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MINISTERS

Strong Words Layman.

McCONICE.

What the Negro is... knowledge as individual... our thoughts... spiritual... intellectual... early in youth... and portrays deep... The masses of... and have... of divine work... impossibility... down-trodden people... state of ignorance... by ministers being... are not above their... it is the sentiment... Afro-American... educated... Book which... of the ruling... down to the fathom... all ages. It was too... most learned men of... and Rome to fathom... sweets lie hidden to... our greatest sages. If this... how can the uneducated... dig out the hidden facts and... the deep mysteries?

Minister must be above his... or else he is a failure... has come or is fast approach... that the uneducated preacher will... thing of the past; and, like other... ancient customs, will have to take... back pew. This age of enlightenment... requires ministers who... explicate the Scriptures, bring... their startling wonders and... them before his congregation so... the most ignorant can understand... The argument, "All didn't... the chance to be educated," will... suffice; for there is no man with... the last 20 years who didn't have... chance to secure a limited education... if he chose to do so. The uneducated... ministers must study so as to be... with the times, for this age requires... men who not only read but understand... the Bible. An ignorant preacher... in one of his sermons, "A red... cow supplied the children of... with milk the forty years they... wandering in the wilderness."

in the name of heaven can our... be elevated and prosper, and... all, have the proper ideas of... worship when such is preached... from the sacred rostrum? The... minister is nearer and has more to do... with the elevating of the masses of... people than any other living... character; therefore, he should be a... sound wisdom and broad intellect... The masses of our people are... rational and superstitious, for the... ample reason that uneducated men... that nature have preached and... that in them the same principles... on the streets in our town, as... as many others throughout this... and Southland, and you cannot tell... minister from anybody else, so far... dignity is concerned. We do not... any attack upon the uneducated... minister, neither would we do him an... justice, but it is our sentiment, and... trust the sentiment of the entire... people, that the quicker these characters... step back and let the intelligent... divines of our race take their... places, the sooner you will see a nation... bettered one hundred per cent... times demand men who will warn... of their sins and not whoop them... to a state of emotion and barbarism—men who will preach that calling... is ability and not a voice from... heaven; men who will preach that...igion and Christianity require us... do right and be Christ-like, more... besides Sunday. I once heard... minister say: "It is not any serious... to lie, but it is almost an... undonable sin to take part in parlor... athletic games." God hasten the... when all such characters will... what they have sown! A great many say, "We do not... an educated minister to preach... new religion." Neither do we... friends. What religion was in the... so it is to-day. Ministers... know have used... of his... at this... he had been an earnest... the church. He had... church at Hudson

Rev. J. R. B. SMITH DEAD.

A Prominent Divine, Soldier, Politician and Editor Passes Away.

A BRIEF SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

Rev. J. R. B. Smith, pastor of the A. M. E. Zion church of this city, died at his home Monday morning after an illness of several weeks from pericarditis. For five weeks he had been confined to his bed. It was thought the day or so before his death that there was some slight improvement in his condition, but towards morning, Monday, a change for the worse occurred and death soon followed. He was one of the ablest preachers in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in this country. He was a profound thinker and forcible speaker. He stood high also in Grand Army circles, having been department chaplain at one time. Rev. Smith was born in Brooklyn, April 19, 1846, and was a son of Francis Smith, a native of Virginia, who was born a slave, but obtained his freedom and became a creditable portrait painter in New York. Rev. Smith's mother was also born in slavery. The deceased received his early education in

Brooklyn and in the Vine-street school, Buffalo, where he went after the death of his father. He also became a pupil in the Model Grammar School and Upper Canada College at Toronto, and at the age of 18 was a writer on the Toronto Globe. Afterwards he was a contributor to the Anglo-African, a paper printed in the interest of the colored people. He returned to the United States when 16 years of age and became a resident of Rochester. He enlisted in the Forty-fourth Massachusetts regiment the same year and served for three months, when he was discharged for being under age. He afterwards enlisted in the Twenty-seventh regiment of United States colored troops mustered in at Delaware, Ohio, and became an efficient soldier. He became a non-commissioned officer. He was wounded at the battle of Petersburg in 1864. After the war he became interested in the freedmen's work and pursued his studies. At one time he became a writer on the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. Afterwards he spent some time in the South and in '72 became prominent in political affairs in this State. He was chosen delegate to the Colored Men's convention at Troy and to the Republican State convention at Elmira. At one time he was editor and proprietor of the Western Echo, at Bath, N. Y. He gave substantial aid in the establishment of the Soldier's Home.

