

# The Star of Zion.

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

VOL. XVIII.

SALISBURY, N. C. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1894.

NUMBER 44

## A RUNNING FIRE COMMENT ON PERSONS AND THINGS.

BY REV. J. W. SMITH.

By special request I spent the second Sabbath in October with Rev. J. E. Caldwell, the able pastor of Mother Zion. It was a jubilee and grand rally day; a day of gospel feast and service of song. It opened at 7:30 a. m., with experience meeting, led by Brother Amos Robbins, and others, of Jersey City. The first gospel gun was fired at 9 a. m., by Rev. J. E. Mason, of Newark, N. J. He used to be a member of my church in Washington. He is a smart young man. To give you an idea of his sermon I will quote the words of the editor of the Christian Recorder who was present and said: "Brother Mason that was a grand sermon. You are on the order of Bishop Simpson, as a preacher."

At 11 a. m., Rev. H. T. Johnson, D. D., Editor of the Christian Recorder, of the A. M. E. Church, leveled his gospel cannon and fired a ball on the fort of hell from 2 Cor. 8:9. Theme, "The Believer's Rich Inheritance through our Lord Jesus Christ." Brains, scholarship, eloquence, gentleness, argument, as full of gospel truths as an egg, in full of me.

Dr. Johnson, who is the author of the Divine Logos, is a theologian of the first order. His sermon that morning will stay a long time in the minds of thinking people.

At 1 p. m., Rev. E. George Biddle, of Jersey City, preached a stirring and practical sermon on "Mutual Help." Text, Gal. 3:13.

At 3 p. m., Rev. E. Lyon, of St. Marks church, N. Y., preached a lively sermon on "Take up thy bed and walk."

At 4:30 p. m., the Rev. J. M. Henderson, M. D., of Bethel church, N. Y., preached. The hinges upon which he swung the door of his text was 2 Tim. 3:7. It was a plain, thoughtful sermon, highly appreciated. After the sermon, Editor Johnson introduced me to Brother Henderson, calling him the J. W. Smith of Bethel church, and me the J. M. Henderson of the Zion church. That is to say, we write alike. Those who know my style as a writer in a controversy, or when I get warm on the subject, will get an idea of Brother Henderson as a writer. He is more sarcastic and occasional than I am.

At 7:30 p. m., Big Zion was packed with a large audience, white and colored. All up in the galleries and down stairs the people crowded in. Bishop Walters, D. D., was present. The writer preaches. We had a good time. All the choirs, except Editor Johnson's and mine, were present during the day and rendered delightful songs. Bishop Walters closed the great meeting with the Lord's Supper. The collection, during the day, was \$518.00.

Monday evening at 8 o'clock, Rev. J. H. Anderson, of Paterson, N. J., preached a flowery sermon on the "Upper and nether millstones."

We present to the readers the likeness of the wide-awake pastor of our Mother Zion. He is a North Carolinian by birth, and a graduate of Livingstone College. He served very successfully our churches at Elizabeth City, N. C., and Peterburg, Va. This is his third year in New York, and if things move on as they are now moving, the prophecy which Bishop Hood uttered the night of the reception when he introduced him to this church as their pastor for the next four years, will be fulfilled. Caldwell is a hardier. He is always on the go, and always studying plans to better the condition of his church. It is a heavy pastorate, and the monthly expenses are great.

Rev. J. S. Caldwell, B. D., is affable, unassuming, jolly and friendly. His house seems to be the home of ministers. He is a close student of the Bible, of theology, and of human nature. He gives promise of years of usefulness to our great denomination and the cause of truth—a man in whatever position he may be put, he will do his part.

I met in New York the Rev. E. G. Clinton, who is preparing to build up a church in Harlem. It is to be \$52,500 and to cost \$25,000. He has promised to him the greater part of the lumber and iron, 20,000 bricks, all the flooring, doors and windows, and \$10,000 subscribed. It might be well for some other pastors desiring to build to follow his example.

debator, sharp writer, and able preacher, the Rev. W. T. Biddle of the New Jersey conference. He has been preaching for years and is an old champion of Zion.

Dr. J. H. Manley, with Blind Tom No. 2, and Little Beatie, was in N. Y. He says he feels more encouraged, and that in spite of criticism and discouragements, he will come out all right at the general conference in 1896.

I met Bishop Walters at our Book Concern. He, Caldwell, Manley, J. H. Anderson and myself spent several hours talking of the future good of Zion. The bishop is full of bright ideas and is destined to be of great service to his church. He is growing more popular daily because he has the magnetism of wrapping young and old men around him. The election of Bishops Potts and Walters means that young men can make just as good bishops as old men.

