

The Star of Zion.

ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN AMERICA.

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BISHOPS' MEETING.

Doings Of The Highest Court In The Church.

BY BISHOP A. WALTERS.

The annual Jubilee and semi-annual meeting of the Board of Bishops of the A. M. E. Zion Church were held at Asbury Park from August 15th to 19th.

The preliminaries began on Sunday the 14th, by special services at our church. Bishop Jehu Holliday preached an excellent spiritual sermon at 11 a. m., one that stirred the hearts to their very depths. The Sabbath-school services at 3 p. m. were highly interesting. Instructive addresses were made by Bishops C. R. Harris and A. Walters. At 8 p. m. Bishop C. R. Harris preached an able, practical and effective sermon which carried conviction with it. At the close a stirring appeal was made by Bishop Walters and three united with the church.

On Monday the 15th, the Board of Bishops convened. Bishop J. B. Small was elected president for the ensuing year. Bishop A. Walters, secretary. All the Bishops were present except Bishop T. H. Lomax, who arrived on Tuesday morning. The following General Officers were present: Revs. Wm. Howard Day, J. W. Alstork, G. L. Blackwell, A. J. Warner, J. B. Colbert, J. H. Anderson and J. S. Caldwell. A neat speech was made by Bishop Small on taking the chair, thanking the brethren for the honor conferred upon him.

Dr. Wm. Howard Day, Secretary, made a very satisfactory report. He was requested to pay on or before the 31st day of December, 1898, all moneys due the Bishops for 1897.

Dr. J. W. Alstork, General Steward, made a very encouraging report of the finances of the Church. He said that while there had been some increase in the general fund there was still a deficit, and that stronger efforts must be put forth by pastors and all concerned in the raising of general fund, in order to secure sufficient money to pay expenses.

A motion was made by Bishop G. W. Clinton that the action heretofore taken, establishing a House of Bishops be reconsidered. During the discussion it was shown that the action was taken in order to allow the Bishops to meet alone, without the other General Officers; it was understood that whenever the General Officers met with the Bishops the designation for such a meeting was "The Board of Bishops." When the Bishops met alone it was to be "The House of Bishops." The Bishops finally concluded that it was their prerogative to meet alone at any time, hence the title "House of Bishops" was stricken out.

Bishop A. Walters made a report of receipts and expenditures connected with the Asbury Park meeting, held August 16th, at the

auditorium. The amount collected and expended was \$160.

The following letter was read by Bishop J. W. Hood:

Third Ecumenical Methodist Conference of 1901, 95 Westervelt Ave., Plainfield, N. J., June 21, '98.
To Bishop James W. Hood, D. D.,
President Board of Bishops.

Dear Sir and Brother: A committee representing the Methodist Churches of Great Britain has invited the co-operation of the Methodist Churches of the United States and Canada in arranging for a Third Ecumenical Methodist Conference, to be held, if so agreed, in City Road Chapel, London, in the year 1901. The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held in Cleveland, O., in 1896, and the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, held in Baltimore, Md., in May, 1898, each accepted for itself the invitation of the London Committee, whereof the Rev. John Bond is Secretary, and ordered a commission appointed to represent it.

A joint meeting of the two commissions was held in Baltimore, Md., Saturday, May 21st, 1898, at which a provisional organization was effected for the purpose of taking steps to secure a meeting of representatives of all Methodist Churches on this side of the Atlantic, for the formation of a Western Section of Committee of Arrangements for the proposed Conference. Of this organization Bishop C. B. Galloway, D. D., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was elected chairman, Bishop John F. Hurst, D. D., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, vice-chairman, and H. K. Carroll, LL. D., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, secretary. Confining itself to the preliminaries looking to the organization of a commission representing all the Churches, the meeting at Baltimore appointed a committee of correspondence, consisting of a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary, with Dr. J. J. Tigert, secretary of the commission of the M. E. Church, South, and Dr. J. W. Hamilton, and charged the committee with the duty of corresponding with other Methodist branches in the United States and Canada, with a view to securing the appointment on the part of each, of a commission, and of arranging for a meeting of such commissions at some convenient time and place. In compliance with the instructions thus given us, we beg to ask that a commission be appointed on behalf of your Church at an early date, and that a list of its members, with their addresses, be communicated to the secretary, Dr. Carroll, at 95 Westervelt Ave., Plainfield, N. J. It is deemed important that the Western Section of the Committee of Arrangements be organized with as little delay as possible, that entrance upon the work of preparation for the Conference may not be put off too long.

