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ROCHESTER (N. Y.) NOTES.

BY REV. JAMES E. MASON, P. E.

Longfellow in Christus—the Golden Legend, says:

"Death never takes alone, but two!
Whenever he enters at a door."

Death entered the door of our ministerial ranks early in this first quarter and removed Dr. J. P. Thompson, and now our district is draped in mourning on account of the demise of that historic character, Rt. Rev. Bishop J. P. Thompson, M. D., D. D.

As the thought steals over me that we shall never behold his splendid form again, feel the throb of his large and generous heart, or be startled or soothed by the rough or mild intonations of his voice, I feel like saying with the prophet, "Howl fir tree for the elder has fallen." He indeed was a cedar among the ministerial trees of the Zion connection. Tall broad shouldered, deep chested, commanding presence, physically was an unusual speciman of humanity. With a nature as rugged as the hills over which he traveled a half century ago; yet transforming, and becoming as attractive as the glorious and varied hues of an autumnal sunset he was especially adapted for the pioneer work of fifty years ago.

The work and times demanded men of great courage, unswerving wills, and indomitable pluck and energy. These elements were largely personified in the character of Bishop Thompson.

"Sure I must fight, if I would reign," was literally true on many occasions in conducting religious services. I remember hearing the Bishop humorously remark one evening when accompanying him to Binghamton depot, alluding to those early days: "I was a terror to evil doers and a blessing to all who came unto me."

The prejudice against colored people in this section as in other sections of the country, because of the "peculiar institution" ran high, and their little religious services were often interrupted and sometimes broken up by the so-called civilized white rowdies and miscreants. And there was no law to appeal to, as the Negro had no rights that a white man was bound to respect. Thank God we live now under a different order of things.

It must have been unusually gratifying to the Bishop to have had his life prolonged to see such marvelous changes as have occurred during the past fifty years. Few men have entered upon such discouraging work under such limitations as the Bishop and lived to see such productive and fruitful results of their labors, exertions and prayers. From the log church which he assisted in erecting at Elmira, when it was largely a wilderness—part swamp and part village green; he lived to see beautiful edifices erected in this conference, and a happy and prosperous people serving God under their own vine and fig tree.

The conference where he spent so many of his years has grown until in some respects it is the peer of any conference in the connection. During all these years the conference has watched with peculiar interest and and admiration one of its founders rise by steady degree from a circuit preacher to the high and sacred office of Bishop in the church of God.

His zeal and earnestness, sacrifice and devotion to the work of the Master—his uniform christian character will remain with us as a precious legacy until the last syllable of recorded time when the volume of human history is sealed up and delivered to the Omnipotent Judge. But the duty of the hour requires us to turn from these sadly-pleasing reflections to other matters. The unfinished march and the yet remaining conflict forbid that we should longer remain at the grave of our fallen chief. With whatever of despondency we must resume the work.

As in the previous communication I will continue my

NOTES BY THE WAY.

Norwich, N. Y., Rev. J. H. Dangerfield is the pastor. Here we have a beautiful frame church costing over $4,000. The colored citizens for years have had superior advantages. Here for years was the only colored fire and hook and ladder company in this State. The religious progress of the church has not kept pace with the social and material advancement of the citizens. Rev. Dangerfield and wife have been very cordially received by the people, and we look for better things.

Rev. J. W. Lacy is managing affairs at Waterton, N. Y. This is a beautiful little little city on the Black River. The colored population numbers about two hundred. This charge is extremely peculiar and but few persons have ever belonged to church. For several years past our membership consisted of less than five members and yet the pastors received a salary of $600. Zion here is alright.

Insurmountable barriers prevented me from visiting Johnstown, Gloversville and also Schoharie.

I am creditably informed that Rev. J. J. Adams is still making commendable progress and large congregations are waiting upon his ministry. Rev. D. F. Bradley, Schoharie, is laboring hard to lift up Zion's standard there and the present indications are favorable to his successful accomplishment.

Rochester, N. Y., the Flower City of the Empire State, Rev. W. A. Ely, D. D., is pastor. He is successfully administering church affairs. The Sunday school is the largest in the State outside of New York and Brooklyn. Miss Florence Spragon is the efficient and successful superintendent, supported by able and enthusiastic officers and teachers. Possibly the largest young colored ladies' class in the North is here, consisting of nearly eighty members. This school makes a specialty of developing the social element among its members.

