

TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE.

A MOST REMARKABLE CHARACTER COMBINING SIMPLICITY AND MYSTERY.

BY BRUCE-GRIT.

The Negro race is not rich in great names, measured by the standard by which individuals in stronger races have achieved greatness. But there is one great name of which it may boast with pardonable pride—a blest heritage, an inspiration to the present and to future generations, to which they may always point with absolute confidence in the genuineness of its greatness and its fame—Toussaint L'Ouverture.

He was human, and therefore fallible; but his errors of judgment were overshadowed by his unparalleled successes. "In the imminent deadly breach" he was vain, self-assertive and self-reliant. He believed implicitly in the ability of the blacks, of whom he was a typical representative, to successfully maintain their reputation for intrepid courage as soldiers and their honor as men. He was the soul of honor. Possessing the docility and gentleness of a lamb, he had the daring and courage of a lion. He combined within himself the elements of the trained diplomat, the dash of the bold warrior, and the foresight and sagacity of the experienced statesman whom questions of great pith and moment, neither appalled nor dismayed. He was simplicity and mystery combined.

Up to his fiftieth year he had known comparatively nothing of either war or books, or civil or political government. The necessity which called him into prominence and which culminated in placing his name among those of the world's greatest heroes and statesmen, also blazed the way by which he was enabled to vindicate the Negro by a career of usefulness and service to black humanity oppressed which has since challenged the admiration of the Negroes' worst enemies. His unparalleled successes in battle, his consummate skill in attack, his scrupulous love of fairness, his keen sense of honor and his large humanity have all conspired to disarm the Negroes' critics and traducers and to elevate him to a commanding position among the world's greatest, noblest and purest characters.

There is something in the history of the life of this man that places him at a disadvantage with those with whom he contended for supremacy in the struggle which resulted in the birth of a new nation. He was a slave. He was ignorant; a neophyte in the arts of war and statecraft. And herein is the cause of the amazement and surprise which his skill in war and his wisdom in peace excited among the civilized nations of the earth.

God takes the foolish things of this world to confound the wise. The career of Toussaint L'Ouverture was but another example of God's mysterious power in shaping the destinies of a nation which was conceived and born amid the stress of war and baptized in the innocent blood of its heroic founder and sponsor.

His life went out on the 27th of April, 1803, in a dungeon cell to which he had been consigned by the order of Bonaparte, whose secret antipathy to the "First of

the blacks" is well known. On meeting the commander of the Hero, man of war which was to convey him to the castle of Joux in the East of France and to his death, he observed: "In overthrowing me, you have overthrown only the trunk of the tree of Negro liberty in St. Domingo. It will rise again from the roots, because they are many and have struck deep."

To Caffarelli Bonaparte, Aide De Camp, who was sent to him on numerous occasions while he was in Paris, to question him about a large amount of treasure he was said to have buried, the only answer that could ever be obtained from him was, "I have lost something very different from such treasures as you seek." When this disgraceful importunity was found to be in vain, he was conveyed to the Castle of Joux by the orders of Bonaparte and plunged into a dungeon whose floor was covered with water.

An English historian, in speaking of L'Ouverture, says: "He is a remarkable instance of genius exhibiting itself in the Negro race, although, as in most other cases, having to contend with circumstances very inconducive to the free growth either of the moral qualities or the intellectual faculties of the mind. Among the individuals of the African race who have distinguished themselves by intellectual achievements, Toussaint L'Ouverture is preminent; and while society is wanting for evidence of what the Negro race at large can do and become, it seems only natural to build high hopes upon such a character as that of the man who was as a *Dictator and a General, the model upon which Napoleon formed himself*; who was as inclined to peace as renowned in war, and who will ever be regarded in history, as one of the most remarkable men of an age teeming with social wonders.

Every Negro schoolboy has read Wendell Phillips' beautiful tribute to L'Ouverture, and Wordsworth's magnificent lines:

"Toussaint, the most unhappy man of men!
Whether the whistling rustic tends his plough
Within thy hearing, or thou liest now
Buried in some deep dungeon's earless den;
O miserable Chieftain, where and when
Wilt thou find patience? Yet die not; do thou
Wear rather in thy bonds a cheerful brow:
Though fallen thyself, never to rise again,
Live and take comfort. Thou hast left behind
Powers that will work for thee—air, earth and skies;
There's not a breathing of the common wind
That will forget thee—thou hast great allies;
Thy friends are exultations, agonies,
And love, and man's unconquerable mind."
Albany, N. Y.

