

# The Star of Zion.

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

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## "NEW ZION."

BY L. Z. JOHNSON.

O Lord, in mercy ever keep  
Thy servant near to Thee;  
And when thou seest all my needs,  
O Lord remember me.

No, not for what I am, O Lord,  
Nor what I've done for Thee;  
But for Thy Son's sake—for Jesus' sake—  
O Lord, remember me.

When dark the way my feet must tread,  
Nor mortal eye can see  
The light of thine eternal day,  
O Lord, remember me.

When strong temptations try my soul,  
And lead me far from Thee,  
Oh, leave me not, nor pass me by!  
Dear Lord, remember me.

Sin-laden, weak and wretched,  
From sin I would be free;  
But seek the power of mortal man,  
O Lord, remember me.

The ladies and the weary ones  
Thou biddest come to thee:  
I come, O Lord, and coming know  
Thou wilt remember me.  
Harrisburg, Penn.

[The above hymn was sung at the opening service of the A. M. E. Zion church at Harrisburg, Pa., an account of which appeared in our last issue.]

## A RUNNING FIRE COMMENT ON PERSONS AND THINGS.

BY REV. J. W. SMITH.

Our bishops are doing heavy work which keeps them from their families two-thirds of the time. Zion does not feel like over-working them, and that is another reason why the next general conference will elect three more men for the episcopal bench. Age is another consideration. We only have two young bishops and they are getting gray from overwork. Three or four conferences are as much as any bishop can justly superintend.

Bishop Arnett, after weeks of silence, has never publicly explained why he devoted two long columns blowing about the superiority of his denomination, in the New York Independent, and two inches telling incoherently about Zion. Let us forget this, and as soon as we get to general conference jump up and move that we have organic union.

By the way, a great deal of criticism has been made because Editor Clinton is pastor of a church. I wish to say that Bishop Tanner has made the editor of the Christian Recorder the pastor of the Bethel church in Harrisburg to fill out the unexpired term of Rev. Heard who was appointed by President Cleveland a Minister Resident to Liberia. So our editor has company. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.

There is a talk of a good many changes be made next month in the Philadelphia and Baltimore conference which meets in York, Pa. I am told that nearly every minister in big and little churches is on the anxious bench with uplifted hands, eyes rolling heavenward, saying, "Lord is it I; is it I?" Others are saying, "Speak, bishop, for thy servant heareth." The bishop is not going to speak until he, like Moses, goes up on the mount and has an interview with Jehovah. In the meantime every man might as well sit in his tent door and now and then put his ear to the ground and see if he can hear the bishop making intercessions for him.

Not long ago a prominent Zion minister said to a group of ministers, that he was not a candidate for any thing in Zion, but that he was a candidate for heaven. Rev. J. H. Anderson "wittily" said, "Brother, you can have my vote first, last and all the time."

The bishop and I spent a day with the white-haired leader of this conference, Rev. John E. Price, of Shippensburg, Pa. He has been in poor health the past year, but is convalescing. He and his wife have a beautiful home.

After an extensive visit thro my conference the past three or four weeks, Bishop Walters, whose popularity is still on the increase, rounded out his labors on my charge Sabbath evening, the 7th inst., and was called home suddenly by telegram to see his little boy who was severely ill with typhoid fever. The bishop reports this conference being in a prosperous condition and says, on the whole, the men are doing well, altho necessity will compel some important changes. Riding in his episcopal chariot thro the conference, he was given an ovation all along the line, the ministers and churches vying with each other in giving him grand receptions.

The last Sabbath in March, Bishop Walters was in Harrisburg at the local church opening of our church on South-st., and the members told me on Monday, when I was down to their reception, that he preached two powerful sermons to large audiences. It will be remembered that Rev. J. F. Moreland and his people are building the finest brick church in this conference, at a cost of several thousand dollars. In the last three months they have raised, by rallies and entertainments, over \$3,000. The basement is far from completion, and yet the members were so anxious to get back into their church that they went in in its crude state. They will complete the basement by conference. Brother Moreland and his members are doing a grand work and the people are still charmed with his fine sermons.