Bath, N. Y., is commanded by the eloquent "boy preacher," Rev. B. W. Swain. He is serving successfully his fifth year. The various departments were never so successful as now. For nearly three yeas the church has been inadequate to meet the demands of the increasing congregation. In consequence plans and specifications were drawn for a new and more commodious edifice last June. Notwithstanding the financial exigencies he has raised a subscription of two thousand ($2,000) dollars during the past five months. The foundations of the church have been laid and the building when completed will cost nearly $4,000. Rev. Swain since his advent among us has proven himself to be a remarkable young man. If North Carolina has any more such sons to spare, may they now hear the call, "Come over in Macedonia and help us."

OHIO CONFERENCE NEWS.

BY REV. J. H. TRIMBLE, P. E.

Through the will of God, the nomination of our beloved bishop and the suffrage of the brethren I was re-elected presiding elder of the Ohio conference, for which I am very grateful. There was a little opposition there a misunderstanding, but that is a thing of the past with us and we have agreed to go to work as one; to take everything in sight for God and Zion. It is due to my brethern to say I never was treated more kindly as a presiding elder, and with one or two exceptions they have all paid me my money and I am doing all I can to reciprocate their kindness. God is blessing us. Rev. M. R. Franklin, pastor of Avery mission church, Allegheny city, is still keeping abreast of the times and is succeeding both financially and spiritually. We had a grand quarterly meeting. One of the young men in behalf of the Church Aid Society, in a neat speech presented the pastor with $55. Rev. Franklin responding, highly commended the young people. The presiding elder was paid. The mission is one of the most prosperous and active churches in the two cities. Rev. H. Butler, of Carnegie Zion church, is doing a good work. He seems to be the right man in the right place, and is very highly appreciated by his members. They paid me my money a week before it became due and had their pastor paid up when the conference met. They are now striving to raise one hundred dollars on the church. Rev. A. H. Dorsey, pastor of Avery church in Washington, is holding his own. As this was the first meeting held in this quarter and having only two weeks time, their reports were not so strong but we expect a grand report at our next meeting. Rev. D. R. Matthews, the pastor at Oakdale, is getting along very nicely. The people pay their pastor and presiding elder as they go. Dr. Matthews is very highly appreciated. His is one of the strong out little churches in the district. Rev. C. Campbell, pastor at Bellevue, is succeeding as well as could be expected under the circumstances. The church is groaning under a heavy debt, but they are full of hope and Rev Campbell thinks that, with a helping hand, they can meet all demands. Rev M S Kell is succeeding spiritually and financially and has all the young people at work in the Endeavor Society. Brother Kell is an active, intelligent and sincere pastor. He is very highly respected. My money has been good. Sister Kell has been very sick but is now convalescent. Rev. W H Pollard is pastor at Bridgewater. He is not succeeding as well as he hoped. He and his people got into a fight. This is a sad sight to see God's saints fall, mangled between the crossed swords of pastor and members. It is a very complicated case. We have done all we can to restore peace but it will require more good common sense and grace on both elder to restore order and peace. Rev H L James, pastor at Mazeppa, is very highly respected and is succeeding as a pastor. Brother James has only been at his work two weeks, he having relieved pastor No. 1. In that short time he raised the presiding elder's salary and other money. We expect a good report at our next quarterly meeting. Rev W A M Cypress, pastor at Salem, is doing a good work there. Several accessions have been made to the church and $125 have been raised. A vestibule has been built to the church, new lights put in and the debt on the parsonex reduced. Sister Cypress, with her sewing circle, netted $35 on Thanksgiving night. Rev Cypress is striving to build a church in New Lisbon, which is a part of his work. Rev M L Demby, pastor at New Castle, is succeeding. He found the church in a very embarrassed condition. Thro bad management, the church is groaning under a heavy debt. Brother Demby has greatly improved the congregation. He engaged in a revival which resulted in several souls being brought to Jesus. Brother Moore, the district missionary, assisted him. We had the best meeting that we ever held in New Castle. They paid my money and made me the recipient of several nice presents. Rev T H Slater, pastor at Franklin, is moving along very successfully. He has raised $175 this quarter and has succeeded in getting the debt arranged so that it can be managed at five dollars per month. My money has been paid. The church is in a good condition both spiritually and financially. Brother Slater is a christian gentleman, a good pastor and an instructive preacher. Rev N J Brother, pastor at Akron, has surprised many and all the brethren in the district. He has succeeded in doing what all have failed to do. He has paid this property desired to Mrs. Ida and the first corner stone of a colored church in that city. A fine building has been erected, which, when completed, will have cost about $7,000 and will be the third finest church in the district. Its choir will have an organ of its own. Brother Slater seems to be too highly commended by the people and members at Akron. The building also has not been paid. Rev. Thomas, pastor at Massillon, is doing a good work there. He is well accepted to the church. They expect to build a new church in the near future. Brother Thomas is very highly appreciated by his people and colored. They paid me a splendid order. We had one of the most all round successful quarterly meetings we have held in that church. Passing onward from the pulpit to the door, Rev R E Wilson is pastor at St. John's A M E Zion church, Cincinnati. He is the people's pastor and of all the colored churches in that city he has the people's church, so says the press. Rev Wilson is an intelligent energetic christian gentleman and an eloquent speaker. He loves Zion connection and is advancing his people along the entire line. He represents his presiding elder, he and his loving wife, who is a christian lady, spare no pains to make it pleasant for their presiding elder. We found the church greatly improved over the last quarter. Its spiritual health is good. The debt has been considerably reduced. To appreciate the success that has attended Brother Wilson's administration, one would have to be acquainted with the opposition which he encountered and the difficulties which have attended him. But praise God, he is master of the situation. To say he is highly respected by his members and that they love to make it pleasant for both pastor and presiding elder is not putting it a whit too strongly. We had a grand old time quarterly meeting and left brother Wilson in the midst of a glorious revival. Our mission work in Washington, Massillon, Youngstown, Cleveland and Kingsville is succeeding well and has a bright future.

