

THE STAR OF ZION.

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MOST NOBLE WOMAN.

Her Influence and Work Reach to the Ends of the World.

BY MRS. H. W. SMITH.

What is woman? The female of the human race. It is said to be a woman in the truest and highest sense of the word, "to be the best thing beneath the skies." It is also said that woman is at the bottom of everything, good or bad, that is done in the world. Woman helps man attain to greatness.

Look back at "Woman's Influence and Work." Woman by her influence makes or mars life. A man may rob or murder to gratify a woman. Every woman has great influence. What is influence? It is moral or physical power to lead or direct. Watch the kind of influence that you are constantly exerting. Giving a man an invitation to take a glass of wine or to indulge in a game of cards may kindle the fires of intemperance or of gambling, which may burn forever. Woman should rival man in all that is good, refined, ennobling. Wherever a woman is she should be a harmonizing influence of purity and of truth. Her influence toward man should be to soften his manners, to teach him a needful lesson of order, sobriety and goodness.

A woman's worth is determined by the real goodness of her heart, the greatness of her soul and the purity and sweetness of her character. Her influence should be armed with executive power. She should strive to live above suspicion, being ever true to God and duty. Come what may, a constant, consistent Christian woman's influence and power are untold. In most cases the average home depends much upon the woman at the head of it. Whether sunshine shall enter the rooms, whether the table shall be invitingly spread, whether bright lights shall appear, whether it shall be agreeable or disagreeable, depends upon the woman. Influence before a child should be such that he or she might never be ashamed to imitate it. A mother's influence is worth as much to a child as silver or gold. If they are influenced in the right way they may always find some way to earn silver and gold. They learn the sweet lessons of politeness, purity and that highest gentlemanliness and religion from mother. Her influence is never forgotten. I thank heaven for my mother's influence which has ever guided and kept me from many evils. Woman is the mother of the earth; she is one of "God's last and best crowning creations."

Work is to labor, operate, to move, to stir and mix, manufacture, manual labor, employment, occupation, production, achievement, and other things. Woman's work is never finished until she ceases to be. Look at the home; see how unselfishly she labors for the happiness of the other members of the family, forgetting self and putting aside that which would cause her joy for the sake of loved ones; mending, cooking and doing anything that comes to her hand. Woman should cultivate and develop the thinking power so as to aid and guide and train the children; also that she may be capable, in the intellectual world, of inspiring men by her thought and work, never giving them opportunity to depreciate her mental capacity in measuring it with their own. Woman's mind is of as much consequence as man's, and in her peculiar sphere she must educate herself, and educate her hands also.

We have heard that Paul said: "Wives submit yourselves to your husbands." It is not because we are inferior to him nor because we are his servant, but because in every business there must be but one authority. In the divine law of the household the man is the head. To submit is the submission of love, not as a servant nor as an inferior being. Man is for strength, woman for love. It is submission to the selfish, careless and indifferent husband that breaks the heart and stifles the life of a woman. Woman has made it her work to go as missionaries to far countries. In the Temperance Union woman is widely known. In the prayer meeting woman is at work. In the school she strives with all her might to enlighten the little ones in the right way of moral and upright citizens. A

woman, when her influence and work are pleasing to God, is one of His winnasses which is twined around a silver thread that others may be guided by it.

Women can engage in various pursuits with no loss of womanly grace. The neatness, accuracy, patience, and the faithfulness of woman are crowding men out of stores and factories. Being temperate, she can be trusted. Woman ought to know everything that she can about business. Women have begun business alone, employed others, acquired wealth, supported orphan asylums, and bequeathed large sums to charity. Elizabeth Fry preached in the jails of Great Britain and worked for the success of schools. Lady Huntington is a great worker. Clara Barton, and Amanda Smith of the colored race are doing great work of which we can be proud. Queen Esther was a deliverer of her people. How many great and good men in life have said, "If I have gained anything I owe it to my wife or mother?"

Woman's work seems to be in the sick room. How tenderly she administers to the unfortunate! It is one of her most difficult duties to attend the sick and dying. It calls forth tenderness, sympathy, prayerfulness and fidelity. She cannot attend to the sick without thinking of the great responsibility. It requires careful preparation of mind, heart and spirit. Her influence and work are always needed at the hospital. Woman's work cannot be overestimated and her influence reaches to the ends of the earth.

Oh, noble woman, exerting a good influence, working for God and humanity, remembering that a shining crown awaits you in that heavenly land.