Rev. C. H. Dockett has done a good work at Chambersburg, and his church wants the conference to meet there. They have a fine new church, and are able now to entertain one. Bishop Walters assured them that he would make an effort to have it meet there next year. Bishop Walters spent four days with me and was well pleased with my church work. On Saturday afternoon he visited the Junior Christian Endeavor of my church and said it was the first of the kind he had seen in Zion. He was pleased with it and said you are doing a big work, doing what the Catholics are doing, getting hold of the children everywhere and bringing them into the church. The Bishop joined the little Juniors. He was delighted with my Y. P. S. C. E., which meets an hour Sabbath evening before preaching. It was crowded and they made the Christian Endeavor music ring out for God and Zion. The Bishop told my people that the church was too small to accommodate the rapidly growing congregation and that he was unwilling to satisfy them by returning me a fourth year unless they would agree to make the church 15 feet longer and build a finger front. The congregation said, "We are willing to do so." Both morning and evening the Bishop preached to large audiences of colored and white; in fact, nearly one half of the white students of Dickinson College were present at both services. The Bishop, in the morning, preached a classical sermon, freighted with illustrations from the Bible, history, nature and experience, and it so enraptured them that they crowded the church early in the evening. I have heard the Bishop several times, but I confess, that I never before heard him to better advantage. He broke his record. At night he fairly let himself go and my people went wild with shouts. The Bishop said I had the best spiritual church he had found on his district. The following item from the daily Herald here will fittingly close this article:

"The services in the West-st., A. M. E. Zion church yesterday were unusually interesting. In the morning Bishop Alexander Walters, of New York, preached a brilliant sermon on 'Thy Kingdom Come.' In the evening the hinges upon which he swung the door of his text were 'Beloved, now are the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that when He shall appear we shall be like Him; who shall see Him as He is.' The Bishop, who is an earnest, earnest and stirring preacher, has the happy faculty of rendering his gospel truths strikingly lucid, both by illustration and contrast. Dr. Fryberger, of the M. E. church, in the afternoon, preached a fine practical sermon on 'Have Faith in God.' A large audience of colored and white were present all day, and in the evening over one hundred persons were turned away from the church for want of room. The collection was over \$50.

## "OUR CHURCH MISSION."

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY E. H. WILLIAMS ON MISSION SUNDAY AT EVANS METROPOLITAN CHURCH, FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

Ladies and Gentlemen:—In the short time granted me to-night, I shall offer a brief appeal in behalf of our church mission. My limited research does not permit me to enter upon an elaborate discourse, but were time and research granted, I would point your sublime duty as I now behold it.

Mission day is the natural outgrowth of a progressive denomination and is observed as a means to raise funds both to support and to extend the mission of our beloved Zion. Adversary circumstances have hitherto combined to prevent Evans Metropolitan church, the strongest wing of conference, from contributing her quota to Home and Foreign Missions.

Time, the wonderful scene-shifter, along with other things, has changed the condition of the church. The spell cast upon her congregation by the hideous nightmare of lethargy has been broken, and the mists that over shadowed her, dispelled. Along with this wonderful transformation comes a call on our worthy pastor, to raise sixty dollars or report to conference the reason why.

The time has now arrived when you must no longer find a hiding place from this much neglected cause of Home and Foreign Missions. This noble work has depended mainly upon the church for support, and to her immortal honor be it said, she has always proved true to her trust. The work of christianity has steadily advanced but still the same solicits eyes in Africa are turned toward America, the mecca of their deliverance. All the churches directing their united energies toward this grand and have achieved much for humanity. They are still doing great work along this essential line of duty and deserve assistance, especially from, "We, whose souls are lighted by wisdom from on high."

Home and Foreign Mission! What a glorious theme for boundless thought! What a sublime opportunity for noble action! Let us halt with delight with this happy day that offers the opportunity of doing for an enslaved brother what he can not himself do.

"From many an ancient river,  
From many a palmey plain,  
They call us to deliver,  
Their land from error's chain."

