

THE STAR OF ZION

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

VOLUME XX, NO. 35.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1896.

CENTENNIAL VOLUME, 1796-1896.

MAJORS AND MINORS.

A Brief Resume of Past Occurrences.—A Kind Word for The Star.

BY W. F. FONVILLE.

When writing for a newspaper it seems that nothing could be more appropriate than writing of a newspaper. There are very few successful newspaper men born into any age. No race has a multiplicity of them, and for reasons obvious to the average mind, there is a dearth of them in the Negro race. But the man is yet to be born in the United States who did not feel confident that he could do the newspaper business to perfection. Every editor gets tons of

and if he were only to attempt to give the gratuitous and miscellaneous advice given, he would wake up a beautiful morning to find himself dead. Newspapers, like people, are born into the world every day. It is not going too far nor too much to declare that upon humanity is happy to that every twenty-four hours the death of some that have

people are excellent thermometers, gauges, registers, etc. They when it is too hot for them, when it is too cold; and when it is raining, they insist upon an umbrella, if they have one, and if they have none, they take to their heels. So too, they can be made to know a good newspaper when they see it. The average Negro newspaper is nothing (save a few good words) and does not even make good copy paper. But when you get one of our sure enough newspapers—it is a feast worthy of the gods. Only difference between the average Negro and white man's newspaper, there are more sorry white

of the foregoing simply leads to what I had intended to say. It has been a mighty bad year on conventions, conferences, etc. To go to the "splits," discontent and unpopularity would be an unparagonable iteration; for everybody knows that the Prohibitionists, the Republicans, Democrats and Populists "split" and that the M. E. Church General Conference at Cleveland, Ohio, retired two of its bishops on the plea of being non-effective, and of this is known, I say, so why split? But our conference at New York did what it should have done. It is a long step forward for our editor and manager to the Star and our publication generally. Our publication has been top-heavy. I think of our organized department what we have been these years our publication when we had none. The matter is the Star very ably edited, but mightily managed; which all along that it was impossible for one to do the work. Had there been double-dealing, bad hearts, ungrained selfishness with content, the Star would have been a manager when it first

lecting Smith and Blackwell in respective positions, I am firmly of the opinion that the wise and well-learned loaded down with an opportunity as they are in the management of our interest, they will report to the Washington that will open the eyes of the masses and surprise the natives. Great editors and managers, together with the big cash, are the things that great newspapers. Unhappily that arrangement there is by the Star should not the greatest religious weekly any country has ever had,

of the Christian Advocate of New York City, edited by Dr. J. W. Aldrich, the Christian Advocate of New York, edited by Dr. J. W. Aldrich, are great editors and managers—the best of

about self-... did you... much

er so happy nor does he ever show up so brilliantly as when preying upon his fellowman. Are men cannibals? you ask. No, not many of them; only a few of the worst of them on some of the islands of the Pacific. The others of us are a banded civilization of corsairs. We hunt our prey, and carry a black flag hidden from view. Note how secretly happy we are when our best friend meets with a misfortune; how we dig canals (not trenches as some say) for those we have been commanded to love; we growl when defeated, show our teeth and claws; and the color of our eyes—but I must stop.

Tarboro, N. C.

NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA.

Rev. H. J. Callis, the new pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, comes from Ithica, N. Y. Like a great many Eastern people who do not know anything of California and San Francisco, Rev. Callis came here expecting to meet men wearing wide-brimmed hats above a belt full of pistols, and about half fearing to be "held up."

"Instead of that," said the colored bearer of the cross yesterday with a hearty laugh, "I find a condition of society and a state of material progress in some respects superior to the East. You have greater physical development than many Eastern cities."

"But I observe that human life is not so sacred here as it is in the East. The number of murders and suicides tell the story. I can hardly pick up a newspaper without finding an account of a new murder or suicide."

"Compared with Eastern cities also the observance of Sunday is not so general here. I think this lack of Sunday observance tends to increase crime. Business goes on here Sunday the same as on week days, except among the leading merchants, the big retail stores and the wholesale houses. I think I shall preach a series of sermons on Sunday observance before long."

"Golden Gate Park," he said, "has advantages not possessed by Central Park in New York, and I do not know of another such attraction in the country as the Cliff."