St. Louis, Mo.

CHARLESTON DISTRICT.

BY REV. R. K. KEARNS, P. E.

Zion is prospering in the eastern part of South Carolina. My work is known as Charleston District of the Palmetto Conference, and begins with Paradise circuit.

Rev. McClellan, a very bright young minister, is getting on very well. He raised the Presiding Elder's salary and had a surplus.

At Nebo circuit we met the intelligent Rev. Hendrick, who is pushing the work smoothly along. Notwithstanding the very cold weather, he raised over \$15.

At Gladden Grove Rev. Miller had every thing in readiness. He is one of Zion's young heroes.

Rev. Laken, of Ebenezer circuit, was very late in reaching his work on account of the bad weather. From all appearances we are satisfied we have the right man in the right place.

Rev. Green, of Beaver Creek circuit, is not doing so well, but the church seems to like him.

We had a dull time at Zion Hill circuit, Rev. Gregory having sickness in his family. By the help of the Eternal One we hope to do better on our next round.

Rev. Jeter, of Antioch circuit, was visited next. He has the Sabbath-school nicely worked up; but the church is far behind. Otherwise we had a good time.

Next we boarded the S. C. and G. R. R. for Summerville. Here we met Mrs. Brown, the donor of our church at this place. This is a small work, but Rev. Brown, the pastor, loves Zion and is pushing along.

List, but not least, we are in the grand old City-by-the-Sea—Charleston. We were cordially received by Rev. Hinton, pastor of Shiloh station. We were informed that Shiloh had been on the dead list, but is taken off since he has taken charge of the work. He is an experienced warrior and will bring her to the front.

Rev. Washington, of Tabernacle circuit, and Rev. Gibbs, of Virgin chapel, are doing very well with their small works.

Having completed our first round, we turned our face homeward, stopping over at Columbia as the guest of Mrs. C. M. Wallace of the C. M. E. Church, Rev. Williams, pastor of Zion, and Mr. L. M. Rice, U. S. Mail clerk; it is needless to say we enjoyed ourselves. Sister Wallace, Rev. Williams and the "Mail Slinger" are all well and at home.

MISSIONARY WORK.

Mention Of A Few Of Zion's Untiring Working Women.

BY A. E. JOHNSON.

It has been our privilege since '92 to serve this Conference as the Vice-President of the W. H. and F. M. Society. It was ours to take up the work where Mrs. Bishop C. C. Pettey had already laid a "sure foundation" with such pure-hearted material as Mother Bridges of State-st., whose memory still lives among us; also Sisters Sommie Banks, Withers, Stolensworth, M. C. Johnson, Mary Clinton, Butler and others who doubtless have been mentioned often before the Conference.

We shall speak of the officers of today and a number of leading workers of some of our churches. Sister Sommie Banks, of Mobile, has the honor of being the Vice-President of the first district of the W. H. and F. M. Society. She indeed has her heart in the work. Miss L. L. A. Singleton, of Walker Spring, is the Vice-President of the Second district. She is a young woman and her report at the last Conference convinced us that we had made the proper selection. Mrs. F. H. Leavens, President of the Sons and Daughters of Conference, has but few equals as a real church worker. Mrs. Mary Barner, her district assistant, is an earnest worker. Mrs. J. D. Jackson is President of Jones University Auxiliary Board. We find in her a model minister's wife and no. one conference worker. Miss Roseena Temple, Vice-President of the first district of said Society; also a member of Big Zion, Mobile; also a teacher in the city school, is one of the few young ladies of her ability that delights to work for her church.

All of our good women cannot belong to the conference; hence we mention a few who assist largely with the local work: Mesdames Allen C. Crooms, Grace M. Scott, Bank, are among the many lady workers of State-st.; Mesdames Mary Washington, F. Nelson, H. Beavers and K. Myers are active workers of Big Zion, and at Hope Chapel we find Mesdames F. Bryant, P. W. Goode and A. King leading in each department of the church.

The different Boards of the ladies were successful in presenting on their night to the Conference, for all purposes, \$110.25; of this amount \$24.50 was sent to the Treasurer of the W. H. and F. M. Society. We have already started to work for a grand report this conference year. The W. H. and F. M. Society Constitution gives us the authority to organize auxiliary societies; therefore, we have appointed Mrs. Gussie E. Mims of Mobile, (with her consent) as Juvenile Superintendent, whose duty will be to gather up all the children through the Western Alabama Conference and organize them into Auxiliary Missionary Societies. We bespeak for her a great success. We also take this opportunity to notify those to whom it may concern.

