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REV. J. H. MANLEY, D. D.

Lecturer, Financier, Sweet Singer, Fervent Preacher.

A SKETCH OF HIS WORK.

Rev. J. H. Manley, D. D., is now closing up his third year as pastor of Talbert Chapel A. M. E. Zion church, in Pensacola, which is the largest colored church in West Florida. So popular has this divine made himself in Florida by his sweet singing, eloquent sermons, and his successful financing that his name has become a household word throughout the state. His church is packed every Sunday night to hear him, and in fact, the mere mention that he will preach at any of the other churches in the city, assures a crowded house. As a singer we have but one Manley. As a money raiser, he is a genius. Manley is highly esteemed by all of the ministers in his conference. He is really looked upon as a leader. He has during his pastorate of Talbert Chapel, paid off a mortgage of four hundred dollars, paid off several other debts against the church, and this year has had one of the most successful revivals that has been held in West Florida. This press has the following to say about it:

The Gospel Tent Meeting, under the auspices of the congregations of Big Zion Church and Mt. Moriah Church, closed last Wednesday evening with over sixty conversions, the like of which for attendance and enthusiasm, has never before been seen in Pensacola this season of the year. The moral sentiment of the city has been toned up, backsliders have been reclaimed and a large number united with the church. There is great encouragement for Zion in this city. The meeting was conducted by Rev. J. H. Manley, D. D., pastor of Big Zion Church, and Rev. S. Brown, pastor Mt. Moriah Church. Some very efficient service was rendered by Revs. Dr. Moreland and S. M. Gaines of Mobile, Ala., Revs. Perry, Allen, Graves, Williams, Ford, Simons, Smith and Murray.

Manley has added to the church fully 150 members during his pastorate. He is a lover of his Connection and observes all Connectional claims. The church is in splendid condition spiritually and financially, and is out of debt. Rev. Manley closes up his third term with the respect of both white and colored citizens of this city. In laying of a corner stone for a new A. M. E. Zion church, the *Sentinel* has the following to say in relation to Rev. Manley:

October 25th was a red letter day in Pensacola. The occasion was the laying of the corner stone of another A. M. E. Zion Church, North Tarragona St., about twenty blocks above the union depot. Elaborate preparations had been made for the day. The attendance was very large and the enthusiasm abounding. The location of the church is charming. The large gathering of people listened to the most wonderful and eloquent sermon preached by Dr. J. H. Manley, pastor of Talbert Chapel A. M. E. Zion Church, that has ever been heard to fall from any gospel minister's lips. It did one's heart good to see the tears roll down the cheeks of our host whose genuine conversion and large heartedness made the day possible. Dr. Manley's sermon will never be forgotten in Pensacola. In the zinc box we deposited a copy of the Bible, Discipline, hymn book, minutes of the Annual Conference of 1897, and a copy of Manley's Centennial Marching Song.

Rev. Manley and wife are also engaged in the school work, known as Manley's Music Reformatory and Bible School, which is doing a grand work. The average attendance is forty. Long may he and his affectionate wife live to do much good for God and Zion.—E. J. McKenzie.

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE.

Dr. J. H. Manley stands high with the ministers and people of the Pensacola district. He has held the forces together at Talbert Chapel and built up the work at the same time. In every sense of the word he has proven himself the equal of any that has had charge of this church. He has had one of the most successful revivals that has been in our city since Dr. W. H. Smith left. He has the church in better trim financially and spiritually than it has been for a long time.

We failed to learn what brethren had collected \$32 general fund at the time when a report of this district was made through the columns of the *Star*. The person that reported it failed to give us the list of ministers that collected it. He also

failed to report that the Rev. S. Derry, of Milton, Fla., held a very successful revival, and that the Rev. O. P. Perry, pastor of Warrington circuit, is rebuilding St. Luke A. M. E. Zion church that was blown down by the storm July one year ago. The district, as far as I have gone, is looking up with great anticipation of a good collection this year on all lines notwithstanding the yellow

DISTRICT CONFERENCES.

Sessions Held at Various Points—The Work Reported.

A BRIEF SUMMARY.

