

# THE STAR OF ZION.

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

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## CHAIR OF THEOLOGY.

A Life-Giving Remedy For Our Theological Department.

BY REV. R. E. WILSON, D. D.

That our Theological Department at Livingstone College is dying or is dead, and that if this condition of affairs is allowed to obtain during the entire quadrennium it would be a lasting disgrace to our Zion, is the consensus of opinion throughout the Church.

No ecclesiastical government is complete without its own "School of the Prophets." The theological school of a Church does for that particular Church the same thing that the Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., and the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., do for our country. Those institutions, by special training, furnish the best officers for the military and naval forces of the country; and in the same sense, in ninety-nine out of every hundred cases, the best and most successful leaders in the ministry of all Churches are those who received their training in the schools of their distinctive Churches.

We have diagnosed the condition of the Theological Department of Livingstone College, understand its case thoroughly, and will now write a prescription which will prove a life-giving remedy. Here it is; Let 200 of our preachers who love Zion and her institutions, and who do not desire to see her take a step backward contribute \$5 each per year for the maintenance of the said department. If 200 cannot be found, then surely we can find 100 who will contribute \$10 each per year. Put our name on the roll of the company of 200 or 100 of Zion preachers who will furnish \$1,000 each year for the training of pastors for the great and growing A. M. E. Zion Church—Who will be the next on the roll?

Cincinnati, Ohio.  
BY REV. J. S. CALDWELL, B. D.

Mr. Editor: I rise to second the suggestion made by you and Mrs. Bishop Pettet in the last issue of the STAR, namely, that subscriptions be solicited looking to the re-opening of the Theological Department of Livingstone College. Enter me on the book as one to pay five dollars (\$5) annually until other arrangements can be made for its support. We should never rest until ample provision is made for said department. Let the ministers of our great Church rise up and say, by sending from one to five dollars, as ability will allow, that this department must be re-opened, and it will be done. The bishops will, doubtless, legislate concerning this department at their next meeting, but to my opinion if they were to make an appropriation from the general fund it would certainly further cripple the already financially hampered departments of our Church. Brother Ministers, let us come to the rescue of our great Church and school, the enterprise that lay nearest to the heart of our late Dr. J. C. Price, our fallen hero, who gave the best years of his life that such a school might be opened to our youths in the A. M. E. Zion Church. It was Elder G. W. Clinton, (now bishop), while stationed at Pittsburgh, Pa., who made the suggestion that a chair in theology be established, known as the Jones' Theological Chair. His idea was to send down to posterity the name of one of our greatest theologians in the person of our lamented Bishop S. T. Jones. Let us not allow that idea to perish; but keep the Chair there and keep it supported.

Philadelphia, Pa.  
BY REV. G. S. ADAMS, D. D.

Dear Dr. Smith: You are to be highly commended for taking steps to re-open and sustain our Theological Department. I will pledge myself to pay \$5 each year till General Conference.

I differ, however, with you as to plans. Let the Board of Bishops adopt a plan by which every Zion pastor will collect or pay, as he shall prefer, \$1 per annum for said department. Leave off the voting altogether. Let the President of the College and Board of Trustees select and elect in the usual way.

Your plan to have each one who contributes \$5 to vote for the Dean, it seems to me it will lead to difficulty.  
Washington, D. C.

BY REV. W. A. BLACKWELL.

Mr. Editor: I am deeply interested in the welfare of Livingstone College, the institution which was the pride of the late Dr. J. C. Price, and for which he gave his life. Can we who are living become indifferent to its success since his death? Where is our denominational pride? The world is looking at Zion to see if she will re-open that Theological Department. It will be a deep shame on us if we do not sustain Jones' Theological Chair. Mr. Editor, put me down with those who will give \$5 a year until the next General Conference to keep it a-going. My money is ready any time. Let the fittest be selected as Dean.

Lancaster, S. C.

BY REV. E. M. STANTON.

To the readers of the STAR OF ZION: I have a feeling of interest for our Connectional schools, and especially for that of Livingstone College. As a ready said by many, some one should occupy "Jones' Theological Chair," and that it should be well supported is the prevailing sentiment.

Rev. William Howard Day, D. D., of Harrisburg, Pa., is the very man to fill that Chair. His pre-eminent qualifications as a scholar and his peculiar fitness as a teacher, make, or would make, him master the situation. I am in favor of him and will give one dollar or more per annum for his support. I hope he will be called to the work, and that he will see his way clear to accept.

