

HERE AND THERE.

REV. J. R. ALEXANDER.

Dear Sir: It has been many moons since I have written to the STAR. Now hear from Her Majesty's domain. Rev. M. R. Williams, our efficient presiding elder, has held his third quarterly conference and he preaches soul-stirring sermons all the time. The people are well pleased with him as he is the right man in the right place. We have been blessed with a revival at Butler's Chapel. Sunday-schools are organized at each place, a V. C. E. at St. Marks and the debt greatly reduced. We expect to reach Conference, D. V., clear of debt.

I have read with pleasure the suggestions of several brethren in reference to Price Memorial and the lifting of the debt off of the Varick Building. Every loyal Zionite and race pride friend ought to contribute at least ten cents to the Price Memorial fund. If put in action, I can vouch for every member in the Michigan and Canada Conference that will contribute.

The Varick Memorial Building or Publication House. I see it is said to be (by them that know) the best Negro Publishing House in the world. If so, why not let us free it from debt? Rev. J. W. Thomas says let each minister give one dollar. I say so too. By turning to the Official Directory of '95 we find we had ministers and preachers, 2,880, and from the same work we find the increase in elders from '81 to '90, a period of nine years, to be 278 or 30 a year; deacons, 219 or 24 a year; preachers, 99 or 11 a year. As the statistics were taken from '93 and '94, at the same ratio for four years from '94 to '98 would give her a gain of 260 or a total now of 3,140. That would be \$3,140.

Now, I am getting small salary to what I hear some are getting. I have been in this Conference since its first organization, October 3, 1877, and have never received over \$300 salary any year; and this year without a big change I will not get \$200; yet I will give \$1. What say you brethren? All who will give a dollar on or before the first of September, drop a postal card to Rt. Rev. T. H. Lomax, stating that you are in the band wagon. Zion must own her own Publication House free from debt.

I read with interest the Practical or Timely Talks and Alarm Cry by Bishop Geo. W. Clinton. It was certainly the right talk with the true ring and ought to be printed in pamphlets and be in the library of every minister and member in Zion.

We often sing, 'Help us to help each other, Lord.' All Methodists love to sing this. Now I tell you what will help us out here on the mission field where our people are few, namely, a visit occasionally from some of our general officers. I know whereof I speak. We have only had one visit from a General Officer outside of the presiding bishop since this Conference was organized and that was from Dr. J. H. Manley, while he was Missionary Secretary. I see from the STAR that other Conferences have them. We are small, but we are not the North pole. I think though that we might be discovered. Bethel has visits from their General Officers. Just one instance of some of

the work out here. How thick our people are in four townships! We have about 800 Negroes and three Bethel, two Baptists, one B. M. E. and two Zion churches—the two that I have charge of. You see we just have standing ground and have to contend for all we get, still we have some good fields in the district. Detroit is a city of about 300,000 inhabitants, with an Afro-American population of about 12,000. Bethel has three, Baptist one, Episcopalians one and Zion a small congregation worshipping in a rented house. Now dear General Officers, if you cannot tarry, pay us a flying visit and it will encourage our hearts and will greatly help the work.

The STAR is truly a bright light. Now dear Editor, as this is the first regular correspondence from me since you have entered the editorial chair, I tried to cook it tender. I trust it will not need much boiling down.

Colchester, Ontario.

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN ZION.

This church had its usual large attendance on last Sunday. The congregation was a good one and was glad to see its pastor out as he has been ill and unable to preach for nearly two weeks. Rev. Puryear showed the people that he was little weak physically but was not weak spiritually. The Elder was inspired with the Holy Ghost and he well proved that in his sermon. He spoke on the "Mercies of God," and made an impression that will be everlasting. In the evening he spoke on "Immutability, Everlasting and Springtime Harvest," taste and see, being his first topic. He showed that to taste was to see, and seeing and tasting the holy things was everlasting life. Devout prayer is admittance to the kingdom and a place around the throne. The people were revived and showed their approbation by giving a liberal collection. The Sabbath school was largely attended and many visitors were present.

PEARLS OF INFORMATION.

BY REV. H. W. SMITH.