The Summerville (Ga.) district Conference and Sabbath-school Convention convened in Summerville, August 4, 1897, Rev. L. W. Taylor, P. E., presiding. Rev. H. E. Jones



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fever scar, has caused everything to move slow; but by God's help we shall do our level best for God and Zion.—Rev. Simon Brown, P. E.

BIG DAY AT LIVINGSTONE.

Monday at 10 a. m., the conference marched in a body to Livingstone College for the purpose of hearing a program rendered by the school. The exercises were opened by prayer. Dr. Goler then made a few statements, in which he said that the school had prepared only a short program, and that he extended the invitation to the conference to be present at its session, that they might see what the school was doing as a result of legislation 20 years ago by the annual Conference. The choir rendered a special selection which carried the conference wild with enthusiasm.

The first was a recitation by Miss Thompson, of Lancaster, S. C. She proved herself an elocutionist of unusual ability. When she had closed her speech, she was loudly applauded by the conference.

Next was a solo by Mr. John W. Walker. He acted well his part, and was encored after taking his seat. Next introduced was Mr. H. W. Allen, whom we all know in Asheville. He delivered an impressive declamation, subject, "Voices of the Dead." Next, Miss Annie Warner, of Montgomery, Ala., who came forward and read a beautiful essay, subject, "The need of an educated Christian ministry," upon which she received rounds of hearty applause. Miss Emma C. Williams, star of the college, (harnessed the conference with her appearance upon the stage, and the rendition of two classical solos. Miss Williams is undoubtedly the finest soloist in any of our institutions in the State. She won many laurels for herself before the conference. Mr. W. J. Trent, of Pineville, N. C., was next upon the program. He delivered an excellent declamation.

Bishop Clinton responded with some very interesting and appropriate remarks. He stated that he could assure the students and all the faculty that the members of the conference, when they returned to their charges, would go determined to do more for the institution in the future than they have in the past. Bishop Lomax responded with some very important and interesting remarks, relative to the institution 20-years ago. Prof. S. G. Atkins, president of the Winston Industrial, was called upon by Dr. Goler and the school. He came forward and delivered the most touching eulogistic remarks in memory of the distinguished dead, Dr. J. C. Price. The exercises were concluded by a beautiful anthem sung by the choir.

Lunch was served in the dining hall of the building to the whole conference and delegation. After lunch, all marched around over the college grounds and into the buildings to learn something of the great work they had endeavored to encourage as they teach and preach. At the tone of the bell, all assembled in front of the chapel and formed a column two and two and marched to Dr. Price's grave, where one passed on the right of the grave and the other on the left with uncovered heads. From thence they marched back to the church edifice and entered upon their respective work.—Asheville, N. C., *Colored Enterprise*.

preached the annual sermon from St. Luke 10:12. The delegates all asked for the return of their pastors. The address of the chairman was well written and up-to-date. Rev. J. C. Taylor preached a good sermon. On the third day the local preachers were allowed to preach ten minutes each. Pastors on missionary work said they need money to put up church buildings. Rev. A. Robinson preached an impressive temperance sermon. A Clinton Institute is being established at Lyrly, Ga. Subscriptions are being taken for it. It was agreed that the presiding elder be paid not less than \$500 a year on this district. Prof. King, a young man who is just starting out in the ministry, preached a creditable sermon. The Sabbath-school convention was held over until after the Sabbath. On the Sabbath at 11 a. m., Rev. L. W. Taylor preached from II Chron. 19:18. He also preached at the M. E. Church. At 3 p. m., Rev. J. E. Trane preached a rousing sermon, and Rev. A. Robinson at 8 p. m. Amount of money raised, \$23. Donated to the *Star*, \$1.40.

Rev. J. C. Taylor, Sec'y.