While in N. Y., I met Rev. F. D. Hill, the popular young pastor of the Metropolitan Zion church in Washington, D. C. He, Caldwell and I went on Saturday night to the great mass meeting in Cooper Union of the Republicans. Our hour before the doors opened ten thousand people stood outside. When the doors opened they rushed like mad lions for seats.

They squeezed us terribly and pushed us forward at a 240 gait. I never want to see another New York mass meeting. Why this mighty throng? Why the big brain Tom Reed, who belongs not only to Maine but to the Nation, and of whom has fallen the mantle of Blaine, was to speak. It was a great speech, full of sarcasm and genuine humor. The battle-axe of his tremendous logic again and again cut the thick armor of specious reasoning with which Cleveland's administration has sought to clothe its feeble measures. His avalanche of reasons for Democratic overthrow and Republican triumph will make thousands of votes.

On my way home I stopped at the Publication House of the A. M. E. Church in Philadelphia. I met the erudite theologian and forceful writer, Dr. J. C. Embury, the business manager. It is largely due to his brains and business tact that his church has such a fine building. He has a splendid business mind.

I called on the young editor of the Christian Recorder, Rev. H. T. Johnson, D. D., whom every one says looks like me and found him busy writing learned and scorching editorials. As an editor, he is equally as able as his predecessors, Bishops Tanner and Lee. He has a remarkable purity of diction and a telling versatility of expression. There is nothing dull about his writings. When aroused, he is caustic and sarcastic, taking and giving hard blows. He showed me all through his department and told me to write for his paper whenever I felt like it.

I met in the same building Dr. C. T. Shaffer, corresponding secretary and treasurer of the Church Extension Society of the A. M. E. Church. This department has been established by the Board of Bishops since their last general conference and has been a decided success. The total cash receipts for the year ending May 3, 1894, was \$4,530.95, while the total disbursements, including \$11,800.58. In order to build new churches in unoccupied places, loan money to struggling churches, such as we have in Chicago and in Washington, and stop so many fruitless appeals in the S. A. E. for this and that church, I have always contended that Zion should have a Church Extension Society, a Secretary at its head. I do not want and would not have the position. I know there is a feeling in certain quarters not to elect any general officers in '96, but let the bishops and ministers look around and see who will fill this office.

While in Philadelphia I had the pleasure of attending an anti-lynching meeting in Association Hall. It looked as if every black face in this city was present. The meeting was addressed by that brave little woman who has stirred up all England against lynching in this country, and made several Southern Governors go wild and with rage, Miss Ida B. Wells. When she appeared on the platform, standing on the arm of the Hon. Frederick Douglass, a whirlwind of applause from two galleries and the auditorium greeted her. It was a magnificent occasion to both of

these champions. Miss Wells spoke an hour and a half, telling of the numerous cruelties to her race, and the audience expressed its indignation in many ways. Frederick Douglass closed the meeting with an eloquent and burning speech, and a permanent Anti-Lynching Committee was formed, whose duty it will be to solicit every one, black and white, to support the movement.

Rev. E. H. Stitt, the brilliant successor Dr. G. W. Olney, had a grand rally for his church a week before I got to his city, and he held in one day over \$1,213.00. The members say that beats the record Stitt is growing stronger every day.

Leaving Philadelphia I brought up at York, October 17th, to meet the State Christian Endeavor Convention. Over 4,000 delegates were there. It was a grand meeting of three days gathering. Grand preaching, grand singing, grand speaking. Every known subject of interest to the Y. P. S. C. E. was discussed with ability and interest. When I got to York and found no colored delegates on the program to speak or conduct a Free Parliament, I got indignant and made up my mind to strike at the Convention when I got a chance. The chance came. I struck, and struck effectively. The president got up and tried to weaken my blow by saying he did not omit the colored delegates intentionally; that he was not well acquainted with our people to know of their ability; that after this he would assure us that leading colored men and women would be on the program. The president was given to understand that we had a plenty of able men and women, and that I would consult with the names would be forthcoming. He said he would. As usual, a weak-kneed colored Presbyterian minister arose and said he was sorry the attack had been made; that the colored delegates generally did not feel slighted, by not being on the program. Other colored delegates arose and said he was mistaken. That large convention endorsed my attack, and what was the result? Why, Rev. J. S. Small, D. D., at its close, was elected one of its vice-presidents. I believe he is the first colored man to occupy this position in this State Convention. When the Convention meets in Erie, Pa., next year I expect to see colored delegates on the program. I am going to write to both the State and National Committees and see if they will take up the subject of lynching when arranging their programs. We must assist. I like the Christian Endeavor Society and I think Zion ought to adopt it in preference to those others under names. If our ministers want to know how to organize one in their churches let them write for particulars to the United Society of Christian Endeavor, 640 Washington street, Boston, Mass.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Bishop J. W. H. H. D. D., LL. D.; Bishop J. P. Thompson, D. D.; Bishop T. H. Lomas, D. D.; Bishop O. C. Potts, A. M., D. D.; Bishop C. R. Harris, D. D.; Bishop I. O. Clinton, D. D.; Bishop A. Walters, D. D.; Rev. Wm. Howard Day, D. D.; Rev. J. W. Alstork, D. D.; Rev. E. Geo. Biddle, B. D.; Rev. W. H. Chambers, Rev. J. S. Caldwell, B. D.; Rev. G. W. Clinton, A. M.; Rev. W. H. Goler, D. D.; Rev. S. R. Elves, D. D.; Rev. H. Blake, Rev. J. P. Thompson, D. D.

