

THE STAR OF ZION.

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

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SOME BRUCE-GRITISMS.

The Greatest Representatives Of The Race—Other Matters.

BRUCE-GRIT'S PHILOSOPHY.

It doesn't require any courage to follow the crowd, or to fall in with popular opinion. True courage makes itself manifest in the man who, believing he is right, dares to stand alone and defy popular opinion.

The danger which threatens in this country is that to be found in the establishment of an aristocracy of wealth. The pursuit of the dollar is now the principal avocation of those who aspire to lead, both in politics and socially. The tendency seems to be in the direction of the centralization of wealth, and to employ it to purchase power, and shape legislation for the masses. There are no great commoners in American politics today as there were when brains was the basis and ability the test of statesmanship. Now a man's greatness is measured by the length of his purse with which he buys both brains and fame.

The Negro is often beguiled into believing that he is necessary to the success of this or that political party, and so believing takes himself more seriously than he should. It is lamentably true of the Negro in politics that those who have stood highest in the esteem of party managers have had less influence and less patronage to bestow upon those whom they were supposed to represent, than some of the third-rate white political bunco-steerers who have profited by their lack of sagacity and knowledge of practical politics.

With the possible exception of Robert Brown Elliott and Richard H. Cain, the Negroes have had no representatives in either branch of the National Congress who could truthfully be accused of being statesmen. Elliot was by far the bravest and the most intellectual of the whole outfit and gave splendid proof of his ability as an orator by his masterly reply to Alexander Stephens of Georgia, in the discussion on the civil rights bill.

The environments which early surrounded Elliott, and his opportunities for acquiring an education under English skies gave him that independent feeling and bold and audacious manner when debating with white men which unfortunately was not possessed by his Negro colleagues in any of the Congresses in which they were afterwards represented.

Elliott was an exceptional Negro, and was far from being a saint in many particulars. In this, however, his life does not differ from that of many others of both races more or less distinguished. It is as a public man that I speak of him only; his private life is no concern of ours. He was confessedly the ablest, clearest headed and bravest Negro that has ever filled a seat in the National Congress.

His grasp of public questions and his large information concerning the measures he was called upon in his representative capacity to consider, his aptness at repartee, and his withering sarcasm in debate, gave him a standing among National legislators which no other Negro has since obtained in either branch of Congress. "All the world loves a fighter." Robert Brown Elliott was a fighter, not in the vulgar sense, of course, but in the arena of thought. He wielded a Damascus blade like a veteran warrior and carved his way to imperishable fame.

Richard H. Cain, afterward a Bishop in the A. M. E. Church, stood second to Elliott in point of ability and the courage to give voice to his thinking. He too was a fighter and showed his teeth when he talked, and that he understood the things of which he talked. I knew most of the men personally or by sight, who represented us in Congress, and at this distance can call most of them by name. They were Menard of Florida a man of superior education and

NO LEADER IS NEEDED.

Only Necessary To Point Out The Necessity Of Right Action.

REV. F. H. HILL'S VIEWS.

The Rev. Francis H. Hill, pastor of the First A. M. E. Zion church, Winter Street, an earnest student and popular with his congregation, has the following to say of "Race leaders," a timely subject:

"All the talk about race leaders that we hear from platforms, pulpits and through the press sounds very fine indeed. A man in the ordinary walks of life among our people says something, and his words find their way into a paper, and he is immediately brought forth; and a few of his friends and acquaintances attempt to set him up as the leader of the race. He drifts along on a small, popular

present rate of the world's progress, it will amount to less than heretofore so far as my people are concerned. We have organized in several of the States some so-called national leagues, which are supposed to have State and local societies of the same name and character, and tributary to the national organization. These leagues are also supposed to be following up a certain definite line of work for the benefit of the race. Some are for political, others for social, intellectual, professional and business purposes. Hardly any one of them bears any

