

COMPASSION.

Could we but sound the depths of other hearts,
And from their mirrored hopes and aspirations crushed
Teach to ourselves the painful lessons they have learned,
It methinks the cross of life would lighter be
And pathways smoothed, through strongknit bonds of human sympathy.

But, mingling Custom with its fawning train
Of sapling brains and ill-concealed distrust,
Frowns down the rising smile, the outstretched hand—
Sweeps off the trembling tear, de-thrones the heart,
Sets Pride upon its feet, and with one vengeful thrust
The murder is complete.

Ohio Conference Proceedings.

REV. T. H. TIPTON, REPORTER.

The Ohio annual conference convened in its sixth session at Cincinnati, Ohio, Wednesday, June 10th, at 12 m., in St. John's A. M. E. Zion church, Rev. R. E. Wilson, D. pastor.

The opening and devotional services were conducted by Bishop J. B. Small, assisted by Dr. Wilson and Presiding Elder M. S. Kell, then the following officers were elected: Rev. W. A. M. Cypress, secretary; Rev. T. H. Slater, recording secretary; Rev. W. A. H. Pringle, statistical secretary; Rev. T. H. Tipton, reporter; Mr. R. Winn, post-office messenger; Rev. Holmes, marshal. Bishop Small stated that Bishop Pettey was confined at home by illness and had requested him to come and fill his appointment by holding the Ohio conference. He said that as it was his first time since his election that he had had the honor of presiding, he hoped that all would be well and that he would be able to make a good report to Bishop Pettey. He ended by giving some valuable advice to the brethren which was heartily received. The conference roll was then called and corrected. Conference adjourned to meet at 3 p. m.

The conference re-assembled at 3 p. m., Bishop Small presiding, who announced the usual committees and asked the committee on rules to make its report, which was done. The report was adopted after some amendments. Rev. White, of the M. E. church, and Dr. Bowen, of Gammon Theological Seminary, were then introduced and accorded the usual rights of visitors. Dr. Bowen's remarks were filled with good things. Dr. Wilson was selected to respond to the remarks. All who know the Ohio conference can rest assured that he left no stone unturned in making Zion's reply. At this juncture a letter was received from Bishop Pettey saying how sorry he was that he could not be with the conference, but hoped that the brethren would treat Bishop Small with all Christian love and honor. Bishop Small asked the conference to sing a hymn and have a prayer offered in behalf of Bishop Pettey. Conference then adjourned to meet at 10 a. m., Thursday morning.

SECOND DAY—THURSDAY.

Conference convened at 10 o'clock a. m. Bishop Small presiding. After devotional exercises, Rev. Prond of the Baptist church and Rev. —, of the A. M. E. church of Cincinnati, were introduced and made speeches filled with sentiments of love and fraternity. Rev. Sprinkle responded in well chosen words. The Bishop urged the committees to make their reports. The 30 cents assessments were passed by the conference with little opposition. Bishop Small remarked that Friday was set apart for Centennial exercises. Conference adjourned until 2:30 p. m.

At 2:30 o'clock p. m. the conference re-assembled, Bishop Small presiding. Rev. M. R. Franklin was selected to preach the annual sermon at 3 o'clock p. m. The report of the Presiding Elder was called for. It showed that the Elder had truly been up and about his duty and that Zion's watchmen had all taken the alarm. There seemed to be love and unity throughout the district. The Bishop complimented the Elder by nominating him to succeed himself for the next two years which was carried out a murmur. Rev. Franklin read his report as conference president which was turned over to the committee who

Rev. Franklin asked for a transfer to the New York conference which was granted by the conference with much regret as he was dearly beloved by one and all. Ohio conference has lost a good man. May success attend his labors. Bishop Small then read the transfer of Rev. W. B. Fenderson from the New England to the Ohio conference which was received with much cheering. Truly God is good to Israel: the loss of one is the gain of another. Conference adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock p. m. to hear the annual address.

All who know Rev. Franklin can imagine what a grand treat the good people of Cincinnati had in hearing his annual sermon. He announced as his text the 9th verse of the 23rd chapter of Numbers—"From the tops of the rocks I see Him." Rev. Franklin proved himself master of the situation at once. He held the audience spell-bound for forty minutes. Dr. Wilson's choir rendered most excellent music for the occasion. We would be proud if Zion had such sweet singers a lover the connection. If the committee on Centennial Jubilee singe's fails to secure this noble choir to assist them in New York, they will regret it.

THIRD DAY—CENTENNIAL DAY.