On behalf of the Committee,
C. B. Galloway, chairman,
John F. Hurst, vice-ch'm'n,
H. K. Carroll, secretary,
John J. Tigert,
John W. Hamilton.

The number of commissioners for our church and the A. M. E. Church were three each; the following commissioners were appointed at the Ecumenical Conference in 1891 and confirmed by the General Conference in 1892—Bishops J. W. Hood and A. Walters, and Dr. J. C. Price. Dr. Price having deceased a vacancy was left, which was filled by Dr. J. W. Alstork. In the absence of the record the Bishops were in doubt as to the number of our commissioners. Bishops Hood and Walters thought there were four, two

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ZION'S JUBILEE DAY.

Impressive Exercises in the Ocean Grove Auditorium.

BY MRS. E. V. WALTERS.

On Tuesday, August 16th, the great annual Jubilee and Missionary Meeting of Zion Church was held at Ocean Grove Auditorium, according to announcement. An excursion train of thirteen coaches carried a large delegation from New York City, Jersey City and Brooklyn. At 10:30 the services began with an opening chorus by the splendid choir of "Mother Zion" church, which added fresh laurels to its fame and held the audience under a spell as it filled the vast building with floods of melody.

It was an inspiring sight to behold the entire Board of Bishops, nine in all, march with dignified mien upon the platform and take the seats reserved for them. Bishop J. W. Hood, D. D., LL. D., Senior Bishop of the Church, presided. After the singing of the opening hymn, reading of the Scripture lesson and prayer, Bishop Jehu Holliday, D. D., preached a sermon long to be remembered for spiritual power. His face beamed with holy enthusiasm as he told of the unsearchable riches of Christ, and fervid responses were heard from all parts of the house. At the conclusion of the service many were in tears.

The afternoon exercises at 2:30 were presided over by Bishop J. B. Small, D. D., and were of an exceedingly interesting character. The Missionary and Church Extension Department was represented by Dr. A. J. Warner, its very efficient secretary. He delivered a practical convincing speech in the interest of his department, showing the necessity of extending the kingdom of Christ in our own and other lands, and the efficacy of the Negro Church in that direction.

Bishop G. W. Clinton, A. M., D. D., spoke eloquently and enthusiastically on "Our Missionary Work." He urged greater effort on the part of the Church in opening mission fields North, South, East and West, and appealed for aid in sustaining our missionaries in their self-sacrificing work.

He was followed by Bishop C. C. Pettey, A. M., D. D., who presented the educational phase of our work, discussing at length the advantages of an educated ministry, and pointed out the necessity of keeping up our educational institutions. His arguments were convincing and eloquent.

A pleasing addition to the exercises was the rendition of the poem entitled "The Colored Soldiers" by Mr. Henri Strange, the finest elocutionist of the race. He captured the audience on the first line and held its undivided attention until the finish, when storms of applause burst forth, and he was obliged to return to the platform

and render as an encore, "When Melindy sings." Both of these poems are from the pen of the coming American poet, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, of whose talents we as a race are proud. Mr. Strange made such a splendid impression that it was requested he appear again at the evening session, which, however, was impossible on account of the full program.

Mrs. Madam Lyon delighted her hearers with her wonderful voice. She sang several selections as only the Madam can sing and was recalled again and again.