The Petersburg (Va.) district conference convened in Berkley, Sept. 29th, with Rev. S. P. Cook, P. E., presiding. Bishop Walters walked in and the Presiding Elder called the conference to its feet to receive him. The Bishop was cheerful and full of sunshine and he asked the conference to let him come in and go out at his convenience as he had a good deal of writing to do. Granted. Bishop made a rousing speech and explained the 30 cents additional tax passed by the General Conference and that had been ratified by the Board of Bishops. Presiding Elder O. W. Winfield agreeably surprised the conference by his presence and was warmly received. He made a telling speech on "Worn-out preachers, widows and orphans," which will do good. Rev. B. F. Harrison preached a fine sermon from Isa. 9:5, 6. Thursday night Bishop Walters, attired in a robe, preached a thrilling sermon on "God through the gates." The reports showed signs of improvements along all lines.

Rev. C. B. Hogans, Reporter.

The Abingdon (Va.) district conference convened at Pocahontas, Va., Rev. S. Lorenzo Stinson, presiding. It was well entertained by the people. Rev. F. R. White preached the annual sermon. He is one of our men who has suffered to help build up Zion. The Presiding Elder's address was instructive, as he never fails to entertain. The subjects were all discussed eloquently. The following resolution prevailed: "Whereas,

Rev. F. R. White, Esq., for 15 years or more has ascended the highest peaks and descended into the lowest valleys in Virginia and West Virginia, and whereas, he is an acknowledged theologian and fine platform and pulpit orator, and is now filling for the third time our large church at Knoxville, Tenn., therefore, be it resolved, that this district conference pray the trustees and faculty of Livingstone College to confer upon him the degree of D. D."

W. W. Slade, Sec'y.

The second district Sunday-school of the Demopolis district of the North Alabama Conference assembled in Buck's Chapel, Sumter Co., Aug 27, 1897, Rev. E. Hunter, presiding, it being impossible for the presiding elder to be present. After the election of Prof. S. W. Sales as Secretary, the convention proceeded to business according to program. The papers were valuable, full of logic and eloquence, especially the one by Rev. Sylvester on "Our colleges and their work." Revs. E. Hunter, J. C. Saunders, M. C. Crawford and H. J. Starks preached able sermons. Reports grand. The people made every thing pleasant for the convention. The young men tendered a reception. God bless the pastor and people.

Miss Julia R. Blocker, Cor. Sec'y.

The New York Sunday-school convention and the first annual session of the Varick Christian Endeavor Society convened in the Memorial Zion church, Peekskill, N. Y., August 12, 1897, Rev. Benjamin Iudd, presiding. A very large delegation was present. The reports were encouraging and showed great interest manifested in the different departments of church work. Mrs. Perry G. Walker, of Clinton Institute, Rock Hill, S. C., was introduced and warmly welcomed and made a member of the body. Educational report, enounced in beautiful language, advocated the earnest endeavor of all to do all in their power to aid and support all of our educational institutions, most especially Livingstone College. About \$139 had been collected and sent from this district for the educational work. Rev. A. J. Colbert preached an excellent sermon on "The Christian graces." Mrs. Perry G. Walker, by request, sang the beautiful song of her composition, "Ashamed of Jesus," which was so enthusiastically received that she had to repeat it. On the second day the Christian Endeavor work was well represented by President J. B. Colbert. He delivered an eloquent address. Mrs. Walker presented the work of Clinton Institute and received a collection of \$5.02. Rev. E. G. Biddle gave her some of his literature for the school and others promised to aid in the best future. The finance committee reported \$85.

Mrs. Perry G. Walker, Reporter.

The Sunday-school convention of the Fayetteville (N. C.) district convened in Red Springs, July 27, 1897, Rev. J. M. Hill, D. D., P. E., presiding. Rev. A. McCallum delivered an able welcome address. The annual address by Dr. Hill was rich in composition and clothed in the best of English. The similes and metaphors were well adapted to the objects illustrated. Rev. J. H. Mattocks preached the annual sermon on "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me." He divided it into 1, The Yoke; 2, Learn of me; 3, Rest. It was the sermon of his life. Miss E. J. Council, Vice-President of the convention, gave us a short and pleasing talk. Rev. W. H. Graham preached the temperance sermon and got in some good licks for the cause. Text, Prov. 22:3. St. James Zion church purchased a memento from Dr. Hill, which was a free-hand painting by Miss E. J. Council. Mrs. Bishop Hood was introduced. A motion offered by Rev. Mattocks prevailed that the several papers, brief and excellent, be printed in pamphlet form and sent to the Sabbath-schools of the district. Mrs. Hood talked on the work and condition of the W. H. and F. M. Society. Rev. H. C. Harrison preached the farewell sermon from St. Mark 24:14. The convention was brainy. Rev. T. B. McCain offered resolutions of thanks. Collection from all sources, \$32.93.