The devotional services were conducted by Bishop Small, then the minutes were read and approved. The conference was graced and highly honored by the presence of Bishop G. W. Clinton, who was introduced by Bishop Small, who said it afforded him great pleasure in introducing to the Ohio conference the youngest Bishop in the world. Bishop Clinton addressed the conference as he only can do. We are all proud of our dear Bishop G. W. Clinton and pray that he may live long and do much for God and Zion.

At 11 a. m. the Centennial celebration sermon began. Bishops Small and Clinton and Rev. J. H. McMullen occupied the pulpits and conducted devotional exercises. The Centennial sermon by Rev. McMullen, of Louisville, Ky., was one long to be remembered by all who heard it. Truly Rev. McMullen is one of Zion's strong and coming young men. May God bless him.

At 2:30 Bishop Small, assisted by Bishop Clinton, presided. Conference was led in the Lord's prayer, then music was furnished by the St. John choir. Bishop Clinton ably discussed the "Origin and progress of the A. M. E. Zion church." Dr. Wilson in his masterly way discussed "The A. M. E. Zion church as an educator of the Negro in the past one hundred years." He convinced all who listened to him that our Zion is second to none. Rev. Springle spoke on "Our Literature" with much warmth showing that we make quite a mistake by not using the thoughts written from the brains of our Zionites. He closed by saying that the STAR OF ZION should be in every house owned by a Zion member and that no minister should be without Bishop Small's grand book of sermons.

In the evening the Centennial Celebration was held at the Zion Baptist church. A beautiful cantata—Singing Flowers—was rendered with great success to a crowded house. The committee deserves great credit for its labors. Afterward a grand reception was tendered the conference. We take these means to thank the committee for its kindness to us on Friday evening, June 12. Mrs. R. E. Wilson, chairman; Mrs. M. E. Carter, secretary; Mrs. E. Williams, organist; Mr. H. T. Jackson, director.

FOURTH DAY—SATURDAY.

Conference convened at 10 a. m., Bishop G. W. Clinton in the chair. After devotional services the minutes were read and approved. The Bishop called for the reports of pastors and the passage of characters. The reports of the different churches showed an increase over last year. Reports from the various committees were made and approved. The appointments were read Sunday evening.

Conference adjourned Monday morning to meet at Salem, Ohio, June 14th, 1897. May God bless the kind people who opened their hearts and homes to help entertain the conference at Cincinnati. We hope that the two visiting ladies, Misses Jennie and Hattie Cooke, will help us entertain the good people as we were

REV. JOHN H. HECTOR.

ONE OF NATURE'S ORATORS, CALLED THE "BLACK KNIGHT," AND ONE OF THE MOST WITTY AND HUMOROUS OF HIS RACE.

Since the above named Christian gentleman is about to cross the Atlantic the STAR wishes the world to know what manner of man he is. The following are some of his lectures: (1) "America and American people"; (2) "The slavery that was and the slavery that is"; (3) "The devil dressed in white"; (4) "The story of my early life"; (5) "Personal reminiscences of the late war"; (6) "The great needs of the human family"; (7) "A Bible wife and how to get her"; (8) "The duty of the hour in Canada."

MORILE, ALA., MAY 23, 1896.
TO THE HONORABLE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE, LONDON, ENGLAND.

Dear Fathers and Brethren: Grace, mercy and peace, through the Lord Jesus Christ our common Saviour.

This is to certify that the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of America, with adherents in Canada, the West Indies and Africa, numbering in all about five hundred thousand souls, has deputed our worthy and reverend brother, John H. Hector, to visit your august body, and present to you Conference and to the Wesleyan Church which it represents, our fraternal Christian greeting. We cordially and most respectfully commend



REV. JOHN H. HECTOR.

him to you as our representative.

The A. M. E. Zion Church, or Connection, was established in the year 1796, with the good will of Bishop Asbury, whom our common Methodist father, (now sainted) John Wesley, authorized in the work of organization and establishment of Methodism on this Continent.

As a matter of history we present just a few figures. From a few hundred members we have increased, according to the figures of our Statistical Board, to 498,000. We have nine Bishops and seventeen educational institutions. Our representative will add such other facts as in his judgement may be necessary.

May Almighty God give His blessings to your deliberations, and may the united efforts of the great Methodist family be factors in helping to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus, as the rightful Ruler of the kingdoms and other governments of this world, when there shall be neither bond nor free, neither black nor white, neither Jew nor Gentile, but all one in Christ Jesus.