Rev. Mr. Callis was born in Matthes County, Va., of slave parents about the year 1858. At the close of the war he was taken to New York by Captain Cutt of Massachusetts, an officer in the Northern army. Subsequently he found a home among the farmers of Suffolk County, Long Island, N. Y. He became a student at Hampton, Va., in 1875, from which he was graduated in 1879. After teaching in his native State for some time he returned to New York.

For nearly eight years prior to his entering the ministry he was in the employ of the East Side Savings Bank of Rochester, N. Y.—*San Francisco (Cal.) Call.*

Elder William Lyons has just closed his third quarterly meeting at _____ with much success. He raised \$29.25 during the occasion. He has raised \$94 this quarter. This is the greatest in the history of this church. So he is one of Zion's able ministers. His wife, Mrs. William Lyons, knows how to share with her husband. She beautifies his home and makes it handsome. That able Rev. A. G. Kessler, Presiding Elder, held the fort in the successful quarter. This makes the second year for Elder Lyons, and we want him the third year. He is able and scholarly; he knows how to preach, for he is a preacher. He would make an able Presiding Elder if only elected to that grand office; he is worthy and competent. His work is all right this year. God bless Zion *Savannah Plain, Tenn.*

MISS RACHEL ARMSTRONG.

Our brick church is going up rapidly; it is about five feet high. We commenced on the 4th inst; we are fighting to complete the walls by conference. This will make six new churches for me in ten years and in addition thereto I have remodelled seven. Our work is moving on nicely here. Our stewardesses added 200 pounds to our table recently. I have some subscribers soon

DR. JOHN R. FRANCIS.

Scholar and Educator, and Benefactor of the Race.

FOUNDER OF THE SANATORIUM.

To the District of Columbia belongs the prestige of having been the birthplace of that most successful physician and surgeon, Dr. John R. Francis. Reared in the National Capitol, where human progress is of constant and wonderful growth, he grew up abreast with the times and at a very early age left the District, after having finished in the public school, for the Wesleyan University, at Wilberham, Mass., after which he attended Ann Arbor University, Michigan, from which institution with honors he graduated in medicine in 1878. Returning to his native city he began the practice of his chosen profession, and his progress along that line has been so substantial and real that today he has a larger practice than any other colored physician in Washington and is the equal of any of the Caucasian race. Meanwhile his aptitude for surgery was forcing itself to the front and he is now considered as being one of the best surgeons in the

ple than has been taught by this enterprising and public-spirited man. He is certainly a leader of his people; not one who only theorizes, but who puts his theories into practice. It is a rare thing as yet for a colored man to invest money for the public benefit of mankind but this philanthropic leader has established at 2112 Pennsylvania Avenue, a large and completely furnished Sanatorium for the sick, irrespective of race or color. The physicians in attendance are selected from either race according to their ability. People of all races patronize this Home and are convinced that it is the most completely equipped Sanatorium in the city. It contains all the modern improvements and many new inventions introduced by the Doctor. For beauty of arrangement and neatness, nothing exceeds this Sanatorium. Everything seems the personification of love and light. The appearance and surroundings are calculated to invigorate the sick and infuse strength and energy into the depressed.

An excellent corps of trained nurses cheerfully administer to the inmates of this home, and here for a small fee one can receive the best pos-



DR. JOHN R. FRANCIS.

profession. He is a recognized scholar with broad liberal views. He is deeply interested in the welfare of the race and lets no opportunity slip to help all earnest, enterprising young men, whether on his line of profession or some other.

He has done much to demonstrate the capabilities of the Negro race. The problem that for years agitated the minds of the thinkers of the old and new world is slowly but surely being solved. We cannot be satisfied with the theory of race development. The times call for examples, and such we have in the person referred to in this sketch. What an object lesson for the young men and women of to-day!

"Lives of great men all remind us, We can make our lives sublime."

Dr. Francis was for quite a while one of the trustees of the public schools of Washington City, and during his term of office the High School was raised to its highest standard through the many needed changes that he instituted and the life and activity that he infused into all with whom he came in contact. Owing to the continual growth of his practice he was compelled, to the regret of many, to resign his connection with the public schools and devote his time and talent to the great work for which he seems peculiarly and specially fitted.

