

The Star of Zion.

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

Volume XXII.

Charlotte, N. C., Thursday, August 18, 1898.

Number 35.

WOMAN ORDINATION.

An Onward Movement Always Meets With Fierce Attacks.

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

[CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE.]

Forbidding woman to have a reasonable hand in laboring to redeem the world in which she was a prime factor in its fallen condition, is not a new question, save to those who rush without consideration.

The great Presbyterian Church laid hold with a vengeance on Paul's declaration—"I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." Probably they did not notice that this is a declaration—not an injunction; so did not inquire into Paul's reason, and seek to see if they had similar reasons; but "Suffer not a woman to speak;" so she kept silence.

The noble and far-seeing Dr. Clark seemed to have had a dream, and awaking announced it "Christian Endeavor." He placed the Bible in the woman's hands, even in the Presbyterian Church, and we do not know that he said to her preach, but sing, pray and talk all you can about Christ and His salvation; and strange to say the Presbyterian Church never murmured. Woman, who was not even allowed to pray in public, much less speak, is standing in the presence of large congregations and preaching to them Christ and Him crucified; and is successful in bringing souls to the cross. They are taking the message to the Peters and the brethren, and no one seems to doubt their authority. The age and the salvation of souls call woman to the front, Bible in hand, to use her powerful persuasion to bring sinners to Christ.

We confess we were not in favor of women preachers years gone by, and it was only when a woman was brought to be received into the New England Conference, we thought seriously over the matter. Notwithstanding she was not our preference we did not rush to the paper to speak of her as a "petticoat ministry"—we had more politeness, if not better sense. We felt, God is God, and He sends by whom He will: the individual who questions Him does not help his case.

When this sister was brought to the New England Conference for reception, the thought came to us: Suppose God has a work for this sister to do which some of us men cannot or will not do, and we attempt to get into her way; what will be the consequence? Then we thought we were not too tall nor too large for God to carry her over our heads. We gave her our vote, and left the call with the sister and her God. We were ignorant of the mind of God in that direction, as many others are; we simply got out of the way, and then we went to search the Scrip-

ture—not to express our knowing views, but to ascertain as far as possible, God's will in that direction: we think we discovered the truth. We are glad we took the stand we did.

There may be persons who have greater reverence for God's word than we, but we know from our heart we have more reverence for the word of God, than we have for anything dead or alive—not excepting our life; and we make strong efforts to be in accord with it—it is life and peace and health; so we are very careful to try not to falsify it. There are those who attempt to crush others with the word of God—and the way some men talk of women, we are sorry for their mothers, and pity their wives.

[CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE.]

ON THE WING.

BY REV. J. B. COLBERT.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

Zion has only one church in this historic and scenic city; it is pastored by Rev. B. J. Jones, who seems to be meeting with splendid success. He has succeeded in paying the church out of debt, and cleared the debt on that splendid lot on which they commenced to erect a church some time ago. These people ought to build on this desirable property as soon as possible; they deserve to be in a more wholesome and desirable locality. It is highly probable that Rev. Jones will have them to sell where they are at present and build at once on the lot which they own and have laid the foundation for a large and commodious edifice. Through the courtesy of Brother Jones we had the privilege of visiting the historic Chicamauga Park where more than 40,000 soldiers are mobilized preparatory to embarking for Cuba to entertain Spain a while.

ST. ELMO, TENN.

Rev. W. H. Tucker is pastor here. A C. E. once existed at this point but for some cause it became inactive. We organized them; they seem delighted and we were much pleased with the appearance of things. All indications pointed to a successful V. C. E. in the future. This church is composed of an intelligent class of people and we will be very much disappointed if they fail to have a fine and useful V. C. E. Through the courtesy of Brother Tucker we enjoyed a visit to the historic and famous Lookout Mountain. The church is situated at the foot of this mountain. Of course they ordered the entire V. C. E. outfit.

LOUDON, TENN.

Rev. G. W. Christmas is the pastor here and is greatly aided in his work by his efficient wife. We had a good audience and re-organized this Society and started them off with bright prospect for a future outlook. We appointed Sister Christmas General Superintendent of the V. C. E. in the Athens district.

A BRILLIANT DIVINE.

Rev. T. A. Weathington, D. D., For General Steward.

BY JOSEPH H. ARRINGTON.

The intellectual countenance represented by the cut will be at once recognized by the readers as the face of that great man and speaker, Rev. T. A. Weathington, D. D., presiding elder of the

Montgomery and highly beneficial to all classes of his people, the financial, social, moral and spiritual. He is noted for his energy, perseverance, sound judgment and fidelity.