Hon. J. C. Danoy, General Manager.

## A VOICE FROM FLORIDA.

BY REV. E. F. STEVENS.

It has been some time since I have seen anything in the columns of our beloved STAR concerning our work in the Land of Flowers. We had a union camp meeting of all the Methodist churches in and around the city of Pensacola, at Live Oak with Dr. E. J. Carter manager. That energetic, intelligent, deep thinker, scholar, preacher and race leader, who is in charge of Big Zion, led us to victory. There were seven souls converted to God; three joined Big Zion and three joined the A. M. E. church, Dr. A. W. Watson pastor. We want the several readers of the STAR to be informed respecting Big Zion. When this son of Zion took charge he found the church very deep in debt—about \$850, a mortgage given to the Building and Loan Association on the church for \$450. With a membership of 651 this debt was made in '92 during Rev. W. H. Smith's administration who was pastor here two years and with that host of members and a concourse of followers \$40 was paid on the debt. The bishop in his godly judgment saw fit to move Rev. Smith and make him presiding elder. Notwithstanding this has been done he wanted to pastor the church and told the people he would build them a brick church if he was their pastor. The wonderful work that is being done by our pastor, Rev. Carter, shows the wisdom of our highly esteemed Bishop Lomas in appointing him to this work. Money has been scarce but despite the hard times he has paid \$90 on the debt and is only waiting for the time to come to call in the debt to liquidate the whole of it. This is the man for Big Zion. Rev. Carter is highly respected by white as well as colored. He has a loving wife and five children.

## CENTENNIAL APPEAL OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH.

TO ALL EVANGELICAL CHURCHES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND TO THE METHODIST BODIES OF CANADA AND THE BRITISH ISLES.

GREETER.—Through the great mercy of God, we, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, have been brought within two years of the close of the first one hundredth anniversary of our history as a separate and distinct organization.

In 1796 James Varick and others because of the existence of proscriptions and other conditions which hindered their intellectual development and religious growth, and prevented them from engaging in the work spreading the cause of Christ and uplifting their fellows according as they felt themselves moved by the Spirit of God, withdrew from the Mother Church and formed a separate and distinct organization, out of which has grown the great African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

We congratulate ourselves on having had a man of such unselfish motives, sterling qualities and unexcelled ability as an organizer and leader, to head this great religious movement; he was the first man of the race to grasp the great idea of a purely religious Negro organization. During this hundred years our church has grown from a handful to nearly 400,000 communicants, embracing every section of the United States, Canada, a part of Africa, and some of the Islands of the Sea. It has taken a foremost part in all movements affecting the moral, intellectual and spiritual welfare of the race.

At the session of the General Conference held at Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1832, it was decided that we should hold our One Hundredth Anniversary in the month of October, 1894, in the "Mother Zion,"

## THE CHEERING OBSERVATIONS OF A PASTOR DURING HIS OUT-ING.

BY REV. F. H. HILL.