Rev. J. H. Manley, D. D., who was appointed to the Old Ship A. M. E. Zion church of this city about four months ago, has increased the value of the Old Ship church property over \$5,000. The once dilapidated church is now one of the most beautiful edifices in the city. Never in the history of Montgomery has there ever a Negro preacher come to this city and marshalled the colored people in the right direction in so short a period of time. In the short space of four months Manley has made himself in Montgomery one of the most influential colored men in the city. His financial management of this old historic church has made for him a name.—*Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser.*

IN THE WEST.

A STRONG APPEAL IN BEHALF OF OUR FINE CHURCH.

BY REV. W. H. GOLER, D. D.

Editor STAR OF ZION: The last copy of the STAR reached me in St. Louis, Mo. I came here in July to assist Rev. F. W. Puryear, M. D., who was in charge of the Washington Metropolitan A. M. E. Zion church of this city. His health had been poor for some time; but it was thought that a rest for a few weeks was all that was needed to restore him to health. To our great surprise, however, as well as great grief, he passed away on the day of our arrival.

Bishop Clinton requested me to hold the charge until a pastor could be secured for it. Dr. John F. Moreland has been appointed here and will enter upon the duties of pastor about the 10th. This church is a magnificent gothic structure, built of brick with stone front, measuring 50 feet by 106 feet with massive tower 60 feet high. The building is finely finished and tastefully furnished. It has all the modern improvements and a seating capacity of 800 on the main auditorium floor, and 370 on the galleries. There is a large vestry with class rooms and other apartments.

This church was originally built by that earnest and energetic worker in Zion, the matchless revivalist and sweet singer, Rev. J. M. Washington, who under great disadvantages and much self-denial, purchased the ground, and marked off the dimensions for the building. It was subsequently extended and improved by Rev. Dr. J. P. Thompson to its present magnificent proportions. The cost of this church in its present improved state was \$30,000. The membership now is about four hundred. They have struggled for over six years with this heavy debt and accruing interest. Each succeeding pastor has been more or less successful in meeting current expenses, paying the interest and now and again, something on the principal, until they have reduced the main debt to \$17,500. They are now being pushed for the payment of this amount \$5,000 must be raised within a few months to save this church to the members and to the Connection.

There are no better working, or more loyal people anywhere than the members and congregation of this particular church; but they have been struggling for a long time and are becoming exhausted. The opportunities for making money are not as favorable with them as formerly, and the creditor is urging them to pay. Now what can be done to bring some help to this point? They must have some assistance from some quarter, if this property is to be saved to them and to the Connection, and the assistance must be speedy. Dr. Moreland, who comes to take this charge, is very resourceful and a good financier, but he will need help in this emergency.

What means can we adopt to raise \$2,000 in ninety days? Cannot our home mission and church extension boards offer some relief? Or can we not do something as churches and as individuals to save this property?

Bishop G. W. Clinton is greatly

perplexed over this matter. He has called and there has been comparatively no response, but we must respond. We must by some means save this property. Cannot our preachers be prevailed upon by those who have the oversight of them to make some sacrifice, in coming to the rescue here? The matter might be brought before some of our congregations who could well afford to give an after collection of from \$2 to \$25. Numbers of our ministers might make a contribution to this cause of from \$1 to \$10 or more, and thus raise in very much less time the \$2,000 out of the \$5,000 so urgently needed. The effort on our part would be encouraging, helpful and lasting.

It may be true that we all have our hands full with the debts on our churches at home, but, nevertheless, it is of great importance that we save this church. We must retain all we have our hands on in the West. We are behind to some extent, in this section of the country and we cannot afford to part with anything. Several of our Bishops are acquainted with the condition of this church, and no one of them more than Bishop Lomax, who was exceedingly popular as an earnest and untiring worker during his supervision of the work on this district.

St. Louis, Mo.

A GRAND TIME.