Very respectfully,
J. W. HOOD,
Senior Bishop.

WM. HOWARD DAY,
General Secretary A. M. E. Zion church.

WESLEYAN MISSION HOUSE,
BISHOPGATE STREET WITHIN,
LONDON, ENG., MAY 29, 1896.

REV. JOHN H. HECTOR.

My Dear Sir: I duly received your cable message announcing your election by the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church to convey its greetings to our forthcoming Conference in Liverpool, and I have since received your letter of the 16th inst., confirming that message.

I am heartily glad to hear of your appointment, and can assure you of a warm welcome from our Conference in due course. We assemble in Liverpool on Tuesday, July 21st, so that if you come by the "Mongolian" from Quebec, you will just arrive in port in time for the gathering of the Conference, when I shall hope to see you face to face.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
MARSHALL HARTLEY.

PRESS NOTICES.

The following are a few of the many comments of the press concerning Rev. J. H. Hector's lectures: "His lectures were irresistible in their elo-

logic and eloquence."—Troy Daily Times.
"The most original and acceptable colored temperance speaker of the day."—New York Herald.

"Held his audience spell-bound, while he painted in vivid colors the battle-fields that he had witnessed."—Williamsport Gazette.

"Seldom has so large a congregation—somehow about two thousand—attended a morning service in St. James Church as yesterday greeted the Rev. J. H. Hector, the Black Knight. The sermon was an extraordinary pulpit effort and greatly affected the large assembly which listened, was inspired, amused, thrilled and almost caused to weep in unison."—Monroe Witness.

"Rev. J. H. Hector, the colored orator of the South, made a powerful impression. The gifted speaker told the story of his life in a most delightful manner and fairly convulsed his audience with his sallies of wit, and instructed them with his words of wisdom."—Victoria (B. C.) Colonist.

"For an hour and a half he held his hearers spell-bound, now eliciting bursts of laughter and again bringing them almost to tears with his pathetic incidents. He is full of fun and wit and his portrayal of ludicrous scenes was so real that one could almost imagine being present with the narrator."—Valley Echo.

"The speaker's power and logic were unanswerable, and at times his flights of eloquence were beyond the power of pen to describe. In our opinion Mr. Hector has but few equals as a convincing orator. Besides all the praise we have for him, we know him to be a grand Christian gentleman of the highest type."—R. georgetown Bulletin.

"It is safe to say that the Tabernacle

at the court house, was a decided success. For nearly two hours he interested his listeners to such a degree that they were loath to have him stop."—York Daily.

"Rev. Mr. Hector is a natural orator, simple in style and unaffected, yet commanding the closest attention. His is not a put-on, studied style of oratory, but natural, welling right up from the fountains of his nature, and so attractive that one is compelled to listen to him."—York Evening Dispatch.

"One of the most entertaining and interesting lectures ever delivered in this city, was that given by Rev. J. H. Hector in Irving Hall last night, in aid of the Star-King Monument fund. The audience roared with laughter, or tried to still their quivering lips as the speaker swayed them with his humor or pathos. Mr. Hector is a natural orator, full of native wit although unassuming in appearance, and having no resource to the many theatrical effects of public speakers, held the attention of his audience from the opening words until its close. It is no exaggeration to say that Irving Hall never held a more delighted audience than that which occupied it last night, for the lecture was excellent in all its details."—San Francisco Chronicle.

"Mr. Hector held his audience spell-bound while he painted in vivid colors the battle-fields that he had witnessed. What is remarkable in the history of the distinguished man is, that he had only three week's schooling in his life, and has just gleaned here and there what knowledge he possesses. To sit under the sound of his voice, and hear the burst of eloquence from his lips, forgetting every error, one would surely think that this man is a pupil sent from God, for no man could do these things that he does except God be with him. The audience at times was convulsed in laughter, and at others brought to tears."—Williamsburg Gazette and Bulletin.

"Rev. John H. Hector entertained a large audience last evening, in the hall of Post 5, G. A. R. Mr. Hector's parents were born in slavery. His lecture comprised the story of his father's and mother's toilsome journey from Harper's Ferry to Canada, when they gained their freedom, and an account of his own life, his adventures as a drummer-boy in a colored regiment, and struggles in gaining an education; all told with a lively wit and touches of pathos which frequently moved the audience to warm applause."—Philadelphia Times.

"The Rev. John H. Hector will make an audience laugh and cry more in one hour than any man we know. You may expect a shower of eloquence when you hear the thunder of his voice and see the dark cloud. He is the colored John B. Gough."—Patterson, (N. J.) Daily Press.

