the neighborhood of \$3.50 or \$3.00. DEPARTMENTS. I know you will give the following departments proper consideration: STAR or Zion, Quarterly, Sunday School Union, Educational, Missionary and Theological Departments. I hope you will not neglect any of them. I expect the representatives of the most of them here, and so encourage them by giving them all the financial help we can. MINISTERIAL IMPROVEMENT. I am glad to perceive a wonderful change for the better along all lines in our ministry. Our men are improving in skillfulness, neatness and intelligence. We quite a number of diligent students are going up; men who appreciate their responsibilities and are doing all in their power to prepare themselves for their tasks. It is a good sign for the future of the church and race when our brethren are willing to make sacrifices in order to procure for themselves first class literature, especially when they make proper use of the same. Indeed, some of them possess some excellent libraries, and are prepared to intelligently lead the people. The fact is, we are coming! Yes, we are HERE! Notwithstanding the hindrances mentioned upon us through the accused institution of slavery, we are fast rising above our baneful environments and are snatching victories out of our defeats. West we need to add to our piety and intelligence. Be sober, sincere, conscientious in what you do and say, and the victory is ours. The question is being asked in religious assemblies if Holy Ghost preaching is not falling into decay. It is the consensus of opinion by some of the best writers and critics of this age that it is. Says Dr. J. M. Buckley, of the Christian Advocate, N. Y.: "The power of the pulpit in the presentation of truth has sensibly declined. It is increasingly seldom that convictions are attributed to particular sermons. This arises from the fact that preaching is not as spiritual; that sin, guilt and punishment, and the need of regeneration are not preached with the clearness, solemnity and earnestness commensurate with their vital relation to salvation; and that churches are regarded as places of entertainment instead of solemn admonition. Revivals appear to be more and more superficial; conversions not deep; character not changed; converts, though entering and remaining in the church, speedily returning to their former associations and practices. Nor do revivals take hold of intelligent and strong characters as formerly." This is a serious statement; I don't think it is as generally true of the colored ministry as of the white; however, I believe that more spiritual preaching is needed in our pulpits as well as among the whites. A man can not do much good without the union of the Holy Ghost. "O that it now from Heaven might fall And all our sins consume; Come Holy Ghost, for these we call, Spirit of burning, come. Refining fire, go through our hearts, Illuminate our souls Scatter thy life through every part, And sanctify the whole." O, my brethren, you who have not been sanctified by the Holy Ghost do tarry at Jerusalem. Be constant in your prayers and the work in your consecration till you receive the baptism of power. You will never be able to do your full measurement of spiritual work until you receive it. All along with the baptism of the Holy Ghost we must look after our intellectual endowment. They both go together. One must not be urged to the detriment of the other. I am afraid this has been done in too many instances. The Lord wants us to have as much in the head as in the heart. If the head is full of knowledge and the heart full of religion, we will be equally potent. Where one is developed to the exclusion of the other, look out for an antichrist or an egotist. I have not had the pleasure of visiting but a few churches in the conference, district, hence I will have to depend upon the presiding elders for reports of the work. I have been informed that the work has met with unusual prosperity, especially John Wesley church, Washington, D. C. under the pastorate of Dr. E. A. Fisher. In the next place, the Book Room management is greatly in need of funds, and must make sale of its literature if it would

leading young ministers in our conference. It is no mistake to say that he is a good preacher and a man of promising appearance. There are three churches on this circuit and the pastor don't allow the grass to grow under any body's feet that comes in touch with him. They are preparing for a new church at Liberty Hill. He is also a student of the Bible school. Miss Lilla V. Davis is doing great educational work in the Cotton Valley circuit. She is creating things anew in that section in the uplifting of fallen humanity. It would be a great blessing to the race if it had a thousand in this State to do the work for it she is doing out in the country. ZION IN ARKANSAS. BY PRESIDING ELDER R. J. SIMES. Mr. Editor:—It has been quite a while since I have furnished the readers of our great STAR a few words in behalf of Zion. As I am presiding elder of the Little Rock district I thought it time to write a few lines, so our people might know what we are doing. After a still voice, deep studying and hard work, I can say Zion is alive on my district, and we are moving on to a greater success. Though some times things look a little dark and discouraging but I still hold Zion's banner high. I want to say I have been battling for Zion for 24 years and if I live 24 more I will battle on for her for she is good enough for me. I will give you a brief account of my district. I started on my first quarterly conference round Dec. 23, 1893. Rev. T. J. Jones is pastor here. The work is in very good condition. Rev. Jones is a stirring man. Dec. 25th I held quarterly conference at Neal's school house. Rev. G. W. Morris is pastor in charge. Rev. Morris is holding the fort like a Greek and true general; he is moving things before him. January 4th, 1894, I held conference at Clarendon. Rev. W. S. Couley is the pastor at this point. Owing to bad weather we were unable to have much success, but the outlook is bright and we expect much good to be done at this point by Rev. Couley. January 6th, I held conference at Poplar Grove. Rev. G. W. Taylor is pastor at this point. He is a wide-awake man in the interest of God and the church, and has done much for Zion here, and is loved by the people. Since he has been appointed here he has built a nice church for God and Zion. We had a fine conference and everything is in good shape. January 11th I arrived at Forest City. Our church at this place is under the pastorate of Rev. W. G. Brooks. Owing to the heavy rains we were hindered a little. But on my arrival I was met by Mr. and