Rev. Smith was received into the A. M. E. Zion conference in 1882 and since that time he had been an earnest worker in the church. He had been pastor of a church at Hudson

A BRIEF REPORT

Of the Work of the Men on the New York District.

BY REV. R. J. STROTHER, A. M.

Having been elected by the New York conference to report its work from time to time, and having received a brief statement from the Presiding Elder, E. George Biddle, B. D., I herewith submit what is going on in the banner conference of the A. M. E. Zion Connection in the North. We are more than glad to welcome to our district Bishop J. W. Hood, whose counsels and wishes have always been obeyed by the ministers of this conference. As a thinker and mind-reader, he is unexcelled, and his appointments are always received with great joy by churches and ministers. The fact that the churches all over the district are tendering Dr. Biddle receptions is an evidence of their appreciation of him, as well as of the approval of the wise judgment of Bishop Hood in the appointment of him. He is eloquent, graceful and dignified; honest in his dealings with men, and always keeps before him the good of his church. He has recommended each pastor to become an agent for the STAR. It is his plan to have each minister dispose of so many copies weekly.

The following is a synopsis of the work of the district: Hudson, N. Y.—Rev. B. Judd, pastor, has his work in hand, and already has begun preparations for the annual conference. Troy, N. Y., Rev. J. R. B. Smith, pastor, is no more. He was unwell since last conference; yet the church is full of vim and sacred fire. This grand preacher and orator never knew what a failure was. He was a faithful pastor and an eloquent preacher, and his fame as a worker was known in Zion Connection. Catskill, N. Y., Rev. A. J. Tolbert, pastor, is showing himself to be the man for the place and is arranging to buy the old Episcopal Church. He is collecting funds and banking it. Kingston, N. Y., Rev. Adam Jackson, pastor, is a man of large experience and is bringing order out of confusion, and we are hopeful yet of this church being brought to the front. Poughkeepsie—Rev. T. H. Johnson, pastor, is a man of God and is meeting with great success. Newburgh—Rev. W. H. Newby, pastor, a transferee from the Philadelphia and Baltimore conference, is carrying every thing before him. Peekskill, N. Y., Rev. L. D. Williams, pastor, is more popular now than before and is an intelligent, faithful and upright young man. Nyack, N. Y., Rev. W. H. Abbott, pastor, is a thorough church worker, as well as a gospel preacher. He was grandly received by his people. Yonkers, N. Y., Rev. W. B. Bowens, pastor, is meeting with great success. His people are standing right up to him. The officers and members of his church on 15th ult. gave Presiding Elder Biddle a fine reception. Dr. Biddle responded in eloquent terms. A few remarks were made by Rev. R. J. Strothers, of Tarrytown, N. J.; also Mr. O. Kingsland of the same place. Mamaroneck, N. Y.—Rev. W. H. Ely, pastor, is a grand church worker. A notice of his work has already appeared in the STAR. Portchester—Rev. C. Fairfax, an exemplary pastor, has his work in good working order. New Rochelle—Dr. Jacob Thomas, pastor, has his work in splendid condition. Pastor and people live in union. River Head, N. Y.—Rev. P. M. Jackson, pastor, is in fine working order. Sag Harbor, N. Y., Rev. E. J. Miller, pastor. His reception by his members is an evidence of their appreciation of him. Oyster Bay—Rev. T. W. Johnson, pastor, is getting along nicely with his church. Westbury, N. Y., Rev. C. W. Tynike, pastor, is beloved by his members and is meeting with success. Hempstead—Rev. G. H. Simmons, pastor, is also meeting with success. Mallico—Rev. E. Foreman, pastor, is doing well. Rev. Foreman was married.

Persons desiring to communicate with Bishop G. W. Clinton can address him as follows: Aug. 20-30, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Sept. 1-6, 326 Laurel St., Louisville, Ky.; Sept. 8-14, 3736 Ave. Chicago, Ill.

COLLECTIONS

On Children's Day.—Secretary Johnson Makes his Report.

AMOUNTS COLLECTED TO AUGUST 1ST.