Newark, N. J.

BY REV. WILLIAM JOHNSON

Since the brethren of the Lincoln district of the Western North Carolina Conference passed a resolution to support a half-scholarship in our Livingstone College, why is it neglected? St. John stands ready and determined to answer at the roll-call: First, because the recipient has complied with the request of the district, and is now in school awaiting the concurrence of the brethren. Second, she is a worthy subject; and in the Centennial held in Statesville, N. C., she played a prominent part as many others did, and to fail to support the scholarship will show disloyalty to our obligated duty. This, like many other duties, were ordered to be collected and paid to the Presiding Elder, or elders, and forward immediately to Livingstone College.

I am very sorry that Jones' Theological Chair is vacant. It is greatly needed in our beloved Zion. It was the only medium in our Church to train our ministers. Brethren I am ready, I am willing to comply with the demands required to redeem that worthy chair.

Rutherfordton, N. C.

BY REV. W. T. BIDDLE, D. D.

I want to ask concerning Jones' Theological Chair in Livingstone College of which we hear such great weeping and lamentation and cries of "shame going up. Why do we allow this shame to exist in our great Church of which you have been boasting? Do you not see it a great deal easier to boast of a great Church which some one has made great by much sacrifice than it is to help make and sustain a great Church?

Let us see. How many loyal, loving ministers have we, say nothing of the members, who have got one dollar's worth of loyal love in them for Livingstone College, our chief college? Who will tell Editor Smith or Dr. Blackwell to open their book and here is my name? My money is ready now.

Totomville, N. Y.

BY REV. WM. LYONS.

Mr. Editor: I wish to say something about the Theological Department of Livingstone College. The STAR stated that it was open for discussion. I think myself that that closed department is more than a shame on Zion, it is a disgrace. It does not reflect shame on the College but on a great Connection. Listen to the post; Let Zion's watchmen all

awake, and take the alarm they give." Here's a remedy:

[We have five untiring presiding elders, viz.: Rev. A. G. Keeler, Rev. F. R. White, Rev. R. A. Morrissey, A. M., T. F. H. Blackman, A. M., of the Blue Ridge Conference. If each one will contribute \$5.00 each it will make a total of \$25. We have 53 able ministers holding appointments in the Blue Ridge Conference. If each minister will contribute \$2.50 each, to said department, this will make the grand total, \$132.50 from this conference. I am satisfied that the rest of our conferences will not be left behind. Presiding elders and ministers of the B. R. C. please let us hear from you at once, through the STAR. Let us agree that said amount from each presiding elder and minister shall reach Livingstone College by the 25th of March, 1897.]

Hendersonville, N. C.

BY REV. W. B. DOUGLASS.

It is very much to be regretted that our Theological Chair in Livingstone College is still vacant. It appears to my mind that if we ever needed to rally to the support of a move of that kind, it is now. This is an age of learning. Through the Sunday-schools, the Y. M. C. A., the Christian Endeavor movement, and through scores of like organizations, the laity of the Church are studying the Bible and other religious literature as never before in all the history of the world. In view of these facts I feel that we should strive to have a better prepared ministry. Sleep on, if we will, but I tell you it will be a dark day in Zion when the pews get ahead of the pulpit. The day for throwing the Bible upon your shoulders and walking up and down the aisles of the church to get up a big excitement has passed. If you can not teach the people something from God's word, that will make them better men and better women, then you must come down and out.

Our fathers who so firmly laid Zion's foundation a hundred years ago, meant that we their sons and grandsons, should establish schools for the special training of ministers. They have been called from labor to reward, and wherever they would fall, whether upon the snow-capped mountains of the Alleghenies, or down in the valleys, or in the crowded cities, their dying words would be, "My sons in the gospel, build up Zion, extend her borders." Now to do this most successfully, we must build up and support our Theological enterprises. By all means, let Jones' Theological Chair be again occupied.

Atlanta, Ga.

BY REV. J. EDWARD ALLEN.

Mr. Editor: I am glad to note the intelligent fact that Livingstone College has sent forth many sound scholars and useful men; but it ought to be a pillar of strength in our Connection in a sound piety and more flaming devotion to God.

Our great church demands not so much learned men as it does holy men; learning blessed and consecrated by such fervent aspirations for personal holiness and acquittal in the sight of God as dwell in our honored founder and educator, the late Dr. J. C. Price. Should some of our students feel called of God to spread the gospel of good news to dying men, and desired the requisite preparation in theology, our college should be prepared to teach them.

