

MORE REQUIRED.

BY C. H. WETHERBE.

Perhaps my ministerial readers will not relish some of the advice which I shall venture to give them; however, I will proceed to say that it is the decided opinion of level-headed people where I reside that more is required of a preacher in his sermons than a torrent of words, at the rate of two hundred per minute, destitute of informing knowledge and devoid of right application to the text which is treated. We have some preachers in this prolific North who, after announcing a formidable text, will start off on a windy gallop, uttering a deluge of words which have no more relation to the text than a kitten has to a catastrophe; and the words themselves are as destitute of Bible sense as a whirlwind is destitute of gentle sobriety. O, how their words do rush along, as light as the feathers of a humming bird!

It is not because these fluent preachers say untruthful words that I object to their sermons, although some errors may be found in them, but there is such an insufferable tameness and limp "nothingness" in what they do say that a hearer of good sense gets powerfully tired, long before these voluble conductors of wind get to the "amen" end of their sermon. My ministerial friend, if you be like the sort which I am describing, I will take the risk of saying, at this distance from you, that you need to put on a good-sized thinking-cap and get right down to the business of digging out of the Bible some of its nuggets of rich ore. I do not believe that you will burst your head if you should study with all of your might for two whole days in specially preparing one sermon. Perhaps heretofore you have spent one whole hour in "getting up" a sermon (1), as you call it, and then, because you can spit out words at a terrific rate, you have thought that your hearers were getting a "great sermon," one that was worth "its weight in gold," whereas it was too light to sink down into the heart of any sensible hearer, and stay there.

Do not, I beseech you, conclude that your sermons must be weighty and truly informing just because some of the brethren and sisters tell you, at the close of the meeting, that you gave them a very "eloquent" and mighty powerful sermon. Some of the brethren and sisters have a chronic weakness in praising their pastors. You must make large allowance for "taffy." I conclude by saying, study, study, study your Bible, the dictionary and other books, and prepare your sermons with much thoughtfulness and prayer.

Holland Patent, N. Y.

SEVERAL HINDRANCES.

BY REV. W. H. PRINCE.

According to my promise in an article of appeal published in the STAR, last February, in behalf of Little State church, that we would give publicity to any friend or friends, through our Connectional organ, for any kindness shown to help us on our \$1,600 debt, let this find space for publication as an expression of our gratefulness to the generous friends who so kindly responded to our appeal as follows:

Rev. G. W. Turner, Tompkinsville, Ala., \$2; Rev. A. B. Smyer, Citronelle, Ala., \$1, Sunday-school literature for two quarters; Rev. C. H. Smith, Mobile, Ala., \$5; Mrs. F. H. Leavens, District President S. & D. of Conference, Mobile, Ala., \$5; Mr. Henry Small, through the kindness of Bishop J. B. Small, York, Pa., \$3.

We hope, in spite of the early quarantine restrictions on both ends of the Gulf Coast, and the threatening yellow fever epidemic since the 25th of May, to pay up our interest and hold possession.

As an insight to the condition of things now on the coast, the following is a spectacle: The great camp-meetings which have been conducted here by the M. E. Church, South, every Summer for many years, lasting from 45 to 60 days, have been suspended this Summer because of the injury resulting from unnecessary quarantine—have kept the people from resorting here.

Biloxi, Miss.

SUMMERSVILLE (GA.) DISTRICT.

BY REV. J. J. PARKS.

The above district had a most enjoyable district conference at Holland, Ga., August 10th. Rev. L. W. Taylor, P. E., presided with dignity. J. C. Taylor was recording secretary, J. J. Parks, statistical, D. M. Pinkard, timist, and L. J. Ferguson, post office messenger.

Rev. A. Robinson preached a masterly sermon from Saint Luke 24:44. Theme, "True Witnesses." The annual address was pointed, logical, and touching on every line of Christian duty. It showed that on Connectional claims the district was in advance of last year. The presiding elder and his seven pastors are determined to raise \$225 general fund this year.

The Sunday-school convention was a grand session. Many valuable papers were read. The report of Prof. J. C. Taylor showed that he and a few faithful trustees are busy at work preparing to erect comfortable building for students. At 11 a. m. 700 people listened at Rev. L. W. Taylor, Presiding Elder, preach a forcible and spiritual sermon, and 2,000 people at 3 p. m. Rev. J. C. Taylor preached a great sermon. Finance reported, \$31.54. These were the grandest sessions ever held in the history of the district.

Lyerly, Ga.

DOING WELL.

BY REV. A. J. WILLIAMS.

Zion is alive here spiritually. We are up-to-date. Christian harmony exists among members and pastor. We have had 10 accessions to the church this year. Our Sunday-schools, with Wm. Rice as superintendent at Woodruff, and J. W. Smith at Sandy's chapel are progressive. After a short illness of a week one of the most active and intelligent young men of our church died, leaving an affectionate mother, father and two sisters.

Mr. Editor, the STAR is shining brighter and brighter under your editorship. It is to Zion what the sun is to the world. Our Connection cannot fail to make it o. k. into the harbor with such an eminent Editor as a headlight at its front. He is a great magnitude to our Zion; a Milton. In 1900 he will reach the zenith of his calling.

Woodruff, S. C.

A FEW ITEMS.

BY MISS FRANCES DEMMERY.

Children's Day was a grand day with us. The pulpit and altar were handsomely decorated with flowers of rich perfume. In the morning Rev. Wm. B. Bowens preached an able sermon on, "The Need and Use of Education." An elaborate program of solos, duets, choruses and recitations was rendered by the children and young ladies of the Sunday-school in the evening under the direction of our new Superintendent, J. E. Williams.

Master George Biddle Kelley, a very promising young man and an active member of Zion, graduated with honor from the Troy Academy three weeks ago. In the Fall he will enter the Polytechnic Institute and study civil engineering.

On Friday morning, July 24th. Brother Mortimer W. McDougall, the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. McDougall, died, aged 20. He was an active member of the church, Junior choir, Sunday-school and V. C. E. Society, McAlpin Guards and Glen Oak Club. The sermon by Rev. Wm. B. Bowens was an eloquent tribute to his precious memory.

During the session of the New York Conference which met in our church in Troy, on Sunday the pulpits of seven leading M. E. churches were filled by Bishop Hood and the ministers. The sermons of Bishop Hood, Revs. G. L. Blackwell, A. J. Warner, A. Fitch and other are said to have been able and eloquent efforts. Dr. Warner who is so full of wit and humor created considerable interest in behalf of missions and Church extension. Our pastor who is a zