

REFORMATION NEEDED.

Upon the Line of a Thoughtful, Temperate, Christ-Like Spirit.

BY REV. R. S. RIVES, D. D.

Mr. Editor: It has been some months since I served notice that I would write on the above named subject. For several reasons I deferred a discussion of this topic. First of all, I am constantly busy endeavoring to discharge the duties of the pastorate. The STAR is usually full of spicy, instructive and live reading matter. It is disagreeable to have articles lie over, lose their date and become stale. It is hoped, therefore, that our views will have due attention.

I am like Dr. Talmage. He believes in being able to direct as well as to correct. I have been much interested in the controversy between Bishop Small and Elder Biddle. Their discussion contributes to my conviction that a reformation is absolutely necessary. One of the phases of the needed reformation, as I view it, is most glaringly demonstrated by the spirit revealed in Brother Biddle's effort to correct things in general. It is not only natural, but it is proper that when a thing in use is displaced, something else must be substituted therefor, or the thing replaced. I believe Brother Biddle is sincere. I believe in the doctrine of Scripture holiness. I believe in the doctrine he advocates. The Bible commands holiness and peace with all men, without which no man can see the Lord. To break a command of God in one instance by commission and the very next violate by omission is ridiculous, to say the least.

I want to correct one mistake that Brother Biddle makes. He declares just as if he thought he was telling the truth when he declares that every one who went to Canton in our Church delegation from the Centennial was fully aware of the Sunday travel before he left. Upon the honor of a man and Christian, I didn't know it, but was told that we would return Saturday night. I do not mean to offer my ignorance as an apology, for I believe that God was in favor of McKinley and against Bryan. I think Brother Biddle is guilty of two sins in his criticism. First, he is prejudicing. He doesn't wait for investigation, judge nor jury. In Matthew 7th chapter, Jesus says "Judge not." My brother presumes to charge us with sinning willfully. The highest and most God-like of all Christian graces is charity. If one brother feels himself greater in knowledge and better in grace, let the strong bear the infirmities of the weak. If criticism becomes necessary, it should be done in meekness and in the spirit of brotherly love.

If I understand Christianity as it applies to individuals, we are representing Christ. "Ye are the light of the world," said Jesus, commanding let your light so shine that others may see your good works. We should endeavor under all circumstances to ascertain what Christ would do if He was here in our places (for we are His representatives), and then "go thou and do likewise." There is still another sin of which Bishop Small and Brother Biddle both are perhaps guilty. Christ lays great stress upon the sin of offense. To give each other the lie as they do (in mild terms) is not only offensive to a sense of Christian brotherhood, but we are commanded in the Bible not to entertain an accusation against an elder without at least two witnesses. These gentlemen stand high in the Church. They are men of influence. It is well, and perhaps best to be certain of the truth before flinging to the breeze the "Bishop's lies," or the faith of some in the head of the Church might become materially impaired by such accusations, and their Christian progress injuriously stultified. To impugn the motives of an elder, if they are pure, is wrong in the sight of God and man. Any soul that may be hindered by defective influences, is offended; and "woe unto him by whom the offense cometh."

Dear readers, I think it is very clear from the above hints, that a reformation upon the line of a thoughtful, temperate, Christ-like spirit is one of the necessities; "for if any man has not the spirit of Christ, he is none of us."

AS WE SEE IT.

Rev. E. Geo. Biddle Should Apologize or Be Excommunicated.

BY REV. W. H. SNOWDEN.

Mr. Editor: Zion Church, the oldest Negro Church organization in the United States, has at last reached the point we little expected it would ever come to. It is a burning shame for a great Church like ours to sit still and allow any man, I care not who he be, to publicly declare and show his disrespect for the Fathers (bishops) of the Church, and teach others to do likewise. We have nine men on the bench of bishops who discharge the duties of the office as well as any we, or any other Church ever elected. Their religious and moral character is above reproach, and their love for Zion has been shown by their works.

We admit they never attended "Yale." Neither did Lincoln, Cleveland, McKinley and a host of other leaders of this great country. And yet if Yale acts on all men like it seems to have acted on some, it is well they didn't attend. The loyal men in Zion must wake up and teach the men who disregard the Bishops that they must stop or get out. Zion Bishops must be respected and must, first of all be respected by the ministry. How can we ever expect to get the people to respect the Fathers when we put them in office and then tell the people they don't know anything and can do nothing? Twenty-four years' service have I given Zion Church and must say I never knew the time that so little respect was shown the Bishops. There was a time when you said the Bishop was going to visit the church, that everybody was glad; but the ministry has changed the thing by their disrespect, so that now the people say, "Well, I don't care whether I hear him or not. Such and such a preacher says he can't preach and does not know much." My God! We must move slow and love Zion more, or the presiding eldership will carry with it more dignity than the bishopric. In the STAR of February 11th, an article appeared from which we clip the following:

Bishop Small's recent article in answer to my criticism of his political jaunt to Canton is so illogical in composition and so greatly blemished with "Bad English" that I must first of all ask him to explain and define some of his cumbersome sentences. Will the Bishop please define this undefineable sentence? "I think it is time for our loudly-heralded Greek and Latin scholars to write, at least, intelligible English."