SUMMERVILLE (GA.) DISTRICT NOTES.

BY PRESIDING ELDER E. T. HEARN.

I was elected presiding elder of the above district, Nov. '94, and held my first quarterly meeting at Smith Grove, Rev N Thompkins pastor. The meeting was a success. Rev Thompkins has purchased a bell and is preparing to make an addition of ten feet to the church. All love him.

The church at Columbus, Ga., was our next point. Here we found the church at a stand still; nearly all of the members had gone into winter quarters. Rev S L Walker, the pastor, and I walked around for four days hunting the little flock. We succeeding in gathering them together on Wednesday night, at which time I held the quarterly meeting. The books of Rev S W Gibbs were investigated. I found thereupon the money that had been received by him and what it was paid out for. He paid on the building and lot the sum of $395.85. The balance due on lot $120, on building $37.35, and if the ministers and members of our beloved Zion everywhere would help, just a little as some have already done, we will have a fine church when completed. Somebody has received $5.35 raised at a rally for the benefit of the above church. Brother, please remit at once, the church needs the money. Any donation that you wish to give send it to Rev S L Walker, Columbus, Ga.

The Lyerly circuit under Rev G W Harding as pastor, is not moving as we would like to have it, but all promise to do better.

The LaFayette circuit, Rev D M Pickard is pastor. This circuit, like the Columbus circuit, has been badly managed, but pastor and people are bestirring up the way. Elder Pickard has done the conference built a parsonage and he and the members of this are living therein, and we anticipate you being able to have the church ready for the occupant of the North Georgia Annual Conference which will convene at LaFayette on the 6th Wednesday in October, 1895. Elder Pickard is the right man for the place.

Summerville circuit, with Rev A W Rice, as pastor, is known as the banner circuit on the district. Rev. Rice is a young man of much promise. He joined conference on the day of his quarterly meeting, this place. He is a young man of much promise. He is a good preacher, a good pastor and as a preacher and a worker for Zion an enviable reputation.

Wood station circuit under C H Mallory as pastor, is fast coming to the front. Notwithstanding the cold wind and snow we had a good spiritual meeting to come up on all lines in the next quarterly meeting. Rev Mallory is a coming preacher in North Georgia.