I know too well how many unwelcome experiences we have to endure before we get what we need. I believe it to be the same in this case. We have the men, but not sufficient means. There is knowledge and light enough left from what the College has already turned out to fill the Jones Theological Chair with dignified grace and classic tongue. This chair will be a wonderful assistance to them in bringing all the trophies of its varied triumphs; and laying at the feet of our pure and simple Christianity will cause it to spread its arms like seas abroad to take in the fallen sons of a God-like race. I will contribute my share towards its support.

Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

BY REV. W. B. FENDERSON.

Dear Editor: I will give \$5.00 a year from now until the next General

Conference for the support of the Theological Chair at Livingstone College and I am sure my church will give \$5.00, and besides I have other auxiliaries of the church such as the Sunday-school, Christian Endeavor, stewards board, etc., which could easily be induced to give \$5.00 each rather than have that chair vacant. I cast my vote for Rev. Dr. B. F. Wheeler as my choice to fill the Chair.

Allegheny, Pa.

BY REV. D. C. GOVINGTON.

Mr. Editor: Livingstone College is our chief Connectional institution of learning. Our Zion cannot afford to let Jones' Theological Chair stand vacant any longer. Now is the time to show our love and pride for this College which was the idol of the late J. C. Price. Put me down in the list of \$5.00 men, and I repeat, that the cultured Rev. Jno. A. D. Bloice is my choice for Dean.

Charlotte, N. C.

## NEED OF UNIFORMITY OF LAW.

BY REV. G. CAMPBELL.

Brethren, I desire to arrest your attention upon a very important matter which should be decided, not by and by, but now. Although the presiding elders have labored arduously to bring about unity, the evil still exists. The interpretation and execution of Zion's laws and doctrines are almost as varied as the number of ministers in the field, which, I believe, hinder the general progress of the pastor and church.

When an appointment is made the church or pastor must undergo a change of custom, of law and often doctrine often to his own material, spiritual and numerical hurt. I doubt if ever an appointment is made but that some one did not like or honor the sayings of the pastor, let his doctrine be ever so poor or foreign from Methodism; and when his construction was placed on law some one said, "That's right;" for such was his convictions. The next appointment may be a giant in law, a power in letters, but when he begins to undo the work of his predecessor, some look surprised and say in their mind "I will believe Brother John as soon as you."

Some pastors take members in the church on six months' probation, and at the expiration of this time read them in without even being baptized. Others admit persons who have never professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to full membership. I know of a church that for ten years allowed a trustee to the sacrament table and made him a class-leader, and he had never been baptized. Two more men of that church had been officers for years, yet were not baptized; and another had been baptized for twelve years but had never been read into full membership. I baptized cases like this last year.

I have known pastors to ask persons who were ready for baptism, "Which do you prefer, sprinkling or baptism? There are some who do not believe in immersion, though the Discipline says let each person have his preference of the specified mode. I know of a church in Zion where more than one hundred members have not been enrolled nor assigned to any class—an open violation of law. Many of us know that poor records of membership are kept in some churches, and some are not kept at all. The time has come when we should have some system for keeping the business doings of our churches. Stewards, instead of trustees, are held responsible for pastor's salary. There are other evils I could speak of; but enough has been said to illustrate the idea we advance. Let us suggest the following for the consideration of the Bishops and ministers:

Let the Board of Bishops when they meet this month in Charlotte simplify this law and decide upon the general spirit of the laws and doctrines and have their decisions put in pamphlet form and submit one or more copies to each presiding elder. Let the presiding elder set apart a day in the district conference to discuss the laws and doctrines. Let each bishop do the same in annual conferences. If said work is done it will prove a blessing.

Rockingham, N. C.

## ZION IN THE WEST.

Work and Prospect of the Third Presiding Elder District of Kentucky.

BY REV. J. W. SELECTMAN, P. E.

Mr. Editor: This is the first time as Presiding Elder that I have had to speak to the readers concerning my district which is the third in the Kentucky conference. We are proud to say the work is progressing nicely, spiritually, morally and intellectually. I have a good set of earnest, Christian-hearted ministers.

