

THE SHADOW OF A ROCK.

BY W. C. MARTIN.

Faint and weary from the heat
And the burden of the day;
Longing for a cool retreat
Where the breezes gently play,
Lo, I find it with the flock
Of the shepherd meek but grand,
In the shadow of a rock,
In a weary, weary land.

When the troubles of my life
Weaken mind and crush my heart;
Wounded in the mortal strife,
When I, like a stricken hart,
From the turmoil and the shock,
Seek defense by God's own hand;
Seek the shadow of a rock
In a weary, weary land.

Often sin appears to tread
Virtue 'neath unholy feet.
"Like a green bay tree they spread"

Who sit in the scorner's seat.
But, my God, when sinners mock,
Safely then I take my stand
In the shadow of a rock,
In a weary, weary land.
Noank, Conn.

GENERAL OFFICERS.

CLERICAL OR LAY, WHICH?
REV. GEO. C. CLEMENT.

For some months a few very zealous churchmen have been laboriously attempting to impress the public that the Church in general, and the A. M. E. Church in particular, is not giving proper official recognition to the able laymen who form such a very large majority of church membership. They claim that clergymen receive the general offices to the injustice of the laity.

Permit us to ask is the Church a temporal organization, a business institution conducted primarily for the material interests of stockholders? We think not. And to prove the contrary we introduce the long continuous policy of our Savior. It was a part of the burden of His mission to declare His kingdom a spiritual institution. It is clearly evident that the bitter antagonism of worldly-minded Jews would have ceased the moment Christ set apart numerous big official positions with lucrative salaries as necessary to carry on the gospel scheme. Certainly there would have been no dearth of would-be reformers and reformed to espouse His cause for some of these same big general offices.

But no, the Church has never purported to furnish a job to business "unfortunates." Instead of offering easy places, we are admonished to exercise the utmost self-sacrifice and to surrender all for Christ's sake. True, a living and a reward are promised, but only to him who serves for the spread and glory of the Church.

The object of the Church, and necessarily the object of all her departments and phases of work, as well, is to save souls. All else is secondary. The Church is a business corporation only so far as it uses temporal means in the expeditious promulgation of the gospel. Now who can best serve in the two-fold office of temporal agent and spiritual adviser and exponent? This question so far as we can learn was first asked by the Apostles at Jerusalem, and answered by the lots cast to choose Philip and his companions to the deaconate. What were they? Simple laymen? No, mighty ministers of the Word—preachers of the gospel of Christ, as the converted Eunuch of Candice can well testify. And from the

time of such a worthy precedent, the Church has found it pre-eminently profitable to continue the combining of the qualities of spiritual teacher and business agent in her high official representatives.

It is hardly needed to point to this custom of the Roman Catholic Church, not only the largest branch of the Christian family, but also one of the wealthiest and mightiest religious organizations of the world. We want to ask all who doubt the wisdom of employing clergymen to fill the general offices of the Church, to study the policy of the great M. E. Church of this country. Who dares to deny the wealth and power of that body? A wonderful record of evangelization and an equally marvelous material prosperity have characterized the M. E. Church; and her institutions have always been largely, if not altogether, managed by preachers. The great Book Concern has flourished under clerical control. Schools have ministers at the head them, and filling many of the professorships, while Church papers are edited and managed by active clergymen. The result we have already stated—the high spiritualization of her membership and the possession of more prestige than any other Church of the land.

But they say, that is all well enough for other Churches, still, it will never do for our Zion to so act. We must leave the well-proven path, disregard the experience of centuries, take the lead (backward) among others. In other words, whatever has been essential to the success of all other stronger and older Churches, is superfluous to Zion. Ours must be the Church of progress aggressively treading a path that must surely lead to bogs and quicksands. We find this morbid desire to be ahead, at present so often expressed, will ultimately entangle us and irreparably inquiry our great Church.

Lastly, when annual Conferences are to be informed and inspired, when the doctrines of the Church are to be declared or defended, when the all important work of soul-saving must be done, who can best serve the Church in a general official capacity, a clergyman, trained in the phases of the work, or a layman, recommended solely by his good business ability? The answer comes of itself. The people, so touchingly represented by certain good brethren, want the Church advanced, and are not clamoring for this so-called lay representation. Who can best conduct the general work to the glory of God is the question, and not how shall we divide the salaried places.

Charlotte, N. C.

