

The Star of Zion.

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

Volume XXII.

Charlotte, N. C., Thursday, August 11, 1898.

Number 34.

WOMAN ORDINATION.

An Onward Movement Always Meets With Fierce Attacks.

BY BISHOP J. B. SMALL, A. M., D. D.

Mr. Editor: I am no controversialist; therefore, I refrained from saying anything while the fire burned, notwithstanding a great deal of unnecessary things have been said, called forth on account of the ordination of Rev. Mary J. Small to eldership in the Church.

It is true, when an advanced step has been taken, views for and against will be uttered, and persons ought to be willing to hear both sides of the question—when there is a question; but it would do no harm to individuals if they would first understand themselves, understand circumstances, and understand their subject before they rush to show themselves to a disadvantage to reasonable thinkers. I never have been, and hope never to be a controversialist; for there is not one of a thousand persons who do not succeed in changing a discussion from question to person; then harm is done—some one goes from the field feeling sore and with some persons the soreness opens a chasm which remains during life. For this reason I keep out of discussions, but I feel divinely called upon to give my views and opinion of the ordination of women in the Church. We think we are entitled to be heard, and if there is one who thinks that Bishop Small ought to keep quiet, we quietly shake our head.

Persons who have made a careful study of the history of the world, are acquainted with the fact that every onward movement or progressive step in the annals of development meets with fierce attacks from the thoughtful (?); and so much so, that the rack has been called into requisition to crush the very germ; and yet, movements guided by the finger of Providence moved onward—*one man said: "If it be of God we cannot overthrow it."* He was right.

When Galileo announced that the earth is a sphere and moves around the sun, he was brought to inquisition, and compelled, at the risk of his life, to kneel and confess he was mistaken; but rising from his knees, uttered in a gentle tone: "Still it moves." Religious bigots whipped the apostles, and bade them not to speak in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. These and a thousand other questions have been fiercely fought, not because they were wrong or false, but because they were out of the ordinary course, and men attempted to obstruct the movements. Paul was honest enough to confess: "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth, which thing I also did in Jerusalem." Many of us would not be candid enough to confess our ignorance.

But, to the question. Is it right

or is it against the declaration of the word of God to ordain women to the Christian ministry?

Before proceeding, we are candid enough to confess that it would scarcely be for the good of the cause of religion to throw open the ministerial door, indiscreetly, and go pell-mell into indiscriminately ordaining women for the Christian ministry—that has not been done. My reason is a problem of intricate nature: questions of the kind ought to be allowed to work themselves out gradually—not rushed. We proceed:

Two things caused us to become an American citizen—America's tenacious clinging to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and her fearless and liberal recognition of her women. In our mind, these are the things which will make any nation great; and if this country persevere in holding up these two principles, nothing can keep her from standing at the head of the nations of the world—nothing! *nothing!* NOTHING! If a man has nothing better with which to baffle the success of a woman than oppressive legislation—to legislate her to the rear—he ought to be man enough and honest enough to let her get ahead of him—if she has the power and force of character.

[CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE.]

MRS. ELDER J. B. SMALL.

The *Ship* has certainly watched the controversy between the two factions of the Zion Church regarding the bestowing of elder's orders upon Rev. Mrs. J. B. Small with interest and amusement as well as indignation; and while we approve "Let your women keep silence in the churches" as far as preaching is concerned, yet, we do not admire the spirit characterising many of the brethren opposing Mrs. Small's appointment, unless the law of the Church—the written law—prohibits it. While ye editress does not approve female preachers, she feels that she nor any one else has any right to say what profession Mrs. Small or any other lady should choose and adopt. Mrs. Small has as much right to practice preaching as she has to practice medicine, law or any other chosen calling; and we are of the opinion that envy, jealousy and fear are keeping these brethren "a cussin'" more than anything else.

For shame, gentlemen! A woman's duty is to fill her husband's place, profession, trade or any kind of business in his absence, and to be companionable in his presence. To do this, she must do what he does to a certain extent; and as long as you brethren let the women kill themselves working for the preachers, you ought not let fear of their surpassing you, cause you to oppose their preaching, if they so desire; and, too, brethren, you are kicking too late! Sister Small is already ordained. Ha, ha, ha!—*Bristol (Tenn.) Ship.*

DR. DAY'S MOTHER.

She Was The Embodiment of Great and Noble Qualities.

BY MRS. BISHOP C. C. PETTEY.

[CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE.]

In order to prepare the race for the exercise of civil, political liberty and the freedom of the ballot, it was essentially necessary that they should be trained in the school of religious liberty for a number



Rev. Wm. HOWARD DAY, D. D.

of years. To this end God created another star, mighty in magnitude, in the person of Varick. Far above his fellows he rose as the apostle of religious liberty. Thus began the A. M. E. Zion Church with Mrs. Eliza Day as one of its most polished and powerful columns of support.

From early youth Eliza Dixon was the embodiment of great and noble virtues, rare qualities, capabilities and tendencies labeled from the day of her birth to a future fraught with great and glorious achievements.