He is of commanding presence, firm as a rock, gentle as a lamb, and stands high in the estimation of Alabamians for his self-sacrifice, honesty and zeal. His fervent and eloquent sermons have



REV. T. A. WEATHINGTON, D. D.

Greenville district of the Central Alabama Conference.

He was born in 1855 at Tallahassee, Florida, and was favored with having Christian parents, whose instructions and examples impressed him with those principles of piety and integrity which now form so prominent a feature of his noble manhood.

At the General Conference in '92 and '96 he became very popular. Bishop C. C. Pettey said he was one of Zion's most promising young men. As a worker for his race, he stands second to none in Alabama. As a preacher, pastor and builder, he stands to-day among the first of his Church. He has a wide range of information on almost every subject pertaining to our people. His powerful pulpit efforts have won for him the highest esteem wherever he has travelled. No interest or trust committed to his hand has suffered, and he is worthy of any honor that the Church might bestow upon him.

I have been a close observer of his life and labor, having resided near him and in the midst of the people among whom he has labored. He is thoroughly conversant with the Bible. His knowledge of that Book is not speculative or theoretical but practical, influencing his own life and the lives of those around him. His labors for the advancement of his brethren have been most successful in

been highly praised by professional and business men wherever he has been heard. He delivered an address not long since at Montgomery to a grand session of a Lodge of this State which would have done honor to the Governor of this or any State. He works for the elevation and salvation of his race.

He is the present steward of the Central Alabama Conference. For faithfulness and honesty, I would suggest that we elect him General Steward in 1900 and Dr. J. W. Alstork to the bishopric. This is the desire of the Alabamians, and it would greatly strengthen Zion down here.

Montgomery, Ala.

The New York Sunday-school convention and the V. C. E. Society will meet in Westbury, L. I., August 30, 31 and September 1. Trains leave Long-City for Westbury at 8:30, 10 and 11 a. m. Benjamin Judd, Conference Supt.

The Kentucky Conference will meet the first Wednesday in September at Earlinton, Ky; Missouri Conference second Wednesday in September at St. Louis, Mo.; Blue Ridge Conference first Wednesday in October at Abingdon, Va; the Tennessee Conference the 2nd Wednesday in Oct. at Athens; the California Conference in Los Angeles the third Wednesday in September; and the West Tennessee and Mississippi Conference in Webb, Miss., the third Wednesday in November. All Bishops and General Officers have a cordial invitation. G. W. Clinton, Bishop of 7th Episcopal District.

FEW LESSON LIGHTS.

There Is No Conflict Between Laity And Ministry.

BY REV. E. D. W. JONES, A. M.

Pharaoh was pleased to exalt Joseph, put a ring on his hand, and make him to ride in his second chariot, because Joseph, having in him the Spirit of God, made himself indispensable to the prosperity and happiness of the kingdom.

He was not elevated because he had been in prison, or because he was one of the common people, but because he displayed a power that Pharaoh knew would be beneficial to his throne. If Joseph in the jail had stirred the baker to rebel against the ruling of his king, and sown discord among others who were being liberated, he never would have worn that ring nor been accorded a seat in that chariot.

All have not the spirit of Joseph, and a few who think that because they are now hindered in satisfying the wild stretch of their ambition, who are locked in the narrow cells of their own conceit and selfishness, who beat their brains out against unyielding bars to scatter pernicious seeds among God's people, will never be remembered when the toiling sons of men shall be gathered from the fields of hardships and labor to legislate and reward for noble service done.

There is no conflict between the laity and ministry of Zion Church, because the representative laymen and laywomen of our Church have always received at the hands of the same the positions of trust and honor for which they were fitted. The Church is not an office-dealing machine either for the ministry or laity, and therefore no man is honest in his pretensions of loyalty to the principles of Zion Methodism who follows her, who nags at her heels, simply for the loaves and fishes.

All laymen are not representative because they are laymen, all are not qualified to receive like honors. Because a man is simply a layman does not reasonably argue that he is to be a General Officer, and the same is true of the clergy—therefore all are not holding elective positions; but every man is fitted in his place according to his ability; and that place, if humble in the sight of men, is honorable and lofty in the eyes of God.

Because one or two laymen are howling and grumbling, since in the judgment of the general Church their conceited aspiration overbalances their ability and common sense, none need be apprehensive that the grand body of the laity are the least stirred or the least concerned over these continual beatings; for the laywomen on the one hand know that every possible chance is seized to thrust them forward even upon the heels of the episcopacy; and on the other the men know that Zion is doing as much, if not more, than any other Church for its earnest, sincere workers.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Louisville, Ky.