Shall this summons, waited by every valiant breeze, longer pass unheeded? "Forbid it heaven! Forbid it Almighty God!" This work of deliverance now lies before you. Let us take it up and "do with our might what our hands find to do." The divine declaration, freely ye have received, freely also give, now appeals as directly as ever.

I am forcibly impressed with the great need of money and interest and therefore urge a quarter interest in home missions that more may be done for foreign missions. Only let conscience, the correct moral guide, pursue its untroubled course and it will quicken your hearts with the healthy fire of interest and cause the purse to grow heavier as it grows generous. Thus will you be enabled to spread Zion's borders, not only in America but in Africa. The genius of Methodism utilizes all resources within her grasp and therefore requires you to obey her mandates and exercise at all times a stimulating influence on the church.

Greater opportunity brings with it greater responsibility. This century offering its golden gems of over a thousand years accumulation, in return, requires us to respect the rights of the heathen, so binding us that we can not shake off their imposed obligations.

Man, alone of all creatures, was made a free moral agent; dependent,

but capable of self-control and responsible for his actions. In man only, mind is great and this superior faculty causes him to realize that the greatest happiness is secured only in making others happy.

The highest form of education and religion, is doing self duty from a sense of right and neither through hope of reward nor fear of punishment. In their pristine glory, both are priceless pearls, well worth your greatest sacrifice in their attainment. Even life and happiness dwindle into insignificance when compared with these great motive powers.

Regardless of the superior intelligence, characteristic of the present age, many demand—why should we be interested in mission work? You should because it is the greatest work in life; because you thereby support the poor and establish mission churches.

True christianity requires the exercise of missionary spirit in all our actions; to destroy selfishness and fear where it stood, the turnspire of love of man and God. Our being free and having progressive schools and churches are living evidences of missionary spirit. It wages war both against ignorance and idolatry and compels her soldiers to assume the aggressive and not defensive style of warfare. In short, it is an American war and if you would gain the mastery, must carry it over in Africa. Realize then the necessity of volunteering your immediate services for it is now a question of life or death. "To doubt would be dishonor; to falter would be death." Having pledged your sacred honor to perform faithfully every duty you must not shrink from this responsibility. Both America and Africa have fled your mission claims and how well you fulfill them let coming generations declare.

With the Afro-American, the twin children, freedom and progress continue to keep pace. The march of freedom and progress! What a multitude of hallowed memories burst through the flood gates of the mind as this magic utterance touches the strings of the soul and sets it on fire! What a boundless field for human speculation and what sublime avenues to true manhood these words open to the Negro. These are the happiest contemplations of my life and never lose their sweetness. The master of word painting here miserably fails to reproduce nature.

Renew now a covenant between you and Almighty God; and in gratitude for His beneficence, erect an everlasting memorial which always water with tears and hallow with prayers.

In this appeal I desire to reach your purse through the medium of your generous hearts for I have but to remind you that countless souls are now at stake. The momentous questions are, will you act well your parts upon the stage of human action? Shall Zion, the greatest branch of the Methodist denomination, be permitted to fall below the record made by other churches? Let us resolve at least, that whoever follows we will lead the way. The world knows her history and in breathless suspense watches your actions, ready to criticize if she can and praise if she must. In full persuasion of the excellencies of this church and people of Fayetteville may you respond liberally for you can and must be equal to the emergency.

The church has been persecuted from time immemorial and her work at times ceased but she was only gathering energy for renewed effort. Regardless of opposition from tyrants, she has kept the even tenor of her way, while they, trying to retard her progress, have comminuted their own destruction. You might wish as much certainty hope to beat back death itself, as to stop the onward march of the church; for whatever else falls that is destined to succeed.

The theme is too great for me. I can not do it justice. I am lost in the labyrinth of my own thought. I must leave the painting to be re-

touched by master hands that shall follow.

In conclusion—When the church triumphant shall join the church militant hard by the eternal throne of grace; in chanting the sweet hallelujahs of the redeemed, may the King of glory declare: Peace be within thy walls, O Jerusalem and prosperity within thy palaces O Zion.

## RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were adopted by the A. M. E. Ministers Union of the city of Washington, D. C.:

WHEREAS the publication of a history of the A. M. E. Zion church in America, or the centennial of African Methodism by Rt. Rev. J. W. Hood, D. D., LL. D., marks another great step in book-making in Zion's work which is bound to set forth the achievements of our church in a proper light against the unreliable and misleading accounts heretofore given concerning us. And

WHEREAS for superior excellence in preparation and skill in arrangement of matter of vital interest to the church and race, he has prepared a work that easily outranks any other publication of its kind extant, thereby showing the exceptionability of the publisher. And

WHEREAS our people have great need of just such a book in order that they may become better acquainted with the work accomplished by the fathers in the early days of the church in order that their pride for their church may be stimulated. And

WHEREAS the ministry of the church, especially the young men, have in this publication by Bishop Hood, a view of information concerning the history of the church, which will serve to stimulate them and also enable them to properly place before their people these valuable aids. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Union here assembled, extend to Bishop Hood our congratulations for having so successfully completed the volume which reflects great credit upon him and up on the church he loves and in which he is a most exemplary chief shepherd.

Resolved, That we give thanks to God for having so graciously spared his life to complete the work, and earnestly pray that the Bishop be spared to the church and the race for years to come in the noble service he gives.

Resolved, That each member of this Union purchase a copy for his own personal and family's use. Further be it

Resolved, That in token of our high regard for Bishop Hood and the estimation in which we hold him, this noble work of his, a copy of these resolutions be sent him.

[Signed]: COMMITTEE.

## ATHENS DISTRICT.

BY REV. T. J. MANSON, P. E.

Mr. Editor: I have been silent for some time. Knowing that our paper is always crowded with important matter, I refrained from writing. However, God has blessed me and I am still working in the Master's vineyard. At the last annual conference held in Cleveland, Tenn., our worthy and beloved Bishop, T. H. Lomax; D. D., saw fit to reappoint me as Presiding Elder of the Athens District. As usual I have always tried to obey orders. I met the brethren of the district, though some of them were new men, but we formed a resolution to make a grand oration this year than last. On account of inclemency of the weather our work has been retarded to some extent. Notwithstanding the unfavorable winter, the hard times, &c.,

the outlook for future success bids fair.

Rev. B. F. Tipton, of Athens station, has about completed the improvement already begun on the church, and is moving on nicely.

Rev. H. F. Martin, of Maryville station, seems to have his people in hand and the outlook is encouraging. Rev. J. D. Gaither, of the Concord circuit, as usual, is master of the situation. I recently visited him in a protracted meeting at Concord, and it was said to be the grandest meeting that was ever carried on in the town.

Rev. A. B. Morrow, pastor of Friendville circuit, is pushing forward with an encouraging hope for success. Louisville station, Rev. P. A. Wallis pastor, is succeeding grandly. This is his first year and without doubt, he is one of the coming young men of the connection. He will graduate from Maryville College next May. Rev. M. M. Morris, of the Charleston circuit, is succeeding very nicely. He has had quite a success in bringing souls to Christ this winter. Rev. William Walton, of the Rhea Springs circuit, has surpassed his predecessors in the way of a revival and he seems to be succeeding grandly. Rev. J. M. Cornell, of the Kingston circuit, is much beloved by his people, and the outlook bids fair for a successful year. Rev. T. P. Molden, of the Oliver Springs circuit, anticipates building a new church at this point and he is moving on nicely. London circuit is composed of good, earnest people; the pastor that was appointed there failed to go, which hindered the work on the circuit considerably, but I have succeeded in getting a man there and I think we will have no further trouble.

Newcomb circuit, Rev. L. G. Brooks pastor, lies in the heart of the coal regions, remote from any other, near the Kentucky line, surrounded by a chain of mountains; the valley below is thronged with people and Rev. L. G. Brooks is certainly king of the entire valley. I held his quarterly meeting recently, which was attended with a grand success, both spiritually and financially, with one conversion. Collection \$48.55. Eleven dollars was general fund, and in addition thereto, I succeeded in securing six cash subscribers to THE STAR OF ZION.