The Centennial.

THE WORK OF THE A. M. E. ZION CHURCH EULOGIZED BY BISHOP AND PASTORS—ITS FUTURE POSSIBILITIES.

Yesterday was observed as Centennial Day at the session of the General Conference of the A. M. E. Zion church. Appropriate exercises commemorative of the founding of the church were held, and the delegates united in doing honor to those who have helped in the upbuilding of the present structure. After the routine business of the morning session had been disposed of, the delegates listened to a forceful sermon preached by Bishop A. Walters, D. D., from the text, "Walk about Zion and go round about her." He sketched the early history of the church and briefly eulogized its founders and early pioneers. In the afternoon after devotional exercises had been participated in, an original poem by Rev. G. C. Carter, which has been set to music, was read. This was followed by an address by Rev. M. H. Ross on the "Origin, progress and achievements of the A. M. E. Zion Church." Among other things he said:

"The African Methodist Episcopal Zion church was organized in New York City in 1796 by James Varick. Associated with him were Abraham Thompson and William Miller. These were the great pioneers of this wonderful movement which is doing more to develop the African race than all other agencies combined."

The next address was delivered by Rev. J. J. Adams. He took for his subject "The A. M. E. Zion Church as an educator during her 100 years of existence." He spoke as follows: "The idea of education was recognized as a part of its mission by the founders of the A. M. E. Zion church and tradition tells us that the spelling book was a close companion of the Bible in the hands of the early founders of the church. Since then it has gone on training, inspiring and giving the opportunity to every and any Afro-American to rise from the lowest imbecility to the highest degree of intelligence."

About 50 years ago there was a young man built the first and great of the A. M. E. Zion church, is so far

and pious, and becoming a member of the church was given a preacher's license. That man was Frederick Douglass and his name is to-day honored and revered in two hemispheres. In his last public speech before his death he said that he owed any success that he may have attained or any honors that may have been conferred upon him to the teaching he had received from the A. M. E. Zion church at New Bedford, Mass., when a young man.

"The A. M. E. Zion church has the credit of giving to this country a teacher whose noble deeds and gifted intelligence is an example to every young man. As an educator we point with pride to the late Prof. J. C. Price, D. D. Through his teaching this church has given to the Nation some of the most pious and law-abiding citizens of the country."

"The future of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion church," was the subject of a very entertaining and instructive address by Rev. W. A. Eley. He predicted great things for the church in the time to come and exhorted his hearers to still greater efforts in the cause of Zion.

"Our literature" was the subject of a scholarly address delivered by Rev. B. W. Swain. The subject was treated in a most exhaustive manner and showed deep research on the part of its author.

Rev. J. R. Dangerfield was the next speaker. His subject was "Our boys and their opportunities." Education was the keynote of his address and he strongly advocated the acquiring of a good common school education, no matter what sacrifice became necessary to accomplish this end. He urged ministers, teachers and parents to encourage the boy in home study. Reading circles, Chaunquau societies and other similar educational means were recommended as helps in this direction. Miss Florence Sprague, of Rochester, a very bright and vivacious young lady, was the closing speaker at the afternoon's session. Her subject "Our girls and their possibilities," was treated in a very entertaining manner. She also advocated education as overcoming one of the barriers to the progress of girls in this country.

The evening session of the conference was largely attended by lay people. After a short musical program had been rendered the opening address of the evening was delivered by Rev. J. H. Anderson on "Our Numerical, intellectual and religious strength" as follows: "The number of colored persons who severed their connection with the old John-st. Methodist church in New York City 100 years ago is not known, but conservative estimates place the number at 60. This was the starting point of the A. M. E. Zion church. Its organization, however, was not completed until six years later. In 1840 the church had attained a membership of 3,000. From this time up to 1862 the annual increase in membership was about 127. In 1870 had reached a membership of 125,000 and to-day it has in its connection 497,990 people."

He sketched rapidly the growth of the church and related incidents showing the character of the early founders.

Rev. J. E. Mason, the silver-tongued orator, then delivered a stirring address on the inequalities which exist to-day between the white man and the Negro. He also took a vigorous stand on the injustice done the Negro by the courts of justice. He said that the treatment accorded the Negro was not in accord with the principles of liberty vouchsafed every American citizen in the United States under the Constitution.

