

PETERSBURG (VA.) DISTRICT.

BY REV. S. P. COOK, P. E.

The reports of this district in the Virginia Conference showed it to be at the last annual Conference the equal if not the best ever made. We hope to do as well or better this conference year.

The ministers and people are very proud of our Bishop A. Walters. His general visits through the district last year contributed very much to the general fund. We have had a few hindrances in the district this year. That dreaded disease, smallpox, seized Rev. M. N. Levy, pastor of Piney Grove station, in April and caused the doors of his church and the adjoining work to be closed for some time. There were but few cases of smallpox, but excitement ran high.

Rev. J. T. Matthews, of Norfolk, is holding his own and makes a splendid report this quarter and has deposited some money for the proposed new church.

Rev. J. W. Wood, of Berkley, is a splendid preacher and carries his people at will. He, too had a good report this quarter and he has deposited one hundred or more dollars for the remodeling of his church.

Rev. Geo. N. Coffey, of Little Aid circuit, is still master of the situation. He, with his small membership at Brighton Rock church, are at work on the church, which was too small for the congregation, adding on 20 feet or more at a cost of \$150, which when finished will give them plenty room as well as having a nice church.

Rev. C. B. Hogans is still holding the fort at Long Ridge station, Hickory, Va. Since the last annual Conference, when this church was made a station, I venture to say that its reports show it to be ahead of some of our city stations. If Elder Hogans continues this way he will be able to retain the gold medal at our next annual Conference. His all-round reports show to be the best in the district.

Rev. C. W. Jones, Sunbury, N. C., is the right man for Sunbury circuit. Everything is in excellent condition in his charge and he is very studious and progressive. He and his good people will care for our next district conference the last Wednesday in September 1898.

Rev. A. W. Lowther, in charge of Hickory Ground circuit, is doing splendidly well and bids fair to bring up the best report that has ever come from this circuit. He and his people are preparing to repair.

Rev. W. S. Foster, of Red Oak chapel, Gates county, is quite a scholarly young man and seems to be the man for that church.

Rev. J. C. Edney, of Oberry circuit, is our great missionary preacher and is pushing things right ahead and is always an acceptable minister.

Rev. O. G. Jenkins, of Zion circuit, Southampton county, still holds his own. He never fails to make improvements on any work he pastors and is a splendid financier and manager.

Rev. E. Overton, one of the oldest ministers in the Virginia Conference, is in active work and is pastor of Courtland circuit. He is a splendid Holy Ghost preacher.

Rev. D. W. Bowe, of Mt. Hope circuit, still lives in the hearts of his people. His last quarterly re-

port showed marked improvement to reports made from this same circuit. He is very loyal and strives hard to please all.

Rev. M. N. Levy is again on his work and is pushing things with usual activity. He is a great organizer and can manage his people as few men can. His last quarterly reports were splendid.

Rev. J. J. Adams, of Petersburg, Va., is serving his third year and has done a splendid work since he was assigned to this charge. He and the efficient board of trustees made a grand showing for the Bishops' meeting.

Rev. J. S. Nichols, another of the old ministers of this Conference, is in charge of St. Thomas circuit, and is a faithful and hard-working minister—always tries to do his duty.

Rev. B. F. Harrison, of Chesterfield circuit, is serving his third year and is still acceptable with his people. He generally stays with a people as long as he wishes.

Rev. E. S. Williams, of Mt. Zion circuit, Brunswick county, is getting things in good trim. The people say they have struck the right man at last. This circuit has not done so well for the last past three years, but is now getting down to solid work.

Rev. A. Rice, of Bethel Hill, in Brunswick county, says he is going to build a new church by the time the railroad comes through, which is now in progress for that point.

Rev. H. B. Jones, in the same county, pastor of Charlie Hope circuit, holds his own and is still making improvements. He and the trustees of Solomon Temple are finishing that church and want the next district conference to meet there.