Dr. Francis approved the idea of establishing a Sanatorium in this City, and he was the first to act.

Thousands of our people have now that they have looked for with almost breathless anxiety—Smith for Editor of the STAR. And doesn't it shine! And Mrs. Bishop Petty's salutatory sounded the shibboleth of red-hot woman's column.

For the benefit of the members of the North Arkansas and Arkansas conferences we wish to say the boundary line of the conferences is the Arkansas river, all the way from Redford to Ft. Smith; but in order to make four presiding elder districts, Bishop Walters placed Little Rock and Pine Bluff in the North Arkansas conferences for this year, or until the work grows stronger. We speak through the paper so all concerned may understand.

We have the minutes here compiled, but we thought, as there has not been one cent appropriated for their publication, we would just hold them until we were better prepared to carry them to press. Do you see now? Little Rock and Pine Bluff belong to the North Arkansas conference at present.

Lancaster, S. C.

I took charge of the church in New Orleans, La., the second Sunday in July to fill out the unexpired term of Bishop Holliday. The work is in a prosperous condition. Our church is crowded every service. We have taken in seven members, and the outlook is good for twice as many more in the near future. We are now making preparation to erect a church for God and Zion in this great city. Zion's deserted members are flocking home again. In the midst of hard times we have not forgotten the STAR. Please send us ten copies every week and we will dispose of them for you.

LIVE TOPICS

General and Special, Pointedly Put and Practically Discussed.

BY REV. W. A. BLACKWELL.

Hot, dry weather bespeaks a short crop; hence scarce provisions and high prices. But with a hope of McKinley as President and a single gold standard forever fixed, there is no place for despair. One would judge from the clan of "pitchfork" politicians in our section that there is little hope for McKinley. This is, however, simply a noise and will never serve to condemn the knowledge gained by the people through the tough experiences of the present administration. We have seen the fight attempted by these formidable hobgoblins before and will be frightened no more.

Two great matters confront the A. M. E. Zion Church now—Centennial and Varick Christian Endeavor. There seems to be a dullness in some sections of the country and Church on the Centennial Jubilee. I can't see how any minister can let this matter go unheeded. We are organizing and have for our watchword, "New York '96." How does that sound? It will do no good for a few carloads of us to go to New York in October without having taken up some money from the people. We must carry some money or our speeches will lose the right ring in Mother Zion.

Next is the V. C. S. This must be made our "pet" child and kept well nursed. Suppose we just get right down to work and roll up 100,000 V. C. E's. this year. Then the cry will go: "100,000 dollars, 100,000 converts and 100,000 V. C. E's. Holy enthusiasm is always commendable and Zion needs a good deal more of it."

Editor Smith made a big hit at the convention in Fort Lawn, S. C., so far as a great sermon and speeches go—finances not good—and we need him in Lancaster. Come, Doctor, we have a good time for you on all lines of the STAR's interest as well as your own.

The friends of the church at Lancaster will be glad to know that since our appointment at the General Conference the church has shown its full strength financially. This was the scene of one of the most deplorable convulsions ever witnessed in Zion, (according to the importance of the charge) but thank God we are alright. It raised last year about \$800 for all purposes, with about 500 members. This was when everything was in harmony. In two months we raised over \$200 and fitted up the parsonage, and now that our other half is with us, and we have a large crowd of the best young people, with 70 in the V. C. E., we feel sure of driving through. Lancaster is solid.

Second DAY'S SESSION.

At 10 o'clock a. m., July 30, the convention re-assembled. After devotional exercises the roll was called and corrected, and the minutes of the previous session were read and adopted. The chairman then called upon Elder Wyche to deliver the welcome address, which was done in a very appropriate way. Elder Bennett responded in glowing terms. The chairman then introduced to the convention Dr. G. L. Blackwell, who made a few remarks, tracing the A. M. E. Zion Church from the dawn of early infancy to its present period of one hundred years. Music was rendered by the choir. The delegates were called upon and reported. The convention adjourned to re-assemble at 2:30 p. m. Benediction by Rev. W. H. Wolfe.

