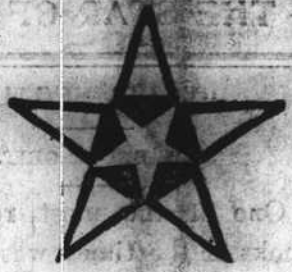


The Star of Zion.



ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

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BETTER DAY DAWNING

In Zion For Our Church Extension And Missionary Work.

BY REV. J. S. CALDWELL.

I believe there is a better day dawning for our Zion. One of the great needs of the Church has been a strong well managed Church Extension Department. I believe that Dr. A. J. Warner is the man to build up such a department. We have noticed with great interest his methods as he has travelled over the northern section of our Connection and I believe them practical. The ministers, almost to a man, have pledged him their support. Mite societies are being organized in almost all of the churches. If we will give our unstated support to this department I believe in 1900 Dr. Warner will be able to report churches built and our Missionary Department in a healthier condition than hitherto. I was glad to notice that the Board of Bishops, at their last meeting took steps by which to keep Dr. Warner on the field. This shows that our chief pastors are willing to sacrifice still for the good of the Church. It was mooted sometime since that some one of the Bishops was going to produce a plan by which a fund would be raised which would enable the Church Extension Board to begin to take up mortgages and thus relieve some of our embarrassed churches. We hope that this plan will be forthcoming, for if this Department could carry a few of the mortgages which are hanging over some of our churches it would enable the Department by the interest which accrues from these mortgages, to soon get on a better basis and thus there would be a wheel within a wheel for the upbuilding of the Department.

No one can listen at the addresses delivered by our Church Extension secretary without feeling that his soul is on fire and that he is in earnest about putting this Department on a firm basis. Let the watchword encircle the Church, "Rally around Warner and the Church Extension Department." Philadelphia, Pa.

ZION IN CUBA.

LET'S PLANT MISSIONS THERE.

BY REV. D. C. COVINGTON.

It is clear to the mind of the most casual observer that the downfall of Spanish rule in Cuba is absolutely certain. This I believe will result in a complete establishment of the religion of Jesus Christ in that island. To that end many of the great religious bodies have their eyes turned on Cuba and are preparing to send missionaries amidst terrific cannonading, roar of artillery, the dead and dying, to plant the cross of Christ and thus establish the Church of their choice.

Shall Zion sit carelessly by forgetful of this movement? If the religion of the cross is to be planted by the other denominations on the Island of Cuba, Zion must share in the work. Our Zion now numbers about a half million members, and out of this vast army of Zion travelers can we not find one missionary who is willing to take the responsibility of planting Zion seed among those oppressed people? I believe if a good suitable person could be found fully imbued with the missionary spirit, that the Church would make arrangements for his salary.

A campaign should be started in every foreign field, for Zion. Let Zion's watchmen awake every where to her interest. We must not content ourselves with what we have accomplished in America, but we must go out beyond the seas and sow her precious seed. Charlotte, N. C.

WELL PLEASED.

BY REV. W. H. ELEY.

The STAR is a welcome visitor to our house—a cheering companion. I sell 12 copies weekly. Mr. Editor I wrote an article to the STAR six years ago favoring you for editor. Your editorials give lustre to the paper. If your fitness for the bishopric will be as phenomenal as it is for editor you will be a great success and an honor to our great Zion.

You proved yourself a great controversial fighter when you crossed swords with Dr. J. M. Henderson, the champion of Bethel. You defeated him. I consider you an editorial pugilist, Zion's David, who met and downed Bethel's great Goliath on the historical field of one hundred years of Zion. Mt. Vernon, N. Y.

By order of the president of the Colored Teachers' Association of Mecklenburg county, Prof. S. B. Pride, the teachers of Mecklenburg county are requested to meet in the new court house at 11 o'clock a. m., June 25th, 1898. Important business is to be transacted preparatory to holding a colored teachers' institute in this county. Ernest C. Byers.

Hurrah for Greenville district. It is in a most prosperous condition. My men are rallying for Children's Day and will increase the general fund.—Rev. P. H. Williams, P. E., Rogersville, Tenn.

We rallied Sunday, the 12th inst., for our new church and raised \$60. We are determined to have a new church before next conference. Our members are working like bees. A storm which did no harm swept over our residence Saturday night and our table was laden with eatables. It was led by Sisters Fanny Thomas, Lucy Ambers and others. Mr. Ross, our white merchant, is manifesting no little interest in pastor and church.—Rev. T. H. Jones, Meridian, Miss.

MAJORS AND MINORS.

The Ethics Of True Greatness.—“Shall You, Shall I?”

BY W. F. FONVIELLE.

I have not forgotten to write, nor have I been asleep. Perhaps you guessed me “only tired.” Nay! not this. Instead, I have taken these days—all of them—to think of and properly digest all of the strange things I have heard and seen during the past three or four weeks. So again I take down my grey goose quill, and ask, let's be friends again. Shall I tell you what these things are? Why bless me, yes. Why should not I? They were not given to me *sub rosa*; and, and—gracious me, I want to tell you, so I am going to start a new paragraph, and you may read what I wish to impart to you in the *finis*. “But for goodness' sake, don't say I told you.”

Did you ever attend great gatherings and feel the pulse of individual opinion as the current throbbled through the souls of those who made up the “meeting?” If you have, then the writer and the reader, are already on “speaking terms,” and you can appreciate what I am about to write. You must not start or feign to be surprised at any thing I may tell you, for the story is human; and did I not say there are as many currents in the human soul as there are in the ocean? All do not run in the same direction; all are not warm; some are not sweet—only in the soul that is a Sargasso is there no current; for the weeds of selfishness have choked up the currents and they refuse to flow.