TRUE NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. None of them is national in its character. These organizations in the past, at present, and for how long in the future I can't tell, have done more talk than anything else. These national organizations are composed largely of the individuals who have floated for awhile on the popular wave of race leadership, who are usually the committee calling for the organization and who after the organization is effected constitute the boards and entire membership. Here, then, is the Mecca of our race leaders to which they go and then talk. It is not that, as a rule, we need to go on a still hunt for a leader for our people. We don't need a leader for them half as much as we need to show them the necessity of looking out and leading out in the right direction and in a manly manner for themselves. My people are not children. Thirty-two years have made them men and women. There is a narrow pass through which every man must go if he would attain to success, wealth, honor and position. Every man must stand for himself, nor do we pass through on samples. We may raise a leader to-day or to-morrow, and we may crown him. He may start forward to the place of honor or among all the other races of the earth and call us to follow him. When he is weighed, if he passes all right, individually he goes up; and when the rank and the file of our race comes up, one by one, each upon his merits shall pass or go down in the trial. It is so in business, in the professions and in everything. Some individual here and there may do something for us, show some favor, simply because we are of this or that race, but when it comes to the real and supreme test, the merits of the man, his worth and measure, will decide his case."

The Charlotte (N. C.) District Conference and Sunday-school convention met at Rockwell church, September 15, 1897, Rev. H. L. Simmons, presiding. Dr. R. H. Simmons graced the convention with his presence and a rousing speech. Bishop Lomax, Dr. G. L. Blackwell and Presiding Elder P. A. McCorkle, also honored the convention with a visit. Rev. McCorkle preached a logical sermon from I Timothy 1:18. In the evening the chairman delivered his annual address, which was timely and instructive. The applause which greeted it when he sat down showed that the right man was in the right place.

Dr. Blackwell preached to the Varick Christian Endeavor Society from the Psalms, his text being "Send thee help from the sanctuary." He said that the medium through which God works. Mrs. R. C. Bearden and Mrs. C. L. Simmons favored us with excellent papers on behalf of the W. C. T. U.; and Mrs. B. A. Forney on behalf of the Sunday-school. Conference voted \$5 to Bishop Hood's Silver Anniversary. Reports of delegates were good. Fine essays were read by Misses Nancy J. Irvin, Sarah Wilson and Carrie Alexander. We tip our hats to the Rockwell people and bid them adieu for their kind hospitality. Sawyer Holmes, reporter.

Dear Dr. Smith: Please permit me through the columns of the STAR to say that Union Wesley A. M. E. Zion church in this city, is now on a boom under the pastorate of the Rev. A. A. Crooke, who by his eloquent and able sermons, his affable disposition and Christian deportment, is drawing large crowds of young and old to each service. Standing room is often at a premium. In a recent rally by the co-operation of the pastor and officials, we raised nearly \$200 clear of expenses for the church. Pray for our continued success.

Yours in Christ, J. T. Brown, Washington, D. C. Treas. Treas. B. d.

of a literary turn of mind who afterward wrote and published a volume of very creditable poems entitled "Lays in Summer-land," DeLarge, of S. C., Rapier, of Alabama, Long, of La., Ransier, S. C., Rainey, of S. C., Elliott and Cain, of S. C., Revels, of Miss., U. S. S., Haralson, Ala., Buice, of Miss., U. S. S., Small, Miller and Murray of S. C., Langston, of Va., Pinchback, of La., U. S. S., who was counted out of his seat and therefore not in this class, Eymann, Cheatham and White, of N. C. There may be a few others and then again there "mayn't." Those first mentioned belong to the pioneers who "committed statesmanship" in the early seventies, and earned National reputation for themselves. Eymann, Haralson, Murray, Langston, Cheatham and White, are names of a few of the more recent distinguished great men of the race who have shined and now shine with more or less lustre in the National halls of legislation.

Of all these it may be said they did the best they could. "Who does the best, his circumstances allow, does well, angels could do no more."

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REV. FRANCIS H. HILL.

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DISTRICT CONFERENCES

The Work Of The Men On The Presiding Elders' Districts.

THEIR WORK REPORTED.