EVENING SESSION.

At 2:30 p. m. the convention re-assembled; Dr. Smith lined hymn No. 1; prayer by Secretary Davis. The reports of the delegates consumed quite awhile; at the end of the delegates report the program was resumed. The chairman called upon Little Rock choir which sang a beautiful hymn. A paper was read by Mrs. Bishop G. W. Clinton, subject, "Missionary work of the Sabbath-school." "Should doctrinal beliefs be taught in the Sabbath-school; to what extent?" by Prof. Provinder, was excellent and logical. The paper by Miss Matilda Parker, subject "Sabbath-school," was fine and full of eloquent thought. The paper, "Our part in the small children," which was read by Mrs. B. A. Forney, was responded to by Rev. Bennett. The chairman then called upon the Weeping Willow choir to sing and it was done in grand style. The finance committee reported as follows: Money raised during the convention, \$10; expenses, \$5.00; stationery, \$2.00; sexton, \$1.50; printing programs, \$1.50. A donation of \$3.00 to the STAR for giving us a month's notice concerning our meeting and also to print these minutes. The convention adjourned.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL CONVENTION.

The Charlotte, N. C., district Sabbath-school convention convened at Center Grove A. M. E. Zion church at 11 o'clock a. m., Presiding Elder G. G. Musgraves, chairman. He read the second Psalm. Dr. R. H. Simmons lined the hymn. "All hail the power of Jesus' name." Then the

Elder L. H. Wyche, treasurer, were then elected. Prof. W. M. Provinder was then introduced to the convention and made entertaining remarks. The chairman appointed the usual committee on rules. The chairman requested that each pastor of the district give the names of his superintendents and delegates. The chairman introduced Editor J. W. Smith of the STAR of Zion, who made a few remarks. After the committee on rules reported the convention adjourned to meet at 2:30 p. m. Doxology by the choir. Benediction by Editor J. W. Smith.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The convention re-assembled at 2:30 p. m., Rev. Musgraves in the chair, Elder R. B. Bruce read the 12th chapter of Romans. Hymn 712 was then sung. The roll was corrected and the minutes were read, approved and adopted. A paper read by Mr. Joseph Savil was responded to by Rev. W. L. Alexander, subject, "Financial interest of the Sabbath-school." Paper by Rev. R. D. Davis, subject, "Music a factor in the work," responded to by Elder R. B. Bruce, Dr. Simmons, Editor Smith and Prof. Provinder. The program of the day ended and the committee on devotion reported that Rev. W. M. Massey would preach at 8 o'clock p. m., assisted by Rev. A. B. Long. The chairman requested that every member of the convention buy a copy of the STAR from Editor Smith. Convention then adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock p. m. Benediction by Elder H. B. Bennett.

An appreciative crowd was present at 8 p. m. Rev. Long lined hymn No. 1; Editor Smith prayed; the speaker, Rev. Massey, preached from Colossians 3:11. The sermon was logical and eloquent and the speaker linked this song in the sermon, "I don't want to be buried in the storm," which stirred the congregation to loud Amens, after which Rev. Bennett led in prayer. Elder Wyche impressed the importance upon the sisters of being out promptly with their baskets to feed the ministers and delegates. The convention adjourned by singing, "Up into Thee, our living head." Benediction by Rev. Long.

At 10 o'clock a. m., July 30, the convention re-assembled. After devotional exercises the roll was called and corrected, and the minutes of the previous session were read and adopted. The chairman then called upon Elder Wyche to deliver the welcome address, which was done in a very appropriate way. Elder Bennett responded in glowing terms. The chairman then introduced to the convention Dr. G. L. Blackwell, who made a few remarks, tracing the A. M. E. Zion Church from the dawn of early infancy to its present period of one hundred years. Music was rendered by the choir. The delegates were called upon and reported. The convention adjourned to re-assemble at 2:30 p. m. Benediction by Rev. W. H. Wolfe.

EVENING SESSION.