Rev. S. L. Corrothers, of Elmira, was the next speaker. He delivered an eloquent and forceful address on "How we may best secure the loyalty of our children to the church." His address was replete with good suggestions to pastors and teachers. He strongly disavowed the practice of holding cake walks as an attraction to bring the young people to the church. He also condemned the practice of holding dance entertainments, claiming that these were not of a nature calculated to inspire the children with the right sort of feeling toward the church.

"Woman's place in the church," was the subject of an interesting paper read by Mrs. J. T. Matthews. She is a lady of pleasing address, and completely won over her audience by the womanly standpoint from which she viewed the subject. Among other things she said: "Women are capable for any and all post-

as her frail make-up will allow. If you want to find woman's position in the church, let her absent herself from the pews, from the church fairs, socials, entertainments and other church duties. Let her remain at home and depend upon her husband for information in regard to the church. Then I think that you will truly find woman's position in the church to be of greater importance than supposed."

Addresses were also delivered by Mrs. G. S. Loguen of this city and Rev. G. C. Carter.

After the transaction of minor business a resolution was adopted unanimously naming Bath, N. Y., as the place of holding the next Genesee conference. Bishop Walters then read his appointments for the ensuing conference year.

APPOINTMENTS.

Presiding elder, J. E. Mason, D. D., of Rochester; Elmira, N. Y.: S. L. Corrothers; Ithaca, B. F. Wheeler; Auburn, W. A. Eley; Syracuse, M. H. Ross; Rochester, J. H. Anderson; Saratoga Springs, C. A. Smith; Binghamton, J. R. Dangerfield; Schöharie, I. Watkins; Little Falls, Frederick Gibbs; Johnstown, B. W. Swain; Gloversville, R. M. Turner; Wilkesbarre, Pa., G. C. Carter; Wavick, N. Y., H. J. Butler; Montrose, Pa., J. E. Nichols; Watertown, N. Y., Mason Jones; Oneida, J. T. Matthews; Towanda, Pa., H. R. Phoenix; Leroy, N. Y., Wm. L. Thomas; Amsterdam, J. G. Cliff; Canandaigua, N. Y., I. Stewart; Utica, J. A. Temple; Rome, F. E. Owens; Schenectady, W. O. Cooper; and Delphi, E. B. Briggs.

Those transferred were: to Virginia conference, J. J. Adams; to Jersey conference, P. H. Williams; to Philadelphia and Baltimore conference, D. M. Bradley.

General missionary outside of this conference is Rev. J. W. Lucy.—Syracuse (N. Y.) Standard.

Meridian District Notes.

BY REV. W. E. STANTON.

Rev. S. C. Harris, Presiding Elder of the Meridian district of the South Mississippi conference, held his second quarterly conference at Salem and St. Luke June 13, 1896. He was never seen in better spirits at that time and the brethren all pleased.

The reports read showed a general increase in the church work. The conference was one of quietness.

Sunday was a great day. The people came from far and near to hear the Presiding Elder preach. He handled his subject with skill and ability. Rev. Harris presides and preaches well. He carries in his gospel train both pastor and people. With such men as leaders Zion will ever succeed.

We had the misfortune of losing our church by fire last December, but we have been able to build a much larger house of worship. This makes two new churches we have built during our two years' pastorate. Surely the Lord is with us.

Our first district conference will convene at Free Union the first Wednesday in August on Rev. A. F. Chapman's work, and our second one the third Wednesday in August at this place.

The Presiding Elder is crying Centennial! all along the line. Each pastor is asked to pay not less than \$5.00 and each member not less than \$1.00. We ask each pastor and member to bestir himself at once.

Pastor's Reception.

A welcome reception was tendered Rev. M. A. Bradley by the members and congregation of the A. M. E. Zion church, Jersey City, on Friday evening, June 12. The exercises were opened with singing; then papers were read by Miss Theresa Holland, Mrs. Florence Randolph, president of the King's Daughters, and Mr. J. O. Degrunder which were heartily applauded and ordered to be placed on the church record. Mrs. E. George Biddle, wife of our former pastor, rendered a beautiful solo in a manner which elicited hearty applause. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Edward Rogers, of Port Chester church, N. Y.; Rev. T. H. Johnson, D. D., of Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; Prof. Crews, of Slater Industrial Academy, Winston, N. C., and the president of the Board of Trustees, Mr. J. C. Merritt. Rev. M. A. Bradley was then introduced as the twentieth pastor of the church. His address was full of hope and encouragement. The hymn "Come ye now," was sung after which the exercises closed and refreshments were served. The visitors were Mrs. Rock and daughter, and Mrs. M. A. Bradley.