NEW YORK CONFERENCE.	
July 2, W T Biddle, Rossville,	\$7 50
" H H Coleman, Ithaca,	6 80
" P M Jackson, River Head,	1 50
July 6, C Fairfax, Portchester,	9 00
" G M Payne, Middletown,	2 00
July 8, C W Randall, Brooklyn,	2 50
" A W Tolbert, Catskill,	4 75
July 22, M R Franklin, N Y City,	53 00
" W B Bowens, Yonkers,	15 15
Aug. 1, Benj Judd, Hudson,	5 00
PHILADELPHIA AND BAL MORE CONFERENCE.	
July 2, J P Scott, Harrisburg,	17 00
July 3, J S Covles, York,	26 00
NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE.	
July 3, G H S Iell, Waterbury,	9 00
" A T Clark, Middletown,	1 97
July 23, J T Gaskill, Derby,	14 07
" S E Robinson, New B'ford,	4 00
July 31, C D Hazel, Cambridgeport,	10 00
NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.	
July 1, H S McMullen, S. Ridge,	11 00
" S D Watkins, Ruth'fordton,	21 00
" G E Carter, Mocksville,	14 50
" P J Holmes, China Grove,	7 00
" N L Mills, Conover,	3 00
" R B Bruce, Charlotte,	7 53
" F L Bell, Wilkesboro,	11 20
" W J Sides, Monroe,	16 00
July 3, G L Blackwell, Charlotte,	25 00
July 7, D C Covington, M'rs'le,	25 00
" J W Harris, Manchester,	5 00
July 8, J A Barber, Matthews,	6 00
" A J McNeill, Albemarle,	1 75
" J C Cox, Keyser,	7 00
" C W S mmons, Waxhaw,	7 00
July 22, D Hagler, Oak Grove,	35
" D A M'Koy, Winston,	5 01
" U H Simmons, Waxhaw,	65
" W D Clayton, Plymouth,	1 40
" W D Alexander, Lodo,	7 46
" H B M'as, King's Mtn,	17 50
" J Twitty, Rutherfordton,	1 55
" C Jones, Stella,	1 15
" H S McMullen, Milledgeville,	1 15
O L W SIMMONS	
Wilson, N. C.	Total,
St'nsbury Ct.	Postage,
	Balance, \$4 04
July 31, O H Ardis, Cedar Hill,	2 08
" H Bell, Washington, N C,	40 05
" W J F Moore, Greenville,	10 00
" A J Rogers, Concord,	11 00
" S M Pharr, Marion,	20 00
" C H Smith, Whitesville,	2 88
" R Has, y, Dial,	9 84
" G E Carter, Mocksville,	4 00
" A A Crooke, Tarboro,	15 00
" P A McCorkle, Statesville,	43 05
" Wm Johnson, Lincolnton,	19 44
" S Carter, Lincolnton,	3 30
" W J McEntire, Clio,	2 40
" H J Blanks, Rosindale,	3 70
" F H Noble, Salisbury,	51 00
" Wm McKoy, Glendon,	12 00
" D A Williams, Siler City,	1 45
B. A. JOHNSON, Financial Secretary of Livingstone College.	

A RESULT OF PRAYER.

BY C. H. WETHEREBE.

It is well to refresh ourselves frequently by reading some of the results of genuine, heart-prayer. One such result is referred to by Dr. B. H. Carroll in a sermon on Nehemiah's rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. He says: "Now, what reasonable hope could this man have that his request would be granted when he went to a heathen king and asked permission to be gone from his bondage twelve years, and asked that king to give him letters to his governors, and to aid him with money and in all other ways? What reasonable hope was there that this king would grant such request? There was only one power able to turn the heart of that king. That was the power of God; and so he knelt down and prayed for that thing. 'O, Lord, I pray this prayer. I am the cup-bearer of this king. I pray thee to incline the heart of this king to grant my request.'"

"Do you believe in prayer? Do you believe that prayer will accomplish such a result as that; that the heart of an idolater, of a heathen, could by the power of God, be so turned as to grant a request of that kind? That was the first encouragement that came to this man's heart. He asked God for a certain specific thing. God gave him just exactly what he asked for. What an impressive and valued result that was of one man's prayer! Everything naturally and visibly seem to be against his praying, and yet he so believed and so prayed that God was pleased to grant his request."

Holl...



REV. J. R. B. SMITH.