At 2:30 p. m. the convention re-assembled; Dr. Smith lined hymn No. 1; prayer by Secretary Davis. The reports of the delegates consumed quite awhile; at the end of the delegates report the program was resumed. The chairman called upon Little Rock choir which sang a beautiful hymn. A paper was read by Mrs. Bishop G. W. Clinton, subject, "Missionary work of the Sabbath-school." "Should doctrinal beliefs be taught in the Sabbath-school; to what extent?" by Prof. Provinder, was excellent and logical. The paper by Miss Matilda Parker, subject "Sabbath-school," was fine and full of eloquent thought. The paper, "Our part in the small children," which was read by Mrs. B. A. Forney, was responded to by Rev. Bennett. The chairman then called upon the Weeping Willow choir to sing and it was done in grand style. The finance committee reported as follows: Money raised during the convention, \$10; expenses, \$5.00; stationery, \$2.00; sexton, \$1.50; printing programs, \$1.50. A donation of \$3.00 to the STAR for giving us a month's notice concerning our meeting and also to print these minutes. The convention adjourned.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL CONVENTION.

The Charlotte, N. C., district Sabbath-school convention convened at Center Grove A. M. E. Zion church at 11 o'clock a. m., Presiding Elder G. G. Musgraves, chairman. He read the second Psalm. Dr. R. H. Simmons lined the hymn. "All hail the power of Jesus' name." Then the

A FEW THOUGHTS

On Subjects of Interest.—Zion's Centennial.—Political Outlook.

BY REV. D. C. COVINGTON.

The Afro-American women are doing great good in this country in the work of race elevation. The National Woman's Federation and the Woman's National League, which convened at Washington, D. C., last month, are but proofs of this fact. I rejoice over these facts, and hope that the women will re-double their energy in this direction. They deserve all the encouragement that can possibly be given.

It is just a short time from now until the great Centennial Celebration of our Zion in New York. I wonder if every part of the Connection is alive on this great event; and if the ministers who are out on mission fields, and those who are doing pastoral work on the back woods circuits are talking up the Centennial among our people. I shall not ask about the pastors of the cities and towns, from the fact it is supposed that they are alive to the interest of this great cause. If the whole Church would become aroused I can't see any reason why we could not raise \$150,000. There is pluck, push, energy and brain enough in the church to do so. Then come along, boys, and let us make a strong pull, and a pull altogether.

The politico-financial horizon is now so obscured that it makes it very difficult to tell whether the clouds have a gold or silver lining. The political sunset on the 3rd day of next November will perhaps show which lining will shed its reflecting rays upon this Nation. And yet, while it seems quite difficult to tell the result, I hold to strong belief that there will be a sweeping victory for the Republican party in this good year of our Lord. Wm. J. Bryan is no doubt a good man, and one of Nebraska's purest and best citizens, but as a demo-bin-pop, he is all wrong, and for this reason the people of this united kingdom will defeat him. I admire the man, but the platform upon which he stands is rotten, and it will let him down like McGinty to the bottom of the sea. Next November the 3rd will tell the story. Get ready for the fray.

The Statesville district of the Western North Carolina conference is in better condition now than it has ever been. Rev. M. V. Marable, the presiding elder, has put great energy and strength in the work of the district during the six years he has been on it. And the best of all, peace and harmony prevail. Elder Marable says he has a good set of men under him. We expect to have the largest Sunday-school convention and district conference at Newton next month, that has ever been witnessed on the district. The Centennial Celebration and the Christian Endeavor work of the church will be carefully looked after during our convention and conference.

John Q. Johnson in his article to the New York Age, of July 16th, among other things said he was at the banquet given during the commencement of Tuskegee Industrial Institute, and heard Mr. Fortune speak; and that he wished to emphasize the following five points: "(1) Trust no man who will not trust you; (2) Vote for no man who will not vote for you; (3) Marry whom you please; let the law legalize it and God will sanctify it; (4) Never ride in a Jim Crow Car if there is any better on the train; (5) If in any of these you find a personal or legal conflict it is your sacred duty as a man and citizen to fight it as long as it exists." Now this is the way I love to hear the truth ring. What we need is more men like Tom Fortune to speak the truth—act upon it, if need be. The Negro must have brain, backbone and wealth in order to make those of his enemies respect him as a man. Let us keep the red-hot ball of truth rolling until the mighty walls of prejudice that now stand up high against small tumbles and falls.