Rev. S. L. Newby was sent to Richmond from the rise of the last annual Conference to work up a mission. It was largely in the mind of Bishop and Conference to not send any one there, since so many attempts had proven a failure; but Brother Newby came forward and said, "If you will ordain me deacon, I will go to Richmond." To our agreeable surprise, when we reached that point in my quarterly visit, I found him and 12 or 14 members worshipping in a large brick church now owned by a white congregation. It has been unoccupied for many years. The wheel of fortune turned him in that door, and the property can be bought for our use on reasonable terms. I trust we can get a firm hold in the metropolis of Virginia.

We hope also to get a firm footing in Newport News, one of the coming cities in tide water.

The ministers of this district are very loyal to the Connection, and many of them have raised something on all lines of what they are to collect for. And the revival season is coming on and we hope for many souls, as we believe this is a part of the true minister's work. It is sadly neglected in these days, not only here but throughout the United Church.

Petersburg, Va.

Saint Paul, the mother church of the State, is having great success on all lines under the pastorate of Rev. K. T. Thompson. He is a young man, and one of the ablest in Zion. He has added several members to the church, and many stray ones have returned to the fold. Bishop Holliday knows no failure in Arkansas. He has the eye of an eagle and can see through the telescope afar off.—Rev. E. B., Little Rock, Ark.

THIRD DISTRICT

OF THE PHILADELPHIA AND BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.

BY REV. S. S. WALES, P. E.

Having just completed the work of the first quarter I am pleased to make the following flattering report:

My first conference was convened in Harris Chapel, West Harrisburg, Rev. J. C. Clemmens, pastor, who took charge of the work under very discouraging circumstances; but within ten days he had succeeded in effecting a wonderful change in the interior part of the building. His exercises and decorations on Children's Day were most superb. Much credit is due to Miss Lilly Steward for the success of that day.

Shippensburg, June 21st, though early in the conference year, I found people and pastor had begun to shape their work for the conference year. They made a good report on Children's Day money. Rev. Pollard is a good church worker, which makes me hopeful of a good report at the end of the year.

June 23d, I was in Carlisle and held quarterly conference on the same date. There was a full attendance. The reports were excellent, which impressed one with the fact "that the people have a mind to work." The quarterly meeting which took place on the following Sabbath was in every respect a grand success. The highest compliments were conferred upon the Presiding Elder by both pastor and people. Rev. Holland is indefatigable in his labors for the Master.

June 30th, I held conference at Wesley church, Harrisburg, Rev. J. H. McMullen pastor, but on account of other interests which divided the members of the conference it was judged wise to adjourn the conference until July 5th. The quarterly meeting took place July 3rd; the extremely warm weather of that day prevented the usual large turnout, but the same spiritual interest was manifested, which indicated that they were yet in possession of the same spiritual fire which they had twenty years ago, when I served them as pastor. The work on the auditorium of the church is in progress, it being the purpose of the pastor and officers to have the church ready for dedication early in October. When completed it will be the finest in the Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference.

York, Pa., July 7th. Here I found a body of expert quarterly conference officers, Rev. P. J. McEntosh, D. D., pastor. York is also the home of Bishop J. B. Small, D. D., who also honored us with his presence. The reports were all that could have been looked for at so early a date after annual Conference. The quarterly meeting on Sunday was said to be a big day in Zion. The church in York has a record second to none in our Conference. She is ready and willing to do her whole duty. The pastor and members are now engaged in beautifying the church. When completed it will stand first of all the churches in this conference district according to size.

The church at Wrightsville, Pa., was also looked after in the month of June. It is a beautiful stone church of the latest style of archi-

ture, on edifice of which Zion should be proud. I was informed by Dr. Jemison, the noted physician of that place, and who is also president of the trustee Board, that it was the ambition of the society to keep abreast with the times, and to give the Sabbath-school the best religious literature. This should be the purpose of every society, to the end that the future Church may be better informed than the Church of to-day. The learned pastor of this church, the Rev. W. H. Marshall, has served this congregation for several years. His people speak of him in the most complimentary terms.

Fawn circuit was reached July 14th, Rev. W. H. Turner pastor. The work appears to be prospering in his hands. He was first on my district to report general tax to the annual Conference steward. He will make a good report at the end of the year.

Peach Bottom, which was recently made a station, is progressing steadily under the pastorate of Rev. Z. T. Brown. The purchasing of a site in Delta was a wise and an advanced step. The location is an excellent one, and the building which is now in progress will reflect great credit upon all concerned. Rev. Brown is in his element when engaged in church building.