Bishop Small tries to make it appear that he was sent, delegated, or to use his own word, "assigned" to go from New York to Canton. Is that true? By whom was the assignment made? Certainly not by the Church, for the Church sent him to New York to celebrate the Centennial Jubilee. Certainly the Centennial Committee did not send him, for the matter was never brought before the Committee. So his "assignment" must have been by some outside party. Was not the "assignment" made by the Bishop's own insatiable desire to "show himself off?"

I am astonished at Dr. E. George Biddle. He preaches holiness and urges men to be holy; but he doesn't practice what he preaches. The duty of a sanctified presiding elder, beautiful man, and minister living a holy life, is to do justly, walk humbly and love mercy. Our Lord said, "Do ye unto others as you would they should do unto you." Again the Master said, "If thy brother trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." Thus, go and tell him when no one was present but himself and the Bishop? I think not. He forgets what he preaches; forgets the commands of his Master, and rushes on and does what no living man wants another to do to him. He takes a Christian gentleman, good citizen and learned prelate, and, in sum and substance, publishes him to the world as a liar, fool and ignoramus. Would it not have been more like a brother for

the good and holy presiding elder to have taken other steps? He would have shown more Christianity had he kept the commands of the Master.

You may search any other denomination through; you may find men who profess to be sanctified, but you will not find one who would publish an article like Dr. Biddle against his Bishop; and if he did, he would find that no grass would grow under his feet. It doesn't do to elevate some men. Their heads won't stand it. Some presiding elders think they are greater than the Bishops; and, if not in word, in act teach the people to respect them and not the Fathers of the Church. We clip the following from an article which appeared in the STAR February 18th.

Now we of the New York conference regret that our beloved elder designated any special Bishop yes, I am sure, from my acquaintance with Dr. Biddle, that it was the state of his mind at that time, and the zeal he had for the Connection, that caused him to so express himself. He loves Bishop Small as well as Prof. Crockett and his South Carolina ministers, or the ministers of his conference. Dr. Biddle's mind at the time, and zeal for the Church, caused him to so express himself. I don't see any grounds for me to think it was his mind. I think it was his heart. The mouth speaks what the heart is full of. He may love the Bishop, but the difference between the love of Prof. Crockett and the ministers of the South Carolina conference and Dr. Biddle's is just this: Prof. Crockett and the South Carolina conference show their love by honoring and holding up the Bishop, and Biddle shows his by publishing that Bishop Small can't write; can't make his writing plain; ain't what what he is represented to be; went to Canton, Ohio, to show off; and he fears the Church made a mistake in electing him. Now that is cold love, I think. I believe, yes, I move, that the Church demand the Rev. E. George Biddle, B. D., Presiding Elder of the New York conference, to apologize to Bishop J. B. Small, D. D., and I honestly believe that he should be excommunicated if he does not. In him the ministry knows what a preacher fighting element is. He must be stopped at once. Harrisburg, Pa.

THE KNOWS HE'S COLORED.

The Editor of the STAR OF ZION has notified its writers that there is no need of being told that he is colored. Yes, Bro. Smith, just a fortnight ago, we had to give a New York publisher a lecture about sending us matters in which we suppose he wanted an expression from us, but not the kind of one he got by any means. The same pamphlet may have reached your sanctum also. We were addressed in his style: "Wide-Awake, (colored.)" We resented the insult, and not more than that, that's brass-riveted gall any way, to expect favors of us, and at the same time "nick name" us, in order to count favors of us. We don't care a "cuss" how many people love the application of "colored" to them as their proper race designation. We are one who opposes it being applied to us. Again we repeat: "We know no such race of men from an ethnological view as colored"—Wide-Awake.

ELOQUENT ORATOR.