WOMAN'S CONVENTION.

The Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of Western N. Carolina Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church will hold its second annual meeting in Clinton Chapel, Charlotte, N. C., July 7-11, 1898. The meeting will open the 7th at 8 p. m. Friday, the 8th, at 8 p. m. there will be a missionary contest by four young ladies selected from each district. The ministers will please see that a good active delegate from each circuit and station be present to represent the work. Each friend who expect to attend the Convention will notify Mrs. M. V. Covington, 410 S. Mint St., Charlotte, N. C.

Mrs. M. V. Marable.

NEW YORK NOTES.

BY J. HENRY TAYLOR.

June 2nd a testimonial reception was given to Rev. Dr. Franklin and wife by the board of stewardesses of Mother Zion. The program which had been carefully arranged by the talented and energetic superintendent, Mr. E. V. C. Eato, was carried out splendidly. A large and appreciative audience was present. The various auxiliary societies of the church were well represented and a splendid tribute was paid to the worth of Dr. Franklin as pastor.

Flushing has a population of 1,600, three-fifths of which are Zionites. We cannot afford to neglect this field. If Dr. Warner will tell us when he can visit us we will arrange for a great missionary meeting.

Dr. Blackwell's visit to the New England and New Jersey Conferences, his report on the Publishing House, have been great blessings to the brethren.

Too much cannot be said of the STAR OF ZION. It shines brighter and better.

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Flushing, L. I., N. Y.

GREAT RELIGIOUS PAPER.

BY BRUCE GRIT.

Messrs. Smith and Blackwell: Gentlemen—Be pleased to accept my heartiest congratulations upon the improved appearance of the STAR OF ZION. The change from a four-page to an eight-page quarto is a decided improvement, and a critical public will, I am sure, appreciate your pluck and enterprise in giving it the best-looking, neatest, and most attractive religious publication of which the race can boast. The mechanical appearance of the STAR OF ZION is creditable to the intelligent and indefatigable efforts of your splendid corps of compositors and pressmen, who under the direction of my young friend J. E. Smith, Foreman, are giving splendid evidence of the ability and thoroughness of Negroes as skilled artisans. The STAR OF ZION is as clean typographically as a hound's tooth. I express the hope and the wish that its shadow may never grow less, and that all the delinquents will walk up to the cap'n's office and settle.

Albany, N. Y.

NOTICE.

Brethren of the Michigan and Canada Conference: Our Conference will meet in Detroit, August 24th. Only one brother has reported general fund. Excuses will not run the machinery of our great Zion, neither will they satisfy the Conference Steward. Take timely warning.

Rev. J. R. Alexander,
Conference Steward,
Ontario, Canada.

Pleasant Mill church is in a prosperous condition. Rev. Jno. W. Elliott, the pastor, has closed the most successful revival in ten years with 20 conversions and 13 accessions. He and the trustees have purchased enough lumber to build a new church. It is said by white and colored that he is a pulpit orator. He is a great Sabbath-school worker.—S. W. Clift, Retro, Tenn.

BISHOP HOLLIDAY'S APPOINTMENTS.

July 1, 2 and 5, Brinkley, Ark
" 6, Little Rock, Ark
" 8-10, Diggs Chapel.
" 12, Atkins circuit, Trinity church.
" 14-17, Cleveland circuit.
" 20-24, Salgo hatchia, Ark.
" 26, Conway circuit.
Aug. 1, St. Paul, Little Rock, Ark.

CONSUMPTION

TO THE EDITOR: I have an absolute Cure for CONSUMPTION and all Bronchial, Throat and Lung Troubles, and all conditions of Wasting Away. By its timely use thousands of apparently hopeless cases have been permanently cured. So proof-positive am I of its power to cure, I will send FREE to anyone afflicted, THREE BOTTLES of my Newly Discovered Remedies, upon receipt of Express and Postoffice address. Always sincerely yours,
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BISHOP HOOD'S APPOINTMENTS

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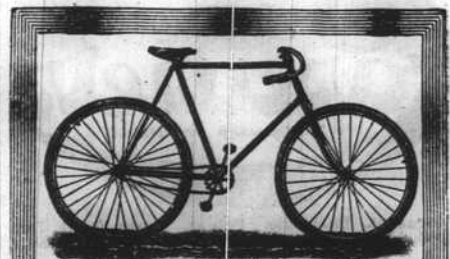
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