Jesus is the sweetest name that has ever been known by men or angels.

To be deceived by a friend is a wound we do not wish to receive.

Many churches and pastors would fare better if the unruly were excommunicated.

Rulers are blessings when the rights of the ruled are regarded.

Some men are so low that they need blocks of D. D.'s sometimes to stand on to make them tall enough to be seen.

There is only one Star of Bethlehem, our Saviour, and only one in our Church, the STAR OF ZION.

God is all goodness, justice, mercy and truth.

The absence of fraternal courtesies is the sign of brutishness.

Suffering for Christ is a part of the promise-ladder to the crown.

The good often suffer because of their opposition to the world, the flesh and devil.

Union, S. C.

WILMINGTON DISTRICT.

BY REV. D. T. MITCHELL.

Marching is going on. St. Luke Station is now enjoying the second pastor for this year. Rev. P. L. Cuyler with the aid of his faithful followers has made quite a change in the appearance of the said church. His successor, Rev. M. L. Blalock, I have not met yet, but I am informed that he starts off nicely. At this point we have one true and tried stone that started with Zion in its infancy it this city and to-day he is just as strong as ever. His advice is always valued and in keeping his commandments you will not have much trouble in that city, viz., David Williams. May he live long to bless Zion.

Price's chapel, Rev. E. M. Williams, pastor. He is a straightforward Christian minister. His success has been great this year. Any true lover of Zion will feel good when they see the beautiful work inside of said church and hear them report how the long-standing debts are being wiped out. The Sunday-school is on a strong financial level.

Rev. D. A. Kelly, pastor of Greenville Sound circuit, is moving on slowly. He has two very nice churches and a fine people right by the sea where he can get fish to eat. But his wife has been sick and that kept him on the road. They tell me it's a fine boy.

South Port is on a boom. Rev. D. L. Maulsby, the scholarly pastor, is carrying things like a charm. He has placed a beautiful steeple to the church at a cost of \$100 and added 50 members this year. Here we have a fine people. The father of the late Rev. John Davis yet lives here and a better man is hard to find.

It was a lucky hit when the Bishop sent Rev. A. R. McKay to Brown's chapel circuit. The people love him and they are moving on in first-class order. Brother McKay can make it any where if you will give him foot-hold. We have one Mr. A. E. Hawkins on this work that never thinks he has done enough for the church. Oh! for more such men.

Rev. P. W. Lawrence seems to be just the man for Summerville circuit. He is going ahead building, planning and completing churches this year. He is a straightout pastor.

It is pleasant to see the successful and smooth sailing this year on the Mount Pleasant circuit under the command of Rev. D. L. Johnson. This work is up-to-date and they only need larger churches so they can accommodate the growing congregation. The people on this work will make any minister feel at home, and when you are at their house you are at home. Lake Waccamaw circuit is pastored by one of Zion's faithful sons, Rev. H. J. Blanks. He seems to be getting better in his old days. He will soon have all of his general fund, besides he is building a nice church at Bolton. A more loyal people in Zion you cannot find than here. Our district conference meets here in September.

Rehoboth circuit is marching under the flag of that fearless minister, Rev. B. D. McIver, despite the bad advicethat was given by the ex-pastor to one of his churches, Zion Hill which caused

it to split. It has given the present pastor considerable trouble. These things ought not to be from a Zion minister, yet 'tis true. But the Lord has been with Brother McIver, and he is doing better, having larger congregations and getting more money than any minister has received on that work for years. He is preparing to build two new churches, one at Rehoboth, the other at Christian Plain. It was a blessing when the Bishop sent this Christian gentleman to these people. The report in Conference will show that it's the man and not the people.

Whiteville circuit is under the care of one of Zion's hustlers, Rev. E. S. W. Simmons. He is a scholar, musician, preacher and builder. He has nicely painted the church and added many souls to it. He keeps things in such fine trim that it never takes more than an hour to hold this conference. We have an up-to-time people here.

Lumberton circuit is overjoyed with their new pastor, Rev. N. D. King, and his bride. They are a fine looking match. He is holding the fort in that town and moving the new church on to completion. He is one of our coming divines and will make you think of the late Rev. R. H. Stitt. He is just the man we need here. Many souls have been brought into our ranks this year.