Wm. H. Jones, Reporter.

REV. W. R. DOUGLASS.

A Young Minister Who Is Pushing Rapidly To The Front.

DOING A NOBLE WORK.

William Rufus Douglass, the second son of Aden and Mary Douglass, was born in Gill's Creek township, Lancaster County, S. C., September 11, 1862. He attended the free com-

a critical condition. The Building and Loan Company from which the church had borrowed money, was in the act of closing them out. The church was under the sheriff's hammer. The property being very valuable the Loan Co. was anxious to close out at once. Rev. Douglass asked them for thirty days to arrange matters which time the company reluctantly granted. During this



REV. W. R. DOUGLASS, A. B.

schools until 17 years of age. He then entered the Petty High School, now Lancaster High School. While there under the instruction of that great teacher and preacher, Rev. C. O. Petty (now Bishop), he decided to take a college course, and entered Livingstone College (then Zion Wesley), Salisbury, N. C., February 1888. In a college revival he was converted January 14, 1884. He graduated from the classical department in 1888 with the degree of A. B. In the Fall of 1888 he was elected principal of Lancaster High School, where six years prior he was a student. He held this position until the Spring of 1895, a period of seven years.

During this time the school prospered and scores of young men and women went out therefrom as teachers. He labored hard under many disadvantages to make it second to none. He had the esteem and confidence of both white and black. For years he was superintendent of the Sunday-school and a church worker in general. He made for himself a reputation that will not be soon forgotten.

On the 28th of May 1891, he was married to Miss Marie E., the handsome, cultured and refined daughter of the Hon. Allen and Mrs. Malinda Hudson, who rank among the best families of Lancaster. This event was one of the most pleasant of his life. Elders H. Blake and I. C. Clinton, (now Bishop Clinton) officiated. They received many valuable presents from their many friends, both white and black, which showed the high esteem in which they were held.

Being fully persuaded that the ministry was his calling, he was licensed to preach in September, '94, and joined the South Carolina Annual Conference at Yorkville, in December, the same year. He received his first appointment in '95, to the Cedar Creek circuit. The Lord wonderfully blessed his labors that year. His protracted meeting resulted in 46 conversions and quite a number accessions. He remodeled and put a new roof on one of his churches, bought a fine bell for the other, and left money enough in the respective treasuries to coil them. He was beloved by saints and sinners. His removal was much regretted by all.

In December, 1896, he was transferred by Bishop I. C. Clinton, to the North Georgia Conference and stationed in Zion Church, Atlanta, Ga. Our church here has been struggling under a heavy debt for a number of years. For three or four years quite a number of the members began to discourage and abandoned the church. On reaching Atlanta, Rev. Douglass found things in a

time with only twelve members that could be depended on he raised a little money and with skillful maneuvering he effected a plan by which the church could be taken out of the Building and Loan Co., on the condition that he would raise one hundred dollars in thirty days. He went to the company a second time and pleaded for thirty days more. It seemed that God had touched their hearts and it was granted. He at once instituted some plans, called his little flock together, and after spending a few minutes in prayer he explained the situation and gave each one so much money to raise and at the expiration of thirty days the amount of money necessary to save Zion in the Gate City was in hand and the change was saved. The church, through his efforts, stands in a better condition to-day than it has for years. The debt has been divided into \$20 notes, payable monthly without interest, and they are now struggling to lift these notes as they fall due each month. The membership has increased from 12 to 20 and with these he raised over five hundred dollars last year for all purposes and entertained the Annual Conference in his church 27th of last October.