BALTIMORE DISTRICT CONFERENCE. The District Conference convened in Willow Grove Zion Church, Salisbury Md., Sept 7, 1897, at 10 a. m., Rev. Wm. H. Wright, pastor, Rev. William H. Snowden, D. D., presiding elder. He gave some very healthful instructions to man and his duty to God and his duty to his fellowman. Officers were Revs. W. A. M. Cypress, secretary, B. J. Bolden, assistant secretary, J. W. Fitzhugh, statistical secretary and B. F. Grant, reporter to the STAR. Rev. B. H. Wales moved that out of respect for Rev. R. J. Daniel's wife, who departed this life Sept. 5, that the Conference stand adjourned to 2 p. m.; Rev. I. R. Johnson amended that a telegram of condolence also be sent to the bereaved brother. Passed. Conference adjourned until 2 p. m. The presiding elder made some very feeling remarks relative to the worth of so young, good and grand a man as Rev. G. S. Adams; stricken down right in his usefulness; also did B. F. Grant, delegate from Dr. Adams' church, make some remarks on his great ability as a scholar and what great energy and fortitude he had.

Rev. D. F. Bralley preached the annual sermon, which was powerful. The reports of the ministers and delegates were very satisfactory. The officers elected were B. F. Grant, president, Mrs. O. A. Gray, vice president, Mr. Anderson, secretary, Rev. T. H. Scott, treasurer. Important business was transacted. The Varick Christian Endeavor held a soul-stirring meeting. Rev. J. B. Colbert was leader. The District Conference convened to finish the business and take part in the banquet. The District Conference made an impression on the people in Salisbury which will be long remembered by its citizens.—B. F. Grant.

NEWBORN DISTRICT CONFERENCE. In pursuance to the call of our most worthy Rev. John Hooper, P. E., the loyal members of the above named District met at St. Marks Zion Church, Jumping Run Circuit. Rev. H. C. Phillip lined the hymn. Rev. S. B. Gaskill prayed. Officers were elected. For secretary, W. W. Lawrence; for recording secretary, Rev. James H. Moseley; reporter to the STAR, L. W. Ham. J. J. Moseley and S. J. Fenderson, were elected delegates to the Annual Conference, and alternates D. E. Lee, John A. Norwood and C. E. Smith. At 8 p. m., the church was packed and thrilled with music by the Pleasant Hill choir, L. W. Ham, leader. Dr. R. S. Rives preached from St. James 4:7. He explained the strategem and plans of the devil in waging war against the human family and also described the imperfection of human beings in becoming subject to the influence of Satan. He simplified his subject so that the whole audience could easily see the importance of resisting the devil. The Doctor would occasionally take special flights so as to give the church a little peep into the glory world. Rev. Wm. Williams prayed, after which the Pleasant Hill choir led by L. W. Ham, sang that sweet selection "God is calling the prodigal."

Mrs. Patsy A. Moseley gave the Conference a hearty welcome address. Miss L. Hicks, responded in a very heart cheering manner. Miss Nancy J. Richardson delivered a well prepared address of welcome on the part of the Sunday-school. Rev. A. F. Mitchell responded interestingly. Prof. Crook having preached the Conference, entertained the Conference with some timely remarks and eulogized Rev. G. S. Adams.

The church delegates all made their reports which were very favorable and the District is in good condition. The people all seemed to be satisfied with the services rendered by the pastors and P. E., and asked for their return. The Sabbath-school delegates made their reports which showed that much labor was done to build-up the cause. Mrs. Cora E. Davis, president of the W. H. and P. Missionary Society and laboring with unlimited zeal for the cause, was

present. Rev. A. A. Crook preached from St. Matthew 19:27. It was good. After the hour of preaching was a program by the Sunday-school which was extremely grand. The choir of St. Mark's church rendered some of its enchanting music. D. B. Flowers, leader. W. H. Starkey presided. It is said that the sixteenth annual session of the Newbern District Conference was one of the best in the history of our Church. Just as long as we can have in the executive chair a clear-headed leader as P. E. John Hooper, one who has never known a failure, the flag of the Newbern District will never trail in the dust. Amount raised in District Conference \$42.95. Donated to Dr. Blackwell to publish these proceedings in the STAR, \$3.—L. H. Ham, Reporter.

BRISTOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE. The Bristol District Conference met in Roaring Springs Zion Church, Abingdon, Va., at 10 a. m., Nov. 3rd, with Rev. S. L. Stinson, presiding elder and Chairman. Officers, Rev. W. W. Slade, secretary, Rev. G. H. Jackson, assistant secretary and reporter, J. H. Slinger. Opening sermon was preached from Isa. 28:4, by Rev. G. H. Jackson. Rev. Rybert Baughman preached from St. John 9:38, Theme, "Judgment."

The session was observed in legislating for the financial improvement of the District. Rev. James Samuel Henderson, one of the most noted divines, preached powerfully on "The Glory of God and the excellency of His law." A member of Conference entertained the audience with a sermon from Gen. 10:9, "Tasm," "A Hunting Giant." A royal reception was tendered the ministers and delegates, at which time we listened to the address of welcome by Miss Jannette Watson. Response by a member of the Conference. Dr. S. L. Stinson, P. E., climaxed the proceedings with his fiery eloquence and Holy Ghost preaching on Sandy, associated by Revs. G. W. Washington, D. D., G. S. Riley and others.

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THEIR FIELDS OF LABOR.

Where The Ministers Are Stationed For The Ensuing Year.

TWO CONFERING REPORTS.

CENTRAL ALABAMA CONFERENCE. The above conference, presided over by Bishop T. H. Lomax, D. D., met in Zion Star church, Montgomery, Ala., December 1, 1897. This is a very large and strong conference and its sessions were pleasant and profitable. The following were ordained deacons: N. E. George, T. C. Jones, S. W. Sumpter, J. V. Catledge, M. C. Glover, L. A. Bell, J. H. Hubert, C. W. Thomas, L. R. Johnson and J. J. Johnson. Revs. J. H. Parker and Wilson Escott were ordained elders. Brothers P. L. Perkins, D. C. Keyser, W. M. Randolph, R. B. Sherman and R. O. Goldston were received on trial. Conference will meet the fourth Wednesday in November, 1898, in Evergreen, Ala.

APPOINTMENTS. Montgomery district, J. W. Alstork, presiding elder; Old Ship, Montgomery, W. H. Smith; Mount Zion, Montgomery, W. M. Finley; Zion Star, Montgomery, W. S. Meadows; Hilliard Chapel, Montgomery, C. E. Baker; Ada circuit, Rev. P. S. Samuel; Benton circuit, L. A. Oliver; Burksville circuit, L. Lindsay; Shiloh circuit, L. D. Workman; Mount Moriah circuit, F. W. Ward; Ebenezer circuit, J. H. Hal; Barnett's Mission, L. Thomas; Harfield Mission, Thomas Barnett.

Greenville district, T. A. Washington, presiding elder; Laverac circuit, Wilton Escott; Lapine circuit, M. C. Glover; Big Zion circuit, A. L. Trimble; Hopewell circuit, S. Washington; Haynoville circuit, N. H. Dakus; Washington Chapel and Bruceville, J. G. Gully; Mt Olive circuit, M. Rankin; Sandy Ridge circuit, J. J. Taylor; Oak Grove circuit, A. B. Barnes; Fort Deposit circuit, J. C. Thomson; Cedar Hill circuit, R. L. Boyd; Forest Home circuit, M. Jackson; St Luke circuit, D. W. Williams; Greenville, A. S. Watkins; Haysley's Mission, M. D. Alexander.

Evergreen district, A. J. Rodgers, presiding elder; Evergreen circuit, J. W. Armstrong; Brewton circuit, Henry Talley; Archard circuit, R. W. Thomas; Stockton and Baymont, R. C. Johnson; Twin Beach circuit, J. H. Parker; Monitor circuit, J. R. Rustin; Repton Mission, T. H. Mitchell; Burnt Corn circuit, H. P. Shuford; Millgrove circuit, G. Saxton; George Ann circuit, A. Stokes; Pine Apple circuit, J. P. Eason; Zion Chapel circuit, T. M. Moore; Iduma circuit, C. W. Motley; Pleasant Hill circuit, A. Gregory; Green Street Mission and Glensdale, T. H. Shuford.