Mt Zion circuit, Rev L T Freeman pastor. We can not say much of a part of this circuit, one of the churches failed to report in the quarterly meeting, but the two that were represented rendered good reports. We hope to report more favorably next time.

Gaylesville circuit, Rev W F Roberson is pastor. Too much can not be said for this coming young preacher. He has since Nov '94, purchased a lot and built a creditable little chapel on the main road leading from Lyerly to Gaylesville, Ala. His next move is to remodel the church at Gaylesville. At this point our church has been on the back ground but thank God Zion is moving under this young hero. His members all love him and send in something for the pastor and family. They also tell him that he has done more real good than any of his predecessors. He has not got the big head and think himself lord of all, but he is attending the public school under Mr D H Horton, a member and class leader of his church. He is the right man and preacher in the right place. Five members have been received in the church by him since Xmas.

OPINIONS ON IMPORTANT MATTERS.

BY XENOPHEN.

One of the most important of the grave and important subjects to be considered and disposed of by the ensuing general conference, is the choosing of a number of its members to grace the high and honorable office of bishop. Much discretion and wisdom are here required. Brother Biddle's letter, captioned "In honor preferring one another," shows the spirit that ought to prevail whilst this all important matter is being considered and terminated. The difficulty which confronts us is too often each one of the whole membership feels as if he should be the one in honor preferred and here much feeling, which is not altogether christian-like, is engendered. Especially is this feeling most intensely felt by him who by some good stroke of fortune has made unto himself a name for oratory or church-building or as a successful pastor to choose one of less renown to that high office. He thinks it would do violence to reason and good sense. Therefore, he cannot readily yield his consent. But this modest, unpretending brother after all may be God's man for the place, and would grace the office with all the fitness of a Samuel. The popularity which surrounds some good brethren is often fictitious and built upon a sandy foundation, and will not bear strict investigation. To choose a brother from this standpoint would only be to put the wrong man out of his place. How often an obscure man is appointed to a popular church and that church clothes him with its popularity. The church gives him prestige, he does not give the church prestige. Often he gets this at the sacrifice of his manhood. He is but the church's willing slave. But the brother that went before him found that church without popularity and proves infamous in that community. He sacrificed his all to build up that church to the status of power and influence which is now present and which is an commendable to all succeeding pastors. Now, the brother who makes the church popular is a fit man than he whom the church has made popular. The latter may be in obscurity, yet the elements of fitness are in him and an opportunity is only needed for development to bring out the latent powers and battle cadences of the grand ram of state. Ought age to cut a great weigh anything in so important a choice? In my judgment they should be important factors.

Age (not infirmity) demands respect, and despite ourselves, we feel it due to bow to gray hairs as containing a hidden treasury of wisdom. Does not such a sacred office as that of the bishopric demand all the possibilities of human fitness, soberness of thought, ripeness of judgment, sanctified being and apostolic humility? How ought we to make the choice? That is, In what manner should we express our wills? Is the present mode the best that can be adopted? I think not, but will say something on that point in the next brief.

THIS AND THAT.

BY L. L. F.

I was glad to see Rev. Smith, the fearless correspondent of the Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference, advocate the rights of the people in his clear and convincing style, which was occasioned by the untimely opinion of our friend Rev James Henry McMullen, of Jacob Street Tabernacle. I was very much surprised that a gentleman of Rev. McMullen's stamp and calibre would father such sentiments and ever give public utterance to them. I suppose he was suffering from the effects of a large and substantial meal on "Kentucky oysters" and I feel assured that after second sober thought, with Rev. Smith's burning words of protest to such unfair legislation as he (Rev. McMullen) thought should be enacted he was quite ready to take back every word he said. If the well-meaning brother only knew how tiresome, and in some cases, though very rare, how disgusting some preachers are in their futile attempts to pastor churches he would not make such a demand. I sincerely trust that Rev. McMullen's suggestion, with all due respect to him, will only be like a pebble cast into the sea.