Reaching womanhood, she was married to John Day, a sail-maker by trade; but after a few short fleeting years the angel of death overshadowed this happy home, and ruthlessly snatched from the embrace of Mrs. Day, her beloved consort, leaving four small children to her care, and William Howard, the youngest of the four. Being a woman filled with Christian zeal and piety, she heroically braved her double responsibilities and determined to rear her children up in the fear of the Lord, and endeavored to instil within them the principles of virtue and morality. She never wearied in pointing out to them the way, the truth and the light, and led a glorious example along the path of right and duty.

Her labors were crowned with abundant success, and she bequeathed to the world and to our own Zion an immensely rich legacy, in the person of William Howard Day, D. D., who was born in the city of New York, Oct. 16th, 1831, and was baptized by Bishop Varick, the founder of Zion Methodism.

Cradled and nurtured in youth by a great and noble Christian mother who recognized the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man, it was but natural that

William Howard should rise pre-eminently above his fellows, and shine as the brightest star in the intellectual constellation which gathered about him. He easily ranks as one of the greatest, grandest and noblest men of the nineteenth century.

[CONCLUDED IN NEXT ISSUE.]

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

BY REV. W. H. DAVENPORT.

We have received through the kindness of Rev. J. E. Rogers a neat and well-edited "Annual Summer Program of Ocean Grove, New Jersey." The program, if not the best, is the first one of its kind ever issued by the camp-meeting association. It contains short biographical sketches of the leading lights of Asbury Park and Ocean Grove.

Among others is that of Hon. Jas. A. Bradley, the founder of Asbury Park, and the special friend of our people; Bishop Jas. N. Fitzgerald, the critic and scholar, who was profoundly impressed with our exercises last year; and that of the late Dr. Elwin A. Stokes, who could not contain himself after our first appearance on the Ocean Grove platform. The cuts of all the leading pastors in the community are published. There are 21 cuts in the program, all white except the cut of Rev. J. E. Rogers, pastor of the A. M. E. Zion Church.

From this program we quote the following: "The large colored population in the vicinity of Ocean Grove has provided itself with many places of worship; chief among them the A. M. E. Zion Church, the oldest Church organization in the vicinity, started in 1872. The present pastor, Rev. J. E. Rogers, is serving his second year, and doing good and lasting work. Mr. Rogers is a cultured and scholarly gentleman, a sweet singer and an evangelist of no mean order."

When we went to Dr. Stokes a few years ago asking for a place on the program, he did not know the Church. He had a vague recollection of having heard the name at sometime, but he did not know when nor where. We told him who we were, and Bishop Hood, with a calmness born of greatness, impressed the venerable president that Zion would not put to blush the friends of the Association. We have been going there ever since. Hitherto it has not been necessary for us to make apologies for a poor showing, and on that account to petition for a change of a very undesirable (Saturday), or to plead for an extra service.

Elder Rogers is to be congratulated upon his success in measuring up to the requirements then, and maintaining, if not improving upon the status of the Church. If the reader will pardon this burst of vanity, the writer will intimate that no faithful history of the Zion Church can now be written without having him in it.

[CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE.]

CHURCH AND CLERGY.

Succinct Reports Indicative Of The Progress of Zion.

DOING A GREAT WORK.

Brackesville Sunday-school is yet progressing. It is leading the lambs to Christ. The children spoke nicely on Children's Day.—Charley Johnson, Sharpsburg, Miss.

Our beloved Bishop Lomax was with us June 29th and was greeted with a crowded church. He preached powerfully from Heb. 11:1, on "Faith." His comments were rich.—Rev. D. C. Kyser, Gravelle, Ala.

We had a grand time at Mt. Zion church, June 24th, in a basket meeting. Raised \$11. Our pastor, S. R. Lloyd, is the right man for us. May Dr. Smith and Dr. Blackwell live long to give us the noble and readable STAR.—Price Brown, Warford, Ala.

On account of inconveniences we could not have Children's Day before the second Sabbath in July. The children met with their nickels and dimes and recited and chanted lovely. Collection \$3.55. Number of children, 35.—Mrs. Thornton Corrah, Wilmot, Ark.

I am doing all I can on all lines. I raised \$3.15 Children's Day money and sent same to Dr. B. F. Wheeler. I have added nine members to the Sunday-school, making the whole number 27. My circuit includes Wade and Albion. You may know I am not asleep.—Rev. J. M. Jenkins, Wade, Fla.

At our district conference, Rev. Y. Carr, P. E., Bishop G. W. Clinton was present and delivered the opening address on holiness. He advised the ministers not to fight it, but to teach the people to live it, but not as a "second blessing." Elder Carr reported his district in good condition.—E. D. Brooks, Sebree, Ky.

I have lately joined good old Zion. I am a Zion descendent from my great, great grandfather and mother who came out of the white Church of New York and were in the first Zion church organized in that city. I was appointed by Bishop A. Walters to the Arringdale mission. I have bought land and shall try to build a good church at Burksville.—Rev. Sam'l B. W. Trent, Belfield, Va.

Rev. L. D. Workman, of Shiloh circuit, is a hustler. I passed by Dresser after the storm had blown down his little church, and found him with his coat off working. His church is going up. It is a dandy, 30x40x14, and 16 windows, fine alcove and a bell tower. It will be the finest church on his circuit. He has 30 members. Bishop Lomax has but one Workman.—By a friend, Montgomery, Ala.