We hope the day is not far off when each State will organize a Zion Woman's Missionary Convention, as great good could be accomplished for both our Home and Foreign Mission interests.

The ladies down this way are enjoying the STAR these days and especially the "Woman's Column." We are proud of its Editor; yea, we love her. We rarely find a woman of any race who can deal so largely with any subject as she deals with the Nation's affairs, Church interests, domestic circles and the leading fashions of the day. Indeed, she is great and we honor her. Sorry to note her illness, we pray for her speedy recovery.

We have certainly enjoyed some of the discussions since January in the STAR; but we regret very much that some have attempted to criticize our Bishop—Bishop J. B. Small. We see no cause for such criticism. We hope the ladies of the Conference will work as willingly under Bishop Small as did they for beloved Bishop Pettey. We must do more this year than ever before.

Scranton, Miss.

This is my first article. Give me room, please. It is a pleasure to read of the progress of Zion in the several sections of the country. Zion is not dead here. Rev. G. W. Hampton, our pastor, the man for the place, loved by the people, is doing a great work here at Clinton Chapel. At this writing we are having a revival—over 17 converts. Rev. Frazier from Harlam, Ky., Rev. S. M. Charles, from Oak Grove, and Rev. Keeler, all earnest, good workers, are assisting our pastor. Our superintendent, Sister Lena Murrell, is doing good work in the Sabbath-school. The board of stewardesses is wide-awake, as are also the stewards and trustees. Our members are grand Zion workers. The Bible says, "Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted." We have mourned quite awhile, but we rejoice under the leadership of Rev. G. W. Hampton. God be praised. Lucinda Lyons.

NOTES FROM GEORGIA.

Something Wrong.—What About Minutes?—Money Wanted.

BY REV. D. J. JONES.

I want to say something about our darling Zion in this part of the Master's vineyard. It was acknowledged by some of the oldest and best informed elders that the annual conference held at Girard, Ga., was the best in the history of the South Georgia Conference. Bishop I. C. Clinton, D. D., presided.

The conference laid off a new presiding elder district, known as the Savannah District, with Rev. S. H. Hayes as Presiding Elder. Rev. L. G. Hemphill was re-elected Presiding Elder of the Athens District. He is serving his fifth year on this district. His men, as a whole, are not doing as well now as before conference. Something seems to be dead in Denmark. There is a great wrangle throughout the entire conference. The Presiding Elder held his second quarter at Wynn's chapter February 20, 21. The amount of \$20.75 was raised. The writer is serving his third year at this point. Up to date all is well. Mrs. M. A. Jones, S. A. Sjrardin, E. M. Ardister, Miss L. E. Carter, L. M. Carter, and H. P. Pettus, are truly Zionites, ever ready to make their pastor and Presiding Elder glad.

What about minutes? The conference secretary has written each Presiding Elder that the minutes have gone to press and as soon as ten dollars are raised the minutes will be out. Brethren, we raised fifteen dollars in the conference and turned it over to the Bishop, to have the minutes printed at our Publication House, with the understanding that the Presiding Elders raise the balance as soon as the Bishop made known the amount for printing, which he has done; and it is only \$13.37 to each Presiding Elder district. I have written and written and there hasn't a single man responded. Look out, boys! The Bishop sees you. Remember, "to obey is better than sacrifice." Each Presiding Elder and preacher promised to assist in raising the balance. They ought to keep their word. This is the first year in the second hundred. We ought to go through without a blunder. Hands in your pockets and out with your money. My fifty cents is waiting.

Looking over the Palmetto Conference five years ago, she only had a few members and poor churches. She was short on finance. Her general fund was short; support to pastors barely nothing. She had only two small districts paying presiding elders from \$300 to \$400. Now she has three districts paying presiding elders from \$400 to \$600 a year. Do you call this coming? Yes, indeed. We sing in this Conference "Marching must be done," and we act accordingly. A pastor over here in one of the cities of refuge can stay five or six years; well, until the Bishop moves him.