On this occasion he was ordained elder on Sunday the Oct. 31st, by three Bishops viz., Bishops I. C. G. W. Clinton, and L. H. Holsey, of the C. M. E. church. The church was packed to the extent of its capacity and the exercise was quite solemn and impressive. Long will be remembered those hands upon his head. He is a self-sacrificing hard-working young man, and is laboring hard to build up Zion in the great city of Atlanta. He manifests a great interest in searching for divine truth, and while in Atlanta he is taking the advantage of Gammon Theological Seminary. He is pushing his studies and if permitted to stay there he hopes to finish up in the Spring of '99.

He is a rising young man and we bespeak for him great success. He is fully worthy of the high esteem in which he is held by his many friends. His devoted wife spares no pains in doing all she can for his success. Her affable disposition makes friends. We feel safe in saying that this young divine will yet write his name upon the wall of honor and fame.

R. J. Crockett, president of Clinton Institute, visited the Columbia district conference last week at Carlisle, Rev. L. W. Stewart, P. E., and the citizens of Whittemire in the interest of the school work. The people in the "sand hills" are in favor of Clinton Institute.

UNITY IN THE CHURCH

The Indispensability To Success—The Christian's Characterizing Force.

BY B. F. GROSS.

It is an undeniable fact under all circumstances that union united the first pair in the garden of Eden, and in like manner should unite all true Christians. This is very often lost sight of by some who claim to be always abounding in the spirit of the Lord.

Disunity in the Church has been and always will be a hindering cause to church work; but that underlying principle in some of our people is, "If I can't you shan't," and so we go down the declivity of time, and yet we ask why is it we can't do this and the answer comes back—lack of Christian unity and fortitude.

There are some Christians whose hearts are overburdened with disunity in church work, if they are not at the head of some special enterprise. Here is where the deceitful heart is overburdened with arrogance. Like a serpent it licks out its tongue and tries to sting the progress of a worthy cause. What we want now to further on the Connectional Church work is greater activity and more Christian unity.

Often in extending the right hand of fellowship, and in this action of Christian friendship in many instances the heart does not accompany the hand. This is pretended friendship, such as some Christians possess; and often you will hear some cry out, "I thank God I am not like other men;" but with all such Christians the cry should be, "Lord, write thy laws upon my heart and give me that true Christian principle that should characterize true Christian fellowship. On the other hand in extending the right hand of fellowship, if the heart accompanies the grasp of the hand, then it exemplifies true, interested Christian friendship and a mutuality of the Spirit.

One of the most essential methods to Church unity is the unity of the spirit, unity of action, unity of the heart and unity of hands and actions. The underlying principles of true Christian unity is love. The beating of the hearts of the first pair in the garden was the mutuality of God and the unity of His spirit. Special efforts are made in every well regulated church to cultivate intelligent patriotism to its connections, and without unity among its members it proves some times a failure. The pastor may preach and pray for the unity of the spirit among his people, but some people though they had the voice of an angel, unity is not their watch-word. Some times so-called good Christian workers in the church are called upon to take part in some enterprise for the church, and they readily accept the same, but not with a spirit of unity but with a spirit of disunity; and when the time comes to perform the promise of assistance to the church, they often fail to materialize at the appointed time.

There are some isolated cases where some people have lost their influence with the church and people; and at the same time they will persist in being a leader without one spark of Christian unity in their hearts.

Alleghany, Pa.

The district conference met at Lowesboro, Alabama, September 9, 1897, with Dr. J. W. Alstork in the chair. The delegates of 18 Sabbath-school gave very good reports and all were well pleased with their pastors and desired their return and also the return of Dr. Alstork. Each school paid one cent per member. The musical and literary program was fine, some of the subjects being: "The Sunday-school as a factor in the Church;" "The Relation of the Pastor to the Sunday-school;" "Why Local Preachers and Exhorters should Attend;" "Should Unconverted Persons Teach in the Sunday-school;" "Home Influence;" "Our Sunday-school Department and its Literature;" "How to Organize a V. C. E. Society;" and the Sunday-school School-Collection, 1438. Donated \$2 to the Business-Manager of the *Star*. Miss W. S. Finley, Sec'y.