Mrs. S. Scott and Sister Harrison. Rev. Brooks is the right man in the right place. He will push things to the front for Zion. January 13th and 14th I was with Bro. W. M. Mathews at Brinkley. Here things are looking very bright. We held a lovely conference. We had good reports. Bro. Mathews is a young preacher but he is brave and a hard worker for Zion. He loves his church and is loved by the church. May God bless him. January 18th, I arrived at Payne's chapel, Little Rock. Rev. C. N. Payne is pastor in charge. Rev. Payne is doing a great work at this place, and he is loved by his people. He had everything in trim for the quarterly conference. All of his officers were prompt and made their reports according to law. He is meeting with great success in this city. The Sunday-school is also in a flourishing condition; in fact it is in better condition than any time since Rev. R. Moman was pastor. Bro. T. S. Mitcham is the superintendent of the Sunday-school. He is a true Zionite and he loves the connection. May God spare him a long time to help build up Zion. January 27th and 28th, I was with Bro. J. L. Evans at Cabot. Rev. Evans is a young man and a scholar; he is full of vigor for God and Zion. He is also loved by his people and is doing a good work at this point. He had every thing ready for the conference and we had a pleasant session. On the 8th of February I reached Conway station on Rev. J. C. Williams work. Raining as it was we held conference and had services. Bro. Williams is an energetic christian gentleman and a good preacher. He is holding things down for Zion here. February 10th and 11th, I was at Blackville. Rev. M. Mitcham is holding the fort at this point and has done a wonderful work for Zion. He is a dignified christian minister and has one of the most intelligent congregations in the State. His officers are always on time. I hope the time will soon come when we can have more such ministers and charges as this one. This is his fourth year at this point. He has built a nice church and furnished it up. His people love him and are planning to keep him another year. Cotton Valley circuit, Rev. M. D. Sharp pastor. Elder Sharp is one among the

March 31 and 4th, I was at Cleveland, Ark. Rev. E. M. Martin is pastor at this point. He is a good preacher and an intelligent christian gentleman. He is meeting with success on every hand. He is pastor of Moore Point. Grand reports were received. Fort Smith mission is under the pastorate of Rev. H. H. Huggins and is doing very well; not as well as he would have done had he been well. May God bless him. March 5th and 6th, I was with Rev. P. E. McElwee at Atkins, Ark. He is a true christian and a lover of Zion. He was appointed to this mission without a member or a dollar but he is doing well now. March 9th and 10th, I was with Rev. E. M. Martin at Solgobachia. Here Rev. Martin is holding the fort and both saints and sinners love him. He is highly esteemed by both colored and white. This ends my first quarterly round. We believe in raising the general tax to \$1.00 and hope it will be done in '96. "UNTOUCHED AND UNSWERVED." BY REV. EDWARD D. W. JONES. Editor of THE STAR:—Please give space to the following: I would suggest to Bro. Blackwell that as he sees so many deficiencies in Jones' Hand-Book on Discipline, so many important questions "unanswered and untouched" as it is such a narrow, non-comprehensive little book, and as he was the discoverer that it contained only "good and reliable" matter that he would be doing a great work for the connection to displace it by a broader work emanating from his versatile brain. I know Bishop Jones would not have dipped his pen in ink only to write a "good, reliable" essay on Methodist law, for to his own personal knowledge, he was actuated to spend his little earnings to publish the book, to deal only with those knotty questions over which had arisen doubt as to the exact meaning. He was asked to write on intricate topics in our general law by the best brain of Zion connection, and the majority of subjects explained in his work were suggested to him by such men who desired information, as would not ask for light only on "important" subjects. He left nothing "untouched" that needed to be touched there, and as our law in general is a fixed basis of operation, there remains nothing important now that he left "unanswered." The "pity" Bro. Blackwell experiences because "Jones' Hand-Book is so brief," is to a goodly number of us a great satisfaction, since we want a handy, plain guide. It was his purpose to enclose valuable truths in a concise way, and he did not intend for it to be estimated by size, but by its contents. Brevity does not lack force, or Bro. Blackwell's grand "Excurses" would be weak indeed. He complains against Watson's Theological Institutes because it is too voluminous, and Jones' Hand-Book is too brief; well let him give us a "digest of Methodist law" that will come up to the standard. He has been the only one to see so many important things unanswered and untouched and he is the only one to touch and answer those important things, for he alone knows them. He implies that the writing is good and reliable, but of no value since it deals only with trite subjects, subjects that are not important. There would have been no need of his writing the Hand-Book if he did not intend for it to explain the weighty questions in our Discipline. The book is the result of his experience. He saw what the men needed, and knew exactly the points that were difficult to understand, and he treated these in a simple clear manner. The Methodist law should not be beyond the common level of those to be governed, nor is it, yet there are a few things that call for a clear explanation. But, if the Discipline demands a voluminous book to be written, a kind of "Encyclopedia," to clear it from obscurity, then I would suggest that it be written at once, and substitute it for our present established code. No church need make laws that the ministers who are to enforce them, nor the laity who are to obey them can't understand, and if there are necessary topics left out in our Discipline they should be placed therein, to save the time of our great men to write lengthy "Digests on Methodist Law." I have noticed Bro. Blackwell's articles, and if I be guided by him, why at our next general conference we will have to change everything. It is a great wonder to my mind that he hasn't said that the Discipline had left untouched and unanswered important questions. Let us go slow on what has been done for Zion by her dead preachers, and not run too far ahead of our times, for fear we will be called "fast." Maryville, Tenn.