BY M. W. DACUS.

Zion here is still up and doing with such raen of God as Rev. N. H. Dacus as pastor, and Rev. T. A. Weathington, presiding elder, at its helm. The work is destined to be the greatest and most successful in all of its existence. Our third quarter has just ended. We are indeed proud of our Presiding Elder. It must have been a divine revelation that God handed down to Bishop Lomax that caused him to send us Dr. Weathington and Rev. Dacus. The first thing they did when they came here, finding the church wrapped and tied up in debt, and the matter put in the hands of the attorney for collection, was to call their congregation together and pledge to suffer with them till they overcame their enemies, which they did without even complaining. We feel now that our heads are above the waves and we are marching victoriously on. Dr. Weathington gave us \$18 of his assessment to help us out, and Rev. Dacus contented himself with what he could get.

In the quarterly conference Rev. M. M. Rankins with the Mt. Olive circuit met with us and we had a grand time. A distinguished visitor, Rev. Elliott, D. D., of the C. M. E. Church, formerly of Tennessee, but now of Haynesville, was with us. He delivered a fine address. Rev. Rankins responded to him in a lovely and Methodistic way.

Sir, I am so jubilant over Zion's great men and men of the race. East, West, North and South I see able sons of Ham rising out of darkness despite the potent powers of ignorance, prejudice and superstition with which they have to contend. We are determined with their aid to see that sin and ignorance are dispelled.

I congratulate you and Dr. Blackwell on the improvement of the STAR. It is a fact that you are the right men in the right place and we are proud of you and will do all we can to help you. Accept \$1 sent you as a donation to our Church organ. Don't fail to send the STAR regularly. We miss its bright rays.

Haynesville, Ala.

WHAT? HOW?

BY C. R. H.

Dear Editor: Yesterday at a teachers' institute, I heard something which suggests the above caption. The instructor was exemplifying a review lesson in geography. Writing the words "What?" and "Where?" he wrote underneath each word a few names of capes, island, cities, etc., and called upon members of the institute to answer the several question, applying the hints he had given on teaching history in connection with geography.

This morning, I thought similar questions might awaken the readers of the STAR somewhat as the institute was aroused by those of the teachers' institute. I commend them to the various district conferences and Sunday-school conventions, which are held in accordance with our Church law, and within whose province such instruction properly lies. Indeed, each reader of the STAR might resolve himself into an institute with his reason as instructor, and conscience as learner.

Under the first word I would like to write, "Preaching." Some years ago I asked the then Editor of the STAR to get Bishops Moore, Jones and Hood to write a symposium on "How I learned to preach." He thought it a good idea, but the suggestion was not carried out. I shall always feel that Zion has thus lost a vast amount of benefit.

Let every preacher in Zion ask himself, "What is preaching? How should I preach? What is the object I propose to accomplish in every sermon? How can I best attain that object?" If we shall be honest with ourselves, true to our Lord, and earnest in asking and answering such questions, what a rich harvest may our congregations reap as a result of these heart questionings!

Another word I would like to write is "Christian." It may be more important than the first, because it applies to a larger number of readers.

Yet another is "Church member." The list might be extended indefinitely, but the instructor can easily stop when his object is gained, viz., intense thinking upon vital topics. So I stop.

Salisbury, N. C.

The *Star of Zion*, of last week, showed the good looking faces of nearly all the members of its force, from "devil" up, including those of several nice looking ladies. It was well done.—*African American Presbyterian.*

The *Star of Zion* is now an eight-page paper, 18x13 inches and presents a magnificent appearance: the type is new, full and clear, and the paper as a whole tempts one to examine and read its columns. It unquestionably is well edited and is Churchological to kill. If we were disposed to criticize its contents, we would say, it is too Churchy. Every denominational organ should sustain the honor of its Connection, but so many little flings and digs do no good. The time and labor thus spent, if employed in lifting up a broad Christianity, would be so much more profitable to the cause of Christ, and to the betterment of man. Nevertheless, the *Star of Zion* is one of the leading papers of our race.—*Voice of Missions.*

[When Bishop Turner who edits the above named paper stops such fellows as Henderson from slurring Zion we will quit our flings and digs.—ED.]