Beginning my work, my first visit was at South Carlton where I found that well-built gospel preacher Rev. D. H. Jones with every thing ready for the meeting which was a success. This church always pays the presiding elder. At Central City we found Rev. R. B. Arrondoff. Although the weather was stormy we had good services all day and some addition to the church. This young hero is making his mark. Rev. J. M. Hurt is at Sacramento. Here we had a glorious quarter and every one was glad to see us. Brother Hurt is a spiritual preacher and well beloved by saints and sinners. As proof, they gave him a \$19.00 suit.

At Patesville the people were anxious to see the new presiding elder. On account of sickness, the pastor had not arrived and we were compelled to appoint Rev. J. H. Campbell in his place. Here the meeting was a success. We found good people here who are hoping to have their pastor with them soon. We visited Stevenport, Rev. A. Jones, pastor. His meeting was well worked up and waiting for us. We got our assessment and some money for the pastor. He is the right man, and has built a new church at Holt's Bottom since he has been on the work. At Owensboro where we left an appointment to preach we found a nice audience. After endeavoring to preach a spiritual sermon we found twenty Zion members present, and arranged to send them A. Bunch, one of Zion's old war-horses and church builders. He promises, if health permits, to have a church for Zion by next conference.

At White Plains, Rev. T. H. Merriweather, pastor, met us at the depot. We had here an old time quarterly meeting. He said this was the only quarterly meeting he held where he was able to get anything for himself over and above the regular assessment. He is one of the coming men of this conference. At Kirksville, Rev. W. T. Ware is pastor. On account of sickness he was absent. The work is prospering and the church is wide-awake. We got all of our assessment and added three members to the church. The people like their pastor. At Nebo Rev. J. W. Henderson is pastor. We had a good meeting spiritually but not financially. The people love him and donated him a box of nice things for his family. He is an able preacher and has had the largest revival of any one in the district. Old hard-hearted gamblers have been converted and added to the church.

At Housom we found Rev. M. W. Stewart. We were treated nicely at our stopping place. Quarterly meeting very good religiously, but not so financially. Brother Stewart is a good preacher and is doing well under the surrounding circumstances. At Earlinton, Rev. H. H. Carter is stationed. He and his wife made it pleasant for us at the parsonage. Quarterly meeting very good. Brother Stewart is a soul-stirring preacher. At Madisonville, our headquarters, Rev. W. W. Dorsey is pastor. The meeting a success spiritually, but not financially. He had a good ten day's meeting which resulted in seven or eight to the church. He has organized a Christian Endeavor Society which is doing well. He is an able preacher. Next is our mission work. We have not been able to visit it. Rev. J. H. Barner was appointed at the conference to Blountsville, but by the advice of Bishop G. W. Clinton I took him off that work and appointed him to St. Charles where he has organized ten members and is doing well. He is one of those preachers who will have something no matter where you put him.

Atkinson College is in my district. I am very much interested in it. I have attended very hard to it

through the first term with but very little aid and that from Mr. Atkinson. I hope our bishops and preachers will help us through the Spring term. Please send all moneys to Rev. I. W. Selectman, Treasurer and Presiding Elder of the third district. Madisonville, Ky.

## YOU ARE IN THE FIRE.

You Must Come Out—This Plan Will Bring You Out.

BY REV. T. B. MCCAIN.

I notice in the STAR a complaint coming from the General Officers of our Church relative to the new financial plan. I wish to ask these questions: Did you not help make it, and voted for it? If so, why do you complain?

I stop to answer in part for you, because you are not getting your salary. Now, Brethren, you are in the position that three-fourths of Zion ministers are in. Not one-half of the men that are serving appointments to-day in Zion Church who are promised \$500.00 a year for their labor get it, and not one-third of them collect that amount. The men that are bringing the Church up are the pastors that don't get more than half of the salary laid down in the Book of Discipline. The General Officers ought to have their pay, they must have it; but brethren you must learn to live like many humble preachers are living.

Now, Mr. Editor, I suggest this plan to keep up our general expenses: We have 81 Presiding Elder's Districts that will average 10 circuits. That will give us 810 circuits in Zion Connection; and each circuit will average three appointments. That will give us 3,240 charges to be visited every month. Now let each pastor make it a rule to collect at least one dollar General Fund every Sabbath. You see we can collect \$810.00 every week or 2,430 each month, which will keep us out of so much financial trouble.

Now, Sir, if we sit down and wait till the pastor's salary, current expenses and church indebtedness are all out of the way, you boys will cry out. Now, Brother Smith, that is my rule in collecting General Fund. I must have a dollar every Sabbath. If every minister having an appointment will do it, we will move on. If you are in the fire I want you to come out. And if you General Officers are in there, you helped to throw yourselves there. But I judge you are burnt enough; therefore I am ready to help you out.