HERE AND THERE.

Did you notice our increase on Easter collection? We are going to raise our full assessment of general fund this year.

The STAR came out a brand new paper last week.

Mr. Editor, much is being said about you for Bishop and I have no objection to serving under you; but experience tells me that we have more Bishop timber than we have Editor frames. I think the Connection ought to keep you in the STAR office just as long as you are active. The ministers and presiding elders can give some aid to the bishops. The Editor should be a man that can use his own sword just like you. If we must do something, let us make your salary better and let you stay, but don't move you off to hunt it.

There never was a time in the history of our Connection when mission money was more needed than now. The time has past when you could send a man out with no experience, money, house nor land and do much at spreading Zion in our large cities. Let each minister pay from \$1 to \$5 mission money this year and we will not lose a single church. I am going to send Bishop G. W. Clinton one dollar to start with. Who will follow?

Oh! yes, one member was added to my church May 26—Florence Mace Mitchell.

Fayetteville, N. C.

The great missionary and educational Jubilee of the A. M. E. Zion Church will take place Tuesday, August 16th, 1898, at Asbury Park, N. J. The Board of Bishops will meet in the A. M. E. Zion church here August 15th. Will all of the Bishops and General Officers and ministers who propose attending both meetings please notify me at once so that suitable accommodations can be provided? Drop me a card.

Rev. J. E. Rodgers, Asbury Park, N. J.

A CORRECTION.

BY B. F. WHEELER.

In your comments upon the recent meeting of the Board of Bishops' meeting, in Peterburg, you said that "Secretary Wheeler failed to report the action taken by the Bishops' meeting in the case of Mrs. Small etc." I did not intend to write to the STAR to correct the statement for I thought your statement might be overlooked. But seeing that Bishop Small in a recent letter in the STAR quotes your statement, I feel that it is necessary for me to correct it.

Whatever action was taken on the case of Mrs. Small, was taken in the House of Bishops. I was not only not the secretary of the House of Bishops but was not allowed to enter the conference chamber while the House of Bishops was in session. No General Officer was allowed in that meeting. So that I know absolutely nothing of what was there done. I was the assistant secretary of the Bishops' meeting in place of Dr. Day who was absent. There was nothing whatever done by that body in reference to Mrs. Small. *Ithaca, N. Y.*

[Mr. Secretary, we said you failed to report the action by the Bishops' meeting in the case of Mrs. Small, etc. You didn't report what we mentioned, therefore it was a failure and no correction of our statement. If we see a few more stones flying at us from the hands of bishops and ministers because of this statement we shall take a hand in this great discussion. Don't keep giving us "the tired feeling."—Editor.]

I WILL GO.

BY REV. W. M. STEWARD.

I see that Rev. D. C. Covington has turned his eyes down in Cuba and has made such a talk about it that he made me look down the road. He said he would like to know if there could be some one found to go down and plant Zion in Cuba. Yes. I am willing and ready to go at any time if the Church will send me. I am willing to die for God and Zion. *Little Rock, Ark.*

WHY THIS SHORTAGE?

BY M. A. HAMNER.

I am compelled to write in answer to the article by Rev. S. C. Harris, P. E., in the paper of the 26th ult. His statement is fine. He claims when he went to the Canton district it was in bad condition. From the time that Elder D. J. Adams left it, our Zion in this country has been several hundred members short.

In 1895, each district had 775 members, making the membership of two districts, 1,550. This number Doctor Adams reported and showed up. In 1895, Conference met at Zion's chapel and only 1,445 members were reported. In 1896, Conference met at Durant and only 1,385 members reported. Conference met at Meridan in 1898 and only 1,200 members reported. Now something is wrong when the district has lost 350 members in that time.

Valley, Miss.

Our pastor at Biloxi writes that yellow fever quarantine restrictions and other existing circumstances will prevent the Mobile District Sunday-school Convention from meeting there, hence, the meeting is postponed until a suitable time and place can be selected.—Rev. A. B. Smyer, P. E., Citronelle, Ala.