Having been granted a leave of absence by the members of my church I packed my satchel and made my way to the 9th-st. depot, Washington, D. C., October 9, for the purpose of taking a trip to New York and Philadelphia. On arriving at the station we met Rev. Geo. W. Clinton the genial editor of the STAR who had been attending conference at Ithaca, N. Y. He certainly must have had a pleasant reception for his face was all smiles as he made mention of his trip and the hospitable friends he had met. While thus engaged the train started and we were hurried to a comfortable seat and settled down for the trip. Promptly at 10:30 the long train pulled out and we were fast speeding over the rail's toward Baltimore, from whence, after a short stop, we proceeded to Philadelphia. From this point the character of the passengers seemed to undergo a change and instead of their appearing indifferent, pleasure, they seemed to be strictly set on business. The landscape of the surrounding country is the most beautiful and fertile in the world beyond dispute. The mixture of green and gold upon which the sun casts its rays was a scene not soon to be forgotten for its beauty. Along in the afternoon about 4:30 we sighted Jersey City and knew then we were nearing the great Metropolis. In ten minutes we were on board the ferry boat and heading for Des Moines street. Upon our arrival the wide-awake cabmen seemed determined on taking our baggage from us at any rate; but having knowledge of the particular line of cars which carried us near to our stopping place we proceeded on our way and had the satisfaction of coming to the residence of Rev. J. S. Caldwell without any difficulty. On learning that he had shortly before our arrival gone out with our beloved Bishop Walters, we awaited his return in the book room. He soon put in his appearance, however, and with a cheerful greeting invited us into the parlor and established us so comfortably that the fatigue and dust of the journey were soon forgotten in the attention he and his dear family gave us. The success of many a minister is largely due to the choice he makes of a wife and those who have had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Caldwell are immediately impressed with the cheerful and easy manner in which she relieves a stranger of any uneasiness concerning a welcome to her home. From the precise and studied movements of Elder Caldwell we knew that he was following up a well arranged plan looking forward to grand results in the rally in Mother Zion on Sunday. An elaborate programme had been arranged from which we learned that the 14th would be an all-pay Gospel feast and service of song; and thus it proved to be.

At 7:30 a. m. experience meeting was conducted by Rev. Amos Robbins and others from Jersey City. At 9 a. m. Rev. J. E. Mason, of Newark, N. J., preached a grand sermon from Isaiah xxxv-10. Subject: "The return of the ransomed." His choir conducted the singing. One very notable feature of this service was the beautiful solo sung by a little girl of about 10 years which effected the entire congregation. The collection at this service was very good.

At 11 a. m. a good congregation had assembled to hear Rev. H. T. Johnson, D. D., editor of the Christian Recorder, of Philadelphia, Pa. This was our first opportunity to listen to him and from the scholarly and practical sermon he preached we are satisfied that he is a success as a preacher even as he is as an editor.

## ASBURY PARK SPEARS.

BY MRS. JULIA G. JOHNSON.

We are very glad to say that our church is the leading one under the pastorate of the Rev. R. F. Butler, who is preaching a series of sermons which is drawing large congregations and meeting with marked success.

## STRONG PREACHERS ARE GENERALLY GOOD EDITORS, AS WE OBSERVE IN THE EDITOR OF OUR STAR.

The collection at this service was very gratifying to Elder Caldwell. Having received a telegram from Rev. R. Haywood Stitt, B. D., pastor of Wesley Zion 15th Lombard, Philadelphia, to come and preach for him at 8 o'clock Sunday evening, we took our leave of Rev. Caldwell and our friends in New York just about the time (1 p. m.) that Rev. George Biddle, of Jersey City, was introduced to the congregation.

We have learned, with a great deal of pleasure that the program was carried out with great effect. Rev. J. W. Smith, of Carlisle, Pa., the versatile writer, the eloquent speaker, and earnest gospel preacher delivered a soul stirring sermon at the evening service.

The four days spent in New York and Brooklyn were full of interest. We met two prominent young men in the medical profession from the "Old North State," Drs. E. P. Roberts and E. P. Ford, who successfully administer Electrical Treatment. The electrical bath which they recommended and administer is a most effective remedy for rheumatism and general debility. Their office is located at 52 1/2 Six Ave., New York.

We met Prof. David Williams Parker, president Jones University, in Brooklyn; he reports that he is doing well in his half of the school. Rev. Caldwell is doing well in New York. Rev. Coffey, of the First-st. church, Brooklyn, is doing well and preaches to large and attentive audiences. He has been quite sick, but we are glad to note the fact that he is improving.