I have formed a new circuit, known as the Offalla circuit, with Rev. A. J. Payne as pastor. This circuit is destined to be one of the grandest on the district and with this son of thunder at the head of the circuit, I think we are bound for success. You can see from the above that I have not lost sight of our connectional interests. I never hold a meeting without presenting and urging the connectional claims. The brethren seem to be determined to bring up every connectional claim, man to man. I am trying, as best I know how, to lift up fallen humanity, raise the people to a higher standard, educationally, morally and financially. At times, it seemed to me too hard, but God has led me thro snow, etc., and I have hitched up the gospel horse and am on my second round. I hope you will bear in mind that I am always seeking to spread the borders of Zion and to enlarge its territory.

## OYSTER BAY, L. I.

BY ELBERT J. SMITH.

Gratitude is the noblest attribute of the soul. Thrown in the affections of man, it never found a truer expression than in the beautiful custom of memorial service. Our late beloved Rev. Joseph P. Thompson attended the occasion and on Sunday evening, March 3rd, in Zion's church, Oyster Bay, services were solemnized. Rev. John Wesley McCoy was the orator of the evening. The old melodious hymn, "Servant of God well done, etc.," went pealing forth, after which Rev. McCoy eulogized the Bishop. He bared his oration most fittingly and adequately from II Samuel, iii:33—"A great man is today fallen in Israel." His sublime remarks were of the highest order—

deep, logical and eloquent. As the sun was nearing the Western horizon one Winter's day the writer first met this distinguished gentleman who had come to fill a vacancy of Zion in Oyster Bay. Rev. E. Hayward Smith having recommended him from the capacity of a local preacher to the Presiding Elder, Rev. M. A. Sunday, he was pastored to our church. He was, by consideration of the New York annual conference, elected a deacon, having been duly ordained by the Rt. Rev. J. W. Hood. Although a comparatively young man it goes to show what may be accomplished by close study and natural intellectual ability. A mind to plan and a will to do will be crowned with success.

## SAG HARBOR (N. Y.) NOTES.

BY REV. T. W. JOHNSON.

Mr. Editor:—Please allow me space for an extract from a sermon on temperance. Theme—"Deliver us from evil."

Intemperance is a great evil and a curse to any institution, church or society. Its effects are felt, both morally and socially, has brought corruption and disaster in the land, crippled and killed the intellect, and intimidated some of the best material in the church and state. It kindles a fire to ignorance and sets a flame to superstition. It has condemned the innocent and learned the sherry and spirit of progress. Intemperance also tends to bias the minds of a community and darken the elements of influential success. It does not alone consist in the use of the malt beverage, but the excessive use of the weed is equally damaging and too much cannot be said of it. It destroys the beauty and diminishes the wealth of an individual, mars the effect of the gospel and lowers the dignity of the messenger of God or anyone else connected with society. It sets the precedent for dissipation and death, leaving the person a subject for insanity and a premature grave. I speak from experience and observation and would recommend that we, as advocates for God and the right, would place before the people the necessity of destroying these two gigantic evils. By the use of the weed the brain is affected in such a way, as to cause superstition and jealousy to misrepresent and censure the good morals of an energetic man or woman. We would further recommend that during the centennial anniversary the subject be agitated and efforts be made to establish a prohibition society, to be connected with every church, to curtail the onward march of these two evils.

## GREENVILLE COLLEGE NOTES.

BY J. H. BRANNER.

President R. A. Morrissey, A. B., is in Connecticut soliciting aid for the college. We are expecting him home soon. We have had a very successful school this session and we are now preparing for the closing exercises which will take place the last of this month. Rev. E. D. W. Jones has been asked to preach the annual sermon. Rev. G. W. Clinton, A. M., will deliver the annual address on Tuesday night, April 30th. We are arranging a program for Friday and Monday nights, 28th and 29th, to be carried out by the pupils. This will be the first commencement exercises of this college and we are preparing to make it a grand affair. The ministers and friends of the Blue Ridge and Tennessee conferences are requested to be present at the exercises. Our church here is in a good condition spiritually. We have added seventeen to the membership of our church within three months. We have an intelligent, Christian minister for our presiding elder, who is loved by all his ministers and their congregations. We hope this year some success and will try and get some subscribers for it soon.