David W. Parker, President of the Jones University, at Tuscaloosa, Ala., one among the most learned men of the colored race, and one among the best, most fluent and eloquent orators that ever ascended the rostrum in Alabama, delivered an address in the Court House here last Friday, 1st inst. By invitation many white citizens of the town were present and listened with patience to the sound logic of his speech, delivered in a most dignified and eloquent manner. His talk was plain, practicable and full of good advice to his race, and if heeded would prove a great blessing to them as a nation. In the course of his speech he showed to his colored hearers what the white people of the South had done for the Negro race along the line of education, by proving that for every dollar paid in on taxation by them for school purposes, the white people covered it with nineteen dollars more for educational purposes. All in all his speech was a grand treat, and speaking for the whites present, was appreciated and endorsed as was evinced by the clap of hands and stamp of the feet throughout his talk and the outspoken response by several present after he had concluded.—Choctaw (Ala.) Alliance.

At the request of several of the bishops notice is hereby given that the next meeting of the Board of Bishops and other Connectional Boards will meet in Charlotte, N. C., the fifth Wednesday in March.

J. W. HOOD, Chairman, S. W. CLAYTON, Secretary

RANDOM SHOTS.

The Negro in City Life—Foolish Oratory—Two Zion Laymen.

BY REV. W. H. MARSHALL.

The University of Pennsylvania has started a scientific investigation of the condition of the Negro in "City Life." It has selected the notorious Seventh Ward of Philadelphia as the base of its operations. Here a house to house canvass will be made. Among others, the following questions will be asked: 1st, Condition of family—age; number able to read and write; number of months each child went to school during past year; graduates of or attendants at higher institutions of learning; amount of monthly or yearly income; nature of occupation; number of sick days and causes of illness; deaths and causes thereof; amount of real estate owned; money in bank; membership in secret, building or insurance societies; chief forms of amusement? 2nd, Condition of the home—number of rooms, and condition of same; number of inmates? Of course, the question uppermost in the minds of all is, "Can this ward with 9,000 Negroes be taken as a fair example?" Perhaps. For while much has been there accomplished, yet however, there are few localities where our people have wasted more opportunities than the one by which we are about to be judged.

The colored orator(?) is at it again. Here is his latest "gem": "The progress of my people ever reminds me of 'Ben Hur's chariot race.' In front with cherry laugh rides the white man driving four white horses. From his chariot of gold he looks back with disdain upon his nearest competitor—the yellow man, who drives four yellow steeds, and he derides the brown man the next in the race and scoffs at the four brown horses; but when he looks around again and beholds the black man driving four horses black as night and coming at a fearful velocity he knows that his days of supremacy are limited." Nonsense. When will our speakers learn that just such stuff as the above, while it tickles the ear, helps to fill our race with egotism? The days of learning have passed when egotism possesses a people. You may teach even a mule; but any effort to teach the man who knows it all, is "casting pearls before swine."

How can a race of 35 years of limited opportunities endanger the supremacy of a race which has inherited the wealth, wisdom and experience of the centuries? Better far say to my people, "You have done well, remarkably well; indeed, history contains no parallel; but yet there is much, very much, to be accomplished. Work now as never before." So long as we do not own and control the railroads, the telegraph lines, the ocean greyhounds, the great factories and the banks; and so long as we are not producing the literature and the science of the day, the white man's supremacy is in no immediate danger, and every right thinking man cannot believe otherwise.

Wrightsville, Pa., is the home of one of Zion's most eminent laymen, Dr. J. L. Jamison, an intimate friend and classmate of Dr. J. C. Price and Prof. E. Moore. After graduating from Lincoln, Dr. Jamison took a full medical course at Jefferson, America's leading medical college. His identity with our race was not discovered by the College authorities; else this great privilege would not have been allowed. He has one of the largest (white) practices in his County, and is usually consulted in difficult cases. His wife, a most estimable woman, is loved by all who know her. The Doctor has an interesting family. He owns a farm, a quarry and other property. This scholarly physician, who is Health Officer of his town, is an earnest Zionite.

Wrightsville is also the home of Mr. Chas. Johnson, a colored builder and contractor, who has achieved considerable success. He was architect, contractor and builder of the handsome Zion Church at Wrightsville. This is one of the finest churches of its size in Zion. His excellent wife is one of the active spir-

CRITICISM.

BY PROF. R. J. CROCKETT.

Mr. Editor: I noticed in a recent issue of the STAR OF ZION an article from one, Rev. R. J. Strothers, purporting the discussion of "Those Resolutions;" but instead takes me for his "those resolutions," and presents in his discussion personalities instead of facts. Although we are at a wonder to know who this very prominent(?) Reverend is, we are equally as much surprised at his production, since it emanates from a citizen of the great "Metropolis;" one residing so near the seat of American intelligence, the centre of culture, the Athens of America, the Mecca of the Afro-American press. He is a sound, brilliant and at times sensational writer. Dr. Smith is destined to reach the highest notch in the great A. M. E. Zion Church.—The Chronicle.