The Palmetto Conference also has her Industrial High School in the city of Union. It is growing very rapidly under the well trained and scholarly Prof. W. A. Walker, A. B., and our strong and able hero, Rev. F. M. Archie, General Traveling Agent, of whom we are proud because of his ability and success this last year. He has raised over one thousand dollars for this school. He is the man we need, because he is the people's man. If you will let his dancing eyes play on you, and listen to his swift talking mouth, you will certainly open your pocket-books and hand five or ten dollars for our school. Our Conference wants him to tour the North this year in interest of our school. God bless him.

Union, S. C.

The members of the White Oak church are fully satisfied with our worthy and competent minister, Rev. H. F. Martin. When he came he preached from St. John 12:33. The sermon was powerful enough to make Angels rejoice and Satan tremble. We have the best pastor in the Conference. In regards to our Presiding Elder, he hasn't a superior in this Conference. Although we are among the clay hills of South Carolina, we do not hibernate nor go into lethargy in the winter. We bloom winter and summer. We are striving to furnish some good ministers. Mr. Editor, I would like to write a lengthy discourse to the STAR, but as this is my first I think I will be silent for the present.

Rev. G. W. H. Mobley, of the city of the hour, is a long article. He is a

BACKWOOD PHILOSOPHY.

BY REV. T. H. MERRIWEATHER.

Elevation brings out the true character of man.

He is a moral coward that won't pay his debts. Meditation, not reading, is the result of original thoughts. The loud-voiced minister stands mightily first-rate with our people yet. One may have a library of books and not have a library of knowledge. Pastor oil, like advice, is easy to give; but we all do not like to take it. The money you have in your pocket is not your own if you owe it to some one else. We have seen men who appeared to wise that we were sorry when they opened their mouth.

There may be a short out across the field of flowers, but none across the field of learning. The latest wrangle in lying is for the liar to stop abruptly, and say: "I want to tell it straight."

Favoritism often stands in the way of truth; but truth recognized is often the death of favoritism.

When reason takes flight to a more congenial clime, ignorance holds high carnival in the hearts of men.

He who says there is no true virtue in woman says to the intellectual world, "I am not a gentleman."

Often Greek and Latin are the lion's hide without the lion, but a "fling dog is better than a dead lion."

Creeping actions upward we over, a gravity, but in its full gravity, it is the cry of the hour.

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There is such a thing as doing all you can to get rid of your preacher and shedding pole-cat tears at his departure.

Some people's water-gauge of a newspaper is regulated by the amount of news it contains from their immediate vicinity.

The minister who preaches you to heaven when you are on your way to hell may expect your frown in the hour of death.

True greatness is contented that virtue is enough and that virtue will be fossilized in the dim future; that good and great men may excavate for emulation.

Preacher: "Dear Bishop, I have been on poor work for two years and had to meet some bad 'pints.'"

Bishop: "Yes, brother, you are a bad preacher."

You may cross the bridge of tears or the bridge of boats to reach earthly glory, but on the throne of cool reflection you will behold thousands whom you have outstripped; and in the transition from joy to sorrow you can say like Xerxes: "In a hundred years from now not a soul will be living."

Noah preached 120 years without a convert; Elijah called fire from heaven and consumed many soldiers that came out to arrest him. He called fire from heaven that burnt up the sacrifice; prayed for rain after three years and received it; defied the mighty host of Ahab, but fled from his wife Jezebel. St. Peter denied Christ three times, but it was not long after that 3,000 souls were converted by hearing one of his sermons. Jude, the brother of Christ, wrote one book—one chapter with only 25 verses; and yet it will live as long as sacred truth, and be the guide book to the house not made with hands.

Earlington, Ky.

Young men who feel divinely moved to enlist in Christ's army as a gospel banner-bearer should fully equip themselves for the work. Do so morally and religiously. Rev. B. L. Stanton, though young, is a power. He is doing a great work and has erected at Middleton Grove one of the nicest country churches in the country. A. S. Horton, P. M. Way, Miss.

Presiding Elder F. K. Bird of the Raleigh (N. C.) district is a grand man. We had a glorious time at our quarterly meeting which he held for me in February. He is a powerful preacher. He preached from Psalms 92:12. We raised \$16.70 at the quarterly conference and \$24 on quarterly meeting. The members are well pleased with him.

Richmond, N. C. Rev. B. W. Turner.

Presiding Elder F. K. Killingsworth of the Chester (S. C.) district is an able and loving divine. He held my quarterly conference in February at Mt. Zion church and found the reports all favorable. The people of this district are certainly pleased with him. On the Sabbath he preached from 2 Cor. 11:33. It was a great sermon. He certainly opened some of the richest treasures of the Scriptures. Collection, \$14.01.