The young ministers who are doing the greatest amount of good in every way in the Church, are not those whose beautiful names appear so often in the public prints, nor those who beat the tom-toms the more often. They are not necessarily the men who are always such a complete success at the great and grand work of collecting their salaries at the expense of the other Connectional claims. Instead, they are men like Revs. J. F. Lee of Greensboro, W. J. Sides of Monroe and W. A. Pegans of Raleigh. It is this class of men who are to keep alive the spirit of the Church, after the fearful charge has been handed down to the young men by the fathers. These three men alone have no superiors in the ranks of the younger men in Zion as great pastors. They have done something. Follow in their wake, search the records and you will find not froth, foam and bubbles—not destroyers, but builders.

Some of us who aspire to be great and are already distended to bay-window-like proportions, do not know the first requisites to greatness. Search the annals of history, study the lives of the quick or the dead and you find them every time to be men who

shrink from public gaze—modest, quiet, unassuming. Not the loud, uncouth, barbaric, I-want-you-to-know-I'm-here individual is the great man, no matter how much he may be under this hallucination.

Notwithstanding the damaging testimony found in the size, shape and position of his ears, a certain animal might pass as respectful, could he be induced not to deliver that everlasting bray of his.

One of the sorest disappointments which comes to the common people of the Church, is to find among the ranks of the ministry, young men, who were at one time themselves laymen, engaged in a mean, contemptible, underhand fight against the very men who put bread in their mouths. Having helped them, we, like Joseph and the butler, expect them to remember us “when all goes well with them.” Notwithstanding Joseph was forgotten by the butler, students of the Bible know that in the course of time the Israelitish boy rode in the second chariot. Watch that some poor layman now in the toils does not ride in the chariot next old Pharaoh.

Really, I intended to say that after Byron, England's greatest epic poet, had written his “Hours of Idleness,” the critics, headed by Jeffreys of the *Edinburgh Review* slashed him with their pens and over their coffee and wine said many things about the young poet that were not at all complimentary; but the world knows that Byron paid them back handsomely in their own coin in “English Bards and Scotch Reviewers,” and it made Byron the great poet that he was. I have said all this to get one line: “What! Shall coarse Fitzgerald bawl?” Shall I stop my plea in behalf of the commonality because some few men are jealous that the laity may get something they have their eyes on? Well, hardly. Some time ago I begged that some strong ministerial champion take up the cause for us. The Lord has raised him up, and he has spoken with the trump of an archangel. Rev. J. W. Thomas is the man. He is one of the most lovable characters in the Church and universally conceded to be one of the greatest presiding elders any Church has ever had. The laity should congratulate itself upon the fact that every great man in Zion is with us, while most of the little fellows are again 'em having anything.

But with men like the old war-horse W. J. Moore, “Old Swamp Angel” Warner, S. T. Mitchell, E. Geo. Biddle, G. H. Miles, J. M. Hill and F. M. Jacobs, we shall pay but little attention to men with narrow souls. Such men as Thomas are as sure to go to the top as the stars are to shine at night. He would go there if every popgun in the Church were to fire upon him. Nothing can keep him back, because God and one are a majority. We may never be able to repay him for the stand he so nobly takes for the people along with the rank and file in Zion; but there is such sweet consolation in knowing that God and the angels will reward him.

CHURCH AND CLERGY.

Succinct Reports Indicative Of The Progress Of Zion.

DOING A GREAT WORK.

We wish to commend the members and friends of Cooper's chapel for their faithful and earnest work for God and Zion, which is to be credited to the STAR for it always represents Zion. Permit us to thank you for the eight page paper.—Rev. J. S. Cooper., Mercer, Pa.

Rev. S. C. Harris, P. E., held my second quarterly meeting at Brakesville and the people say it was the grandest that they had ever witnessed. Boys, you ought to have heard him preach. The Holy Ghost came down.—Rev. W. L. Mills, Way, Miss.

Rev. P. W. Laramore, financial speaking, is a hustler. Up to date he has raised more money for all purposes than has ever been raised here. He is planning to “get there” on Children's Day. God bless the man. We need more preachers like him.—J. W. Hitchey, Union Springs, Ala.

Our beloved pastor, W. W. Talbot, is bringing things to the front at Mallard chapel. He has had several rallies and raised the neat little sum of \$23.27 and has reported to the conference steward \$10 general fund. Rev. J. W. Cooper, P. E., is the man for the Union Spring district.—M. B. Davis, Notch, Ala.

Zion's head is above the waves here. Bishop made no mistake when he sent us Rev. R. B. Hendricks. He is the best man we have had in ten years. Rev. E. J. Carter, P. E., who says this point is better than he has ever seen it, held a successful quarterly meeting here May 29th, and he carried us off on Zion's ship.—R. C. Clay, Memphis, Tenn.

The church here is very prosperous. Rev. A. L. Cowan, P. E., and Rev. S. T. Davis baptized by immersion 18 persons last Sunday. Three were sprinkled at the church. It was quarterly meeting and 92 persons communed. Collection \$14.38. As a presiding elder Rev. Cowan is giving satisfaction and is strengthening the weak places in his district.—Rev. J. H. Branner, Rockwood, Tenn.

I congratulate you and Dr. Blackwell for giving our Zion the greatest Negro Publishing House in the world. Energy, pluck and education can accomplish much when they have the benediction of God's smile. I congratulate you on your success as Editor and on the great victory scored recently on the Hymnal controversy. The handwriting on the wall points to higher honors for you in 1900.—Miss S. J. Janifer, Washington, D. C.