Leaving New York at 1:10 p. m., we arrived in Philadelphia in due season and went immediately to the residence of Rev. R. Haywood Stitt, 1533 Lombard-st. He and his congregation were attending services at Bethel A. M. E. church. Prior to the regular services of the evening the Christian Endeavor conducted a very interesting praise meeting and by 3 o'clock the gallery and lower floor were packed and chairs were placed in the aisles. The congregations that gather at this church are simply amazing. The aisles, the steps, and vestibule and even on the outside of the church the people stand to listen to the stirring sermons and sweet singing of their pastor. A deep spirituality pervades all the services and every department of the church is alive to the needs of the hour. In a recent rally they realized nearly \$1,500. There is a peculiarly attractive and impressive grace which Rev. Stitt possesses in his pulpit which carries with it a force which is indescribable. His manner of delivery is pointed and by easy stages he leads his hearers to the conclusion of what ever matter he is considering. He has the spirit to make those who are with him to enjoy every moment; and his estimable wife is alive to every interest for the success of her husband. They have two interesting children. We attended the lecture delivered by Miss Ida B. Wells in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, corner Chesnut and Fifteenth streets, a day without exception she is the most eloquent lady we have ever listened to. The lynchings of colored men in this country receive a just condemnation from this plucky little woman. The audience was completely swayed by her as she described the horrible butcheries perpetrated in Texas and Tennessee. The audience gave vent to their feelings in groans and other expressions of condemnation.

The feast was held in the church on Friday evening, at the close of which \$9 was collected to pay the expenses of brother A. L. Furnel to Pontiac, Mich., who had been transferred to the Michigan and Canada conference by Bishop Walters. Gologon from this church to the work of his life he received a very earnest and pathetic charge from his pastor, Rev. Stitt. It was a touching scene to witness. The members of my church shed tears, shaking their heads in a pining good-bye, while

Strong preachers are generally good editors, as we observe in the editor of our STAR. The collection at this service was very gratifying to Elder Caldwell. Having received a telegram from Rev. R. Haywood Stitt, B. D., pastor of Wesley Zion 15th Lombard, Philadelphia, to come and preach for him at 8 o'clock Sunday evening, we took our leave of Rev. Caldwell and our friends in New York just about the time (1 p. m.) that Rev. George Biddle, of Jersey City, was introduced to the congregation.

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they sang "Shall we meet beyond the river." Having spent two weeks away from our charge we boarded the cars Saturday after noon, October 21st, and at 4:30 we were again in the midst of our flock refreshed and in a peculiar manner work with as kind-hearted people as ever contribute to the comfort of a pastor.

## ATKINSON COLLEGE.

BY MR. J. CRENSHAW.

In its third season, the Madisonville High School opens under the new name of Atkinson College. This indicates rapid growth, but in some respects the indications exceed the realities. To the two buildings that formerly did duty as dormitory, dining and recitation rooms another building has been added containing sixteen rooms. In this building there are ten rooms (12x11) on the second floor for the occupancy of young men. On the first floor there is one larger room (15x50) to be used as a chapel, three recitation rooms and two office rooms. When the rooms in all these buildings have been properly fitted up, there will be suitable accommodations for thirty-five boarding students.

The new building is to be known as Baily Hall. It is so named in honor of the benevolent spirited man who came to our relief when there was no other friend to help, except Mr. J. B. Atkinson in whose honor the college has been named.

The building is by no means a fine structure, and, in fact, it falls far short of what the present age demands, but, as it was not erected by race pride, it may as a gift from our white friends, meet the present demands of utility. As soon as race pride can be relieved to the support of the institution, more spacious grounds will be procured and better buildings erected. But what is now demanded of the Negro race is to equip the rooms of the present buildings, fill them with students and meet the remaining indebtedness and current expenses of the institution. Until this is done, neither the race in general nor the connection in particular has any part in the school to boast of. No school of a higher grade can be established and maintained without money and a great deal of it. Five and ten cents contributions will not meet the demands. It requires dollars by the hundreds, tens, twenty-fives, fifties and fives. Business must be conducted on business principles and it requires business-like contributions to do it. I dare say the school could be handsomely supported with the money that is annually thrown away, even by the members of the connection, whacky, beer and tobacco, if these degrading habits were stopped and the money thus spent were given to help educate and elevate the race.

As a race we have depended upon the whites for aid so much that we are becoming burdensome to them. We need to help ourselves more and not be so much. Let every man or woman who reads, or hears of this give one day's earnings every year to support this school. Then the present condition of affairs will be greatly changed for the better.

## GORDONVILLE (KY.) NEWS.

BY REV. J. J. KENNEDY.

Mr. Editor—Will you please say to your many readers that I went to Gordonville on the same day the Kentucky conference adjourned, in company with Sisters A. G. Smith, Martha Rusk, Fannie Mason, Jane Gough, and Bro. Mason, members of my new appointment. I was blessed to start my meeting on Tuesday night, Sept. 11th, and we have had a crowded house ever since. God has smiled upon Gordonville. We have the church crowded every night. We had three conversions and three additions to the church. We had some collection for the church, and Zion is moving on nicely. We moved over but I have not got the parsonage repaired yet.

At Madison Zion, I spent that day