Rev. R. A. McCreary.

Bascomville, S. C.

A few months ago things looked dark, but thank God we have climbed the mountain and see light. We have a live Sabbath-school and a Varick C. E. Society. Although Varick, the father of Zion, is dead, his name and influence live with us. Rev. R. R. Frederick who has been with us for two years is a wonderful church worker. He is now assigned to another field. May the Lord be with him and bless him.

I. S. Simmons.

Plant City, Fla.

Brethren of the Palmetto Conference, you promised at our last conference held in Union, S. C., to send me one dollar each by Christmas to aid me with the debt on this church. Bishop I. C. Clinton is the only one who has kept his promise and he sent me five dollars. Brethren, do help me to save Zion in Charleston. Since conference I have taken in 41 members at Selma Miss. Junction. Send money to Rev. C. W. Washington, Pastor of Tabernacle A. M. Zion Church, Charleston, S. C.

Rev. C. R. Anthony.

Everything goes lovely. Brother Anthony, we will try and sell out your new Conference.

SHOULD SEEK OFFICE.

The Negro A Factor Which Should Be Respected By All.

BY REV. MOSES S. SPRATT.

The American Negro should seek public office at all times, in all places, and by all honorable methods. He should neither fear nor shrink from the disappointment, the vexation and the heart-burnings that must come to the many whose hopes and ambitions for office are never gratified. Public office carries with it power, tone and character; and the few men of color who are fortunate enough to obtain the golden fruits of official recognition, secure for their race a place in the public esteem inseparably connected with dignity and honor. Such a compensation is worth, indeed, all the nervous force and energy expended in seeking the prize.

The Negro occupies an anomalous position among the races of America. In every community he has his own peculiar social station—peculiar not only because of his separation from all other people in the higher and better forms of life but also because he has not yet been able to fix for himself a social standard up to which he can live consistently and uniformly. To intensify the Negro's distressing condition his white fellow citizens see fit to shut him out from a participation in most of those occupations and business connections which are everywhere classed as dignified vocations. The Negro's best and easiest avenue, then, to honor, prosperity and the proper recognition of his talents, is his employment in the services of his town, city, state or country.

I appreciate the fact that such doctrine as I am here preaching will be regarded by some as the rankest kind of heresy; and by others as the most dangerous kind of advice to our young men. I admit that there would be some justice in such criticism if the young Negro, in the almost brutal competition of life, had an equal chance with the white boy, whom he has distanced in the institutions of learning, from the graded schools through the university; but, to quote Abraham Lincoln, "As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew." There is such a vast difference between the opportunities of the white man and the black man in America that there can be no adequate comparison. The Negro is a citizen and voter, and on these grounds he has as much right to seek office as any one else.

Warren, Arkansas.

The Evergreen district, ably presided over by presiding elder A. J. Rodgers, is blooming. He held quarterly conference February 5th on Georgiana circuit, Rev. A. Gregory, pastor, and met with a hearty welcome. He was in Sunday-school on time Sunday, and at 11 a. m. preached a rich sermon from Psalms 10:51. At night he preached equally as well from Ruth 1:16. Collection, \$25; General Funds, \$2. He is a wide-awake P. E. T. H. Snow.

Georgiana, Ala.

Presiding Elder H. C. Banks is an eloquent preacher. At my quarterly conference I paid him up. The North Alabama conference loves Bishop Small. I am not a prophet, but mark my prediction, the North Alabama conference will raise at least \$300 more general tax this year than she has ever raised. Bishop Small has his eyes on us boys, and we boys have our eyes on him. Then we will either hear "Come, ye blessed" or "Go ye."

Livingston, Ala. Rev. J. S. Jackson.

We are glad to see the STAR shining with increasing lustre. We congratulate our ex-editor, G. W. Clinton, upon his election to the bishopric, especially since he is assigned to this episcopal district. We wanted Bishop A. Walters first and Bishop G. W. Clinton next. When he was the STAR man we could not see him away down here in Mississippi. Now we have seen him. We Mississippians who are reading after the present red-hot STAR man, Rev. J. W. Smith, want to catch a glimpse of him. Come down, sir, to our next Conference.

Rev. C. R. Anthony.

Everything goes lovely. Brother Anthony, we will try and sell out your new Conference.