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The letter of encouragement from the Rev. M. D. W. Jones to the editor of THE STAR must be highly appreciated by him. Rev. Jones voices my sentiments to the letter. Editor Clinton has had a hard row to hoe, and I think he has held up wonderfully well under the pressing unfavorable circumstances. His appeal for aid should meet with a hearty response and I am quite willing to give $5 toward the purchase of the necessary supplies to make our paper compare well with other church organs. Zion people have been accused of a lack of church pride and the appearance of THE STAR OF ZION, at times, is substantial evidence to support the sentiment. Were 100 men—ministers and laymen—give $5 each to the cause of helping our church paper. It can be done so easily that you must realize when it is done. Any disposition not to feed the appetite of the editor might be regarded with a wish for him to fail, and who wants him to fail?

NOTES AS THEY COME FROM SUMMERVILLE, GA.

BY REV. A. W. RICE.

Zion is in mourning here over the death of Rev N T Hearn, who departed this life on Wednesday morning, March 6th, 1895, at 1:55 o'clock. He was born in Augusta, Ga., September 28, 1856. He attended the public school there for several years and after finishing his course of studies he then was married to Miss Martha A. Bigg, in 1876. Then he learned the tailor trade and worked at that for several years. He was converted March 28, 1882, and was received into the Georgia Annual Conference in 1883. He was sent out as a traveling minister in 1884. He served in conference second of the North Georgia Conference until his death. He was elected presiding elder over Summerville, Ga., district at the last annual conference which convened in Lawrenceville, Ga., Wednesday, Oct. 31, 1894. The members of the district were highly pleased with their presiding elder. He had attended only one round over the district and was about to begin the second tour. Then the monster death came and the angels of heaven came to usher his soul home to glory. Elder Hearn lived a consistent christian; he was a true, devoted husband. His [illegible] proved him to be a true [illegible] in health. He was [illegible] he was a true [illegible] life. I heard him say [illegible] wanted his [illegible] district of the North Georgia Conference. He served the pastorate at Summerville, Ga., three years and was loved by both colored and white. In the last moments of his life he told his wife that he had a building not made with hands eternal in the heavens. His funeral was preached by the writer. I selected as a text Jeremiah li:20: "Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war." Quite a large audience attended the funeral. He was a member of the Odd Fellows. He now rests in the Summerville cemetery. He leaves a true and devoted wife and son to mourn their loss. Dear sister, we sympathize with you in your hour of bereavement. God has promised to be a husband for the widow and a father for the fatherless. "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

"Servant of God well done,
Enter thy Master's joy;
The battle fought, the victory won,
And thou art crowned at last."

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTERS.

Briefly it is this: [illegible] of April in Chicago, with the Bible Institute as headquarters, for a special course in the English Bible, and a study of the various methods of missional work, as applied in the multifarious activities of that great city.

The month of April has been selected for this Conference as a time when many ministers might arrange to be absent from their work without serious detriment thereto. In many country places the roads are usually in bad condition at that time of year, and little parish work can be done. For city ministers, a change and season for Bible study after the special meetings of the winter, would be a great boon and would be the means in many cases of putting new vigor into the entire summer campaign.

INDUCEMENTS.

The inducements in the line of study are as follows: The regular work of the Institute will be carried on as usual. This will consist of:

1. A study of Old Testament prophecy, with the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah as a basis, under the direction of Prof. W. W. White, at 9 a. m.

b. A course in the Acts and Epistles, under the same teacher, at 10 a. m.

c. An analytical study of the first Epistle of John, by Supt. R. A. Torrey, at 11 a. m.

d. Prof. D. B. Towner, Superintendent of the Musical Department, holds classes at 10 and 11 a. m.

Visitors will be welcomed to all these exercises. They will be held every day except Sunday and Monday (which is rest day at the Institute.)

SPECIAL COURSE.

The special course will occupy two hours in the afternoon from Tuesday to Saturday inclusive. Mr. Torrey will speak at 2 o'clock on the great fundamental doctrines of the Bible, namely: Regeneration, Sanctification, Justification, the Holy Spirit, prayer. Prof. White will give a Bible study at 3 o'clock each day. The course will be arranged so that those who may be able to attend the sessions of Conference may be able to attend these lectures, to church and other meetings.

EXPENSES.

The total expense for the entire course will be [illegible]