Bishop J. W. Hood, D. D., Senior Bishop of the A. M. E. Zion Church, is the oldest Negro Bishop in point of service now living. He was made bishop in 1873. Bishops Beebe, Holsely and Lane, of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, one year his junior, were elected in 1873. Our Zion brethren are doing the right thing in making ample preparations to celebrate the silver anniversary next June of their distinguished leader.—Christian Index.

The STAR OF ZION (weekly), the official organ of the A. M. E. Zion Church, is manifesting marked improvement in the hands of its new editor, Rev. J. W. Smith, D. D. It has the snap and ring and energy of a living soul. Dr. Smith is a valuable addition to the colored knights of the quill. Rev. G. L. Blackwell, A. M., D. D., is the business manager. Subscription price, \$1 per annum. Publication office, 306 S. College St., Charlotte, N. C.—Nashville (Tenn.) Bugle Blast.

THE ZION CONFERENCE.

We attended the annual session of the South Florida Conference of the A. M. E. Zion Church at Kissimmee to-day, where Bishop Harris of North Carolina was presiding with ease and dignity. We were introduced to the conference by that scholarly and broad-hearted presiding elder, Rev. J. N. Clinton. Bishop Harris is one of the largest leaders of his Church and the race. He made us welcome and assured us that the "only question between Bethel and Zion was a bit of history." Our Zion brethren have a right to feel proud of their great bishop who is so fatherly in his instructions to them.—Florida Christian Recorder.

In commenting on the action of the A. M. E. Church for proposing presenting the President-elect the Bible upon which he will take the oath of office, the STAR OF ZION, the official organ of the A. M. E. Zion Church, has this to say: We do not blame Bethel for hustling to do something famous with the incoming administration since the new President said last October that the finest orators that had visited him during the campaign came from the A. M. E. Zion Church.

It is very evident that these two great Churches are in for sustaining their reputations, and that just a little jealousy or rivalry exists. It seems good natured and rather amusing.—Indianapolis (Ind.) Freeman.

ZION COMMISSIONERS.

In response to a request from the managers of the great fair which is arranging to be held in Nashville, Tennessee, Mayor Warner will soon appoint ten local commissioners, whose duty it will be to promote exhibits on the part of local manufacturers and otherwise interest themselves in the success of the exposition. The governor of the state has already appointed a like number of resident commissioners. None of them will receive pay for their efforts. The mayor has not yet completed his list of ten, but has decided upon a portion of them and yesterday announced that he would soon formally appoint Rev. J. Harvey Anderson, Charles P. Lee and William Sprague and forward their names to Nashville. All of the commissioners indicated are colored citizens, and at least one of them, Mr. Lee, will visit the exposition city within a short time.—Rochester (N. Y.) Daily Democrat.

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ATTRACTING NOTICE.

Zion. Her Progress And Her Men The Subject Of Comment.

CLIPPINGS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

Editor Smith of The Star of Zion nominates Dr. J. M. Henderson for historian of our Church. The nomination is a capital one and our vote goes with it.—Christian Recorder.

The Star of Zion, published at Charlotte, N. C., and edited by Rev. J. W. Smith, D. D., is one of our most valuable exchanges. Editor Smith is one of the brightest journalists in the South.—A exandria (Va.) Leader.

Rev. R. Alonzo Scott has conducted revivals in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Williamsport, Chambersburg, Elmira, Auburn, Syracuse and other places. Glorious success has attended his work, resulting in the conversion of nearly 1,000 souls.—Williamsport (Pa.) Daily.

Bishop James Walker Hood, D. D., LL. D., of Fayetteville, N. C., Senior Bishop of the A. M. E. Zion Connection, will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of his consecration in June. His denomination is arranging for a large offering to be presented to the bishop.—Syracuse (N. Y.) Christian Advocate.

The sainted Dr. Price did more during his lifetime to break down the color line than any man of the present century. He not only demanded in clarion tones that man be known as man the world over, but he set a personal example that called in louder tones than that ringing voice of his.—Wilmington (N. C.) Sentinel.

The Star of Zion, Charlotte, N. C., edited by Rev. Jno. W. Smith, is the leading colored religious journal in America. Dr. Smith is the Horace Greely of the Afro-American press. He is a sound, brilliant and at times sensational writer. Dr. Smith is destined to reach the highest notch in the great A. M. E. Zion Church.—The Chronicle.

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