The fame of our great meeting had spread throughout the entire vicinity of the Park, and at night the people surged into the auditorium long before the hour of opening. When the exercises began the lower floor and galleries were crowded to their utmost capacity; fully 7,500 people were present in the building while on the sidewalks an eager crowd struggled to gain a point of vantage at the doors. The exercises commenced at 7:30 o'clock, Bishop A. Walters, D. D., presiding. It had been announced that special evangelistic services would be held at this hour, and accordingly after the usual devotional exercises, Bishop Walters introduced the girl preacher, Isabella Horton. This child was a revelation. Without a sign of embarrassment she stood up before that vast throng and spoke simply and feelingly of her experience in her short Christian life, implored sinners to come to Christ, and sang with great pathos the hymn, "He's just the same to-day." Many melted into tears as they gazed into her little face, which seemed alight with an unusual glow. As she took her seat many heartfelt "Amen's" were heard.

A solo, "The Holy City," by Mrs. Harper of Jersey City, leading soprano of St. Mark's A. M. E. Zion church of that city, was charmingly rendered. Her voice was clear, sweet and of great volume. She was greeted with enthusiastic applause.

Short addresses were made by Rev. J. B. Colbert and others, bearing on the deeper spiritual life, and then the meeting was turned over to the audience by Bishop Walters as a testimony meeting. A glorious season was experienced and precious testimonies for Jesus were given all over that immense building. The place was aflame with the old time Methodist fire, and it ran from heart to heart like an electric battery. God's presence was in the house, and when Bishop Walters called for volunteers who would seek a deeper work of grace and pledge themselves for one month or one year to do nothing except what they thought Jesus would have them do, numbers responded to the call. There is no doubt but that Zion has left an impress for good at Asbury Park that will never be effaced.

Prof. Johnson, President of the Howard Colored Orphanage of Brooklyn, was present with eleven of his little orphans; the children sang several selections, their sweet, well trained voices and bright, happy faces eliciting merited applause.
Jersey City, N. J.

WOMAN ORDINATION.

Is it Scripturally Lawful?—Let Scripture Guide us.

BISHOP SMALL'S ARTICLE.

There has been, for sometime, a discussion going on in the STAR of ZION between the bishops and elders, respecting the legality of one, Mrs. Mary J. Small, being ordained to the work of the gospel ministry.

Bishop J. B. Small, A. M., D. D., in an article published in last week's STAR, entitled "Woman Ordination" gives, it appears, the final decision of the bishopric of the Zion Methodist Church in favor of Mrs. Small.

We are glad to have the conclusion of the matter that we might more clearly see just how far the leading spirits of that Church stand from the true teachings of the New Testament Scriptures, or how closely they follow in tracing the lines of holy Writ, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

From a standpoint of common reason it appears consistent that woman should be allowed a part in the great work of saving their lost; but we must be guided by the Scriptures in setting the bounds of her territory. She was first in leading man from God and it is fittingly proper that she be foremost in leading man back to God: but the question is, How far can she be trusted for the safe keeping of things pertaining to the kingdom of heaven? What is her general disposition, what is she capable of doing and not doing, and how far has God ever trusted her with holy things? These are the pertinent questions in the case.

We would like to know what the Bishop means by "Paul's declaration not being an injunction." Does he mean to say that any part of the Scriptures is of human origin or that Paul did not speak by inspiration?

It appears that Bishop Small quoted Dr. Clark as an authority for woman being allowed to preach and yet he says that "We do not know that he said to her preach."

Moreover it appears that the Bishop is lost to his subject: "Woman Ordination." That woman be allowed to exercise her spiritual gift, in prayer and speaking in the congregation, does not suggest to our mind that the ordinances of the Church are to be committed to her charge. The twelve apostles whom Christ ordained, were all men; when the apostles appointed one to the vacancy of Judas they appointed a man, and there is no account in the Scriptures of the apostles ordaining any woman. Farthermore the Bishop says:

"There may be persons who have greater reverence for God's word than we. We make strong efforts to be in accord with it—we are very careful to try not to falsify it."

And yet the Bishop does not give any Scriptural authority for ordaining woman to the work of the gospel ministry.—Petersburg (Va.) National Pilot.