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE. Edenton district, C. W. Winfield, D. D., presiding elder; Mt Lebanon station, P. R. Anderson; Pasquo circuit, including Pitts Chapel, Mt Zion, Gentle and Rebecca, Samuel Story; Whiteville Grove circuit, including Whiteville Grove, Coleman's Grove and Trinity, W. H. Batchelor; Holly Grove circuit, including Lehigh Temple, Oak Hill, Holly Grove and Moses Temple, R. H. Dick; Hertford circuit, including St Paul, Popular Run and Porter's Chapel, M. Linney; Bay Branch circuit, including Bay Branch, Piney Grove and Winslow Grove, A. L. Newby; Kedesh station, M. P. Hawkins; Chowan circuit, including Pleasant Grove and Canaan's Temple; J. H. Wilson; Plymouth circuit, including Mt Hebron and Macedonia, W. L. Clayton; Jamesville circuit, including Hood's Temple, Bethlehem, William's Chapel and Hamilton, J. Woodhouse; Creswell circuit, including St Mark, Alhigstor and Roper, H. H. Whitabe; Mt Carmel circuit, including Mt Carmel, Drizel Grove and Mt Hermon, W. E. Wooten; Moyock circuit, including Moyock and Cedar Hill, to be supplied; Good Hope circuit, including Good Hope, Parksville and Wilson Grove, H. B. Pettigrew; New McBride circuit, including McBride and New Bethel, S. M. G. Copeland; Colnock circuit, including Colnock, Pilgrim Progress and Rosewood Island, A. Findle; Jones' Chapel, Elizabeth City, G. W. Brown.

Petersburg district, S. P. Cooke, presiding elder; Oak Street station, J. J. Adams; Chesterfield circuit, including Leigh's Temple, Mt. Zion, Yates and Chester Mission, B. F. Harrison; St. Thomas circuit, including St. Jones' Chapter, Epp's Grove and Oak Street Mission, J. S. Nichols; Mt Hope circuit, including Mt Hope and Mar's Hill, D. W. Bove; Piney Grove station and Waverly Mission, M. N. Levey, A. M.; Sundry circuit, including St. John, Walton's Grove and Eycamore Hill, O. W. Jones; Red Oak Grove circuit, including Red Oak, Zion Tabernacle and Suffolk, W. S. Foster; Little Aid circuit, including Little Aid and Brighton Mission, G. N. Caffee, Berkly Mission and Newport News, C. C. Roberson; Berkly station, J. W. Wood; Norfolk station, J. T. Matthews; Longridge station and Portsmouth Mission, C. B. Fogans; Hickory Ground circuit, including St. Thomas and Ferman's Temple, A. W. Lowther; Mt Zion circuit, including Mt Zion, Vazick Chapel, White Rock, Taylor's Chapel,

I am a whole-souled Zionite. I raised \$31.91 to ceil my church. I am moving on nicely. I am glad to see the STAR coming out on time. It ought to be enlarged.
Rev. D. M. Pinkard.
Summerville, Ga.

Dear Brother Smith: I wish to acknowledge through the STAR the receipts of the following sums of money, in answer to the appeal sent out in October: Mr. J. R. Riley, Franklin, Pa., \$1.00; Mrs. C. H. Williams, Franklin, Pa., .50; Mr. J. Williams, Franklin, Pa., .50; Rev. and Mrs. B. F. Wheeler, Ithaca, N. Y., \$1.00; The King's Daughters, Sewickley, Pa., \$5.00; Rev. J. B. Colbert, Washington, D. C., \$1.00; total, \$7.00. May heaven's choicest blessings rest upon all who felt our call and administered to our necessities, for it is more blessed to give than to receive. Let all who reads this, read also 1st John 3:17, and ponder the same.
C. W. Simmons, Cleveland, Ohio.

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