[CONCLUDED IN NEXT ISSUE.]

KENTUCKY PREACHERS.

BY REV. T. H. MERRIWEATHER.

Presiding Elder E. H. Curry, D. D., is one of the most theological and dignified preachers in the Conference.

Presiding Elder J. B. Johnson, is profound in the scriptures and is strong in application. His financial ability has stood the test.

Presiding Elder I. W. Selectman is a good gospel preacher, strong Connectionally, and is rapidly developing into an excellent financier.

Dr. W. H. Chambers' baccalaureate sermon to the faculty and students of Atkinson College stamped him as a brainy representative man of wide range.

Elder R. Seymour is a leader of men and a strong pastor, a splendid preacher and shrewd financial churchman.

G. B. Walker, D. D., President of Atkinson College, is an educator, an eloquent speaker and a good preacher.

Elder R. Anderson is the singer of the Conference and in his preaching never fails to arouse his audience.

Elder J. R. Irvin, the war-horse, is one of our best spiritual preachers, and is not a whit behind in singing.

Earlington, Ky.

SUCH A DIFFERENCE.

BY REV. WM. H. ELY.

Some of our dignitaries, headlights and prelates of our Connection have written and given us the interpretation on some points of law in our Discipline, and there is as much difference between the interpretations as there is between day and night. Have we got to wait until General Conference to know who is right? I perceive by their interpretation that there is a great deal of maladministration going on in our Church, or in some of them, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.

LINCOLN (N. C.) DISTRICT.

BY T. F. REINHARDT.

The Lincolnton district conference was conducted in grand style by Rev. M. V. Marable, who reflected great credit upon himself and Connection as a master workman in the chair. His alertness in business, and affectionate manner of dealing with the brethren make him loved and esteemed by all. Elder Marable is fine in features and qualities and ably fills the position he holds. He is a worthy presiding elder of which the Connection may boast.

This conference conducted Aug. 10th, at King's Mountain, bespoke much for our Zion. The brethren deported themselves in Christian-like manner. Harmony and love seemed to have prevailed throughout the entire session.

Rev. S. D. Watkins, at the head of the district, gave a grand report, stating that the present preparation made at Lincolnton on Moore's chapel for the annual Conference will amount to \$400.00, and will be a surprise to those coming to the annual Conference.

Lincolnton circuit is not a whit behind and most especially the church in Georgetown with 30 members, which has erected a tower worth \$75 and purchased a bell worth \$30.

Brother Richardson of Gastonia gave a very encouraging report of his work. He has purchased a bell for his church weighing about 1,500 pounds. He is a good worker.

Brother A. L. Martin's report of the King's Mountain circuit, which was grand and inspiring has begun a new church which, when completed will be worth \$400. He started this church with one borrowed dollar and as it now stands, it is worth \$250.00 to the Connection. It is worthy of commendation. He always improves the condition of affairs wherever he is placed.

Dr. S. F. Hamilton gave a good report of the work at Shelby. His ability makes him an able worker and a worthy Zionite. We are proud of such men.

Rev. S. Carter's work was good considering the disadvantages under which he is laboring.

Rev. E. L. Campbell, one of Zion's old warriors, an able pastor and a hero, is doing a great work at Rutherfordton which is spiritually alive; 73 conversions, 84 added to the church and the financial part very good.

Rev. A. D. Dunlap is doing a great work on the Trinity circuit; he has in treasury for the building of a new church \$150.00. He is also running a revival which is attended with much success—27 converts and the meeting is still going on. He is a natural born revivalist and a good worker.

It has been conceded that the Statesville district is the banner district; but we are glad to know that he who made the Statesville district what it is now credited to be is now the presiding elder of the Lincolnton district. We very assuredly feel that we will certainly carry the banner when all shall have reported in the annual Conference at Lincolnton.

Lincolnton, N. C.

I would like for the pastors of the West Alabama Conference, the Mobile district to notify the President of the W. H. and F. Missionary Society to write to me, that I may see how they are progressing.—Mrs. S. Banks, 355 Earle street, Mobile, Ala.