Fayetteville, N. C.

## HON. I. H. SMITH.

BY MRS. REV. M. A. CLINTON.

Mr. I. H. Smith, of Newbern, N. C., is a candidate for the Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia. He is a great philanthropist and race man, equally patriotic for the good of the country. He was the first colored man to raise money to aid the McKinley campaign. He was out in a card 24 months before the convention announcing that Mr. McKinley would be nominated. In the election of Mr. McKinley he saw what the future would be for the poor of this country. His great heart went out after them and he used his money to help make his "election sure," so that the country might once more be restored to its equilibrium.

He stuck to his task with such tenacity until the centrifugal forces crowded around him with their cohesive power and made him the center of attraction, and now the forces of inertia will not stop till he is appointed Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia. He has amplitude of brains, is strong, ardent, thoughtful, studious, benevolent and a great lover of his country. He will fit in like polished stone in a granite wall and be a great lever in the systematic revolution of the political world. When there is need either for race or country, he spends his means with no niggard hand; hence, the very laws of God will uphold him.

Pittsburg, Pa.

No matter what the state of the country, the STAR can be had for \$1 any time.

## DO NOT LIKE IT.

BY REV. S. A. CHAMBERS.

Plan number 2 mentioned by Rev. J. T. Gaskill, for raising Centennial Funds is impracticable. If put in operation, it would work a forfeiture to the best interest of the Connection. I do not favor it.

First, it is strictly a violation of established law. The law provides that the appointments be made by the bishops and not chosen by the ministers.

Secondly, it looks too much like directly paying for big churches to pastors. We are to go up round by round and not by sudden bounds. Some may thus go up but 'twould be like throwing a rubber ball against a wall; it would rebound.

Thirdly, this new plan does away with the Godly judgment of the bishops in making appointments. God and the bishop would have no part nor lot in making the appointments, since the ministers who brought up the money would settle their claims to the pastorate of the church in the same rank in which the preacher stood on the money roll. We regard appointments too solemn and sacred to be thus bartered away. When God gets out of the appointments, the next thing we see is humanity's awkward work.

Fourthly, the place may not fit the man which he, by virtue of this new plan, won. Then the bishop would have to give him a charge for which he did not compete; and this would cause a dissatisfaction among the ministers and their friends throughout the Connection. It would be dangerous to our peace and safety in many places; for some men are more selfish than loyal.

Fifthly, it looks too much like playing a game of chance. Don't like it.

Rev. Stephen Saven of California states that he was tired of the recent Church controversy carried on between Zion and Bethel, and wants the STAR taken out of the hands of the present incumbent and given to some one who will run it to suit him. It is to be remembered that our Church had been wantonly attacked and a defense was absolutely inevitable; which defense was successfully made by Bishop Walters and Dr. Smith; and any one who could not see the importance of this defense shows himself to be a back number; a Rip Van Winkle; and no department of his Church would be safe in his hands. Zion has much involved in that discussion; and for the Rev. to try to stir Bishop Walters and Dr. Smith for defending the Church as they did, shows himself to be nothing more than a figure-head of California; a narrow-minded, weak-kneed sickling; last, but not least, nothing more nor less than a mule's daddy, roaming over the uncultivated fields of the wild west.

Union, S. C.

## ZION'S PROGRESS.

I am glad that Bishop G. W. Clinton sent me here. We are going to try to build a church. This is a mission field. Zion is beginning to spread her wings here. My people seem pleased with me.

Rev. B. A. Stanford.

La Foyette, Tenn.

Our district seems to be satisfied with the appointments.

Rockingham, N. C.

J. H. Mattocks.

## ARKANSAS NOT BEHIND.

Our Sunday-school at New Zion church is prosperous. Miss Hattie B. Miller, age 16, with a bright future before her, is the superintendent. There is a high seat in Zion for this intelligent young lady. We have another bright and scholarly Sunday-school worker, namely Mrs. E. J. Colbert. She is a Zionite indeed and attended Livingstone College, one of the greatest Negro colleges in the South. Our other Sunday-school workers are J. L. Meek, W. M. Corrothers and Miss Minnie B. Morrow. Our church work is a success. Please publish this, as our people are glad of any little item published about them in our new bright and new STAR.

Rev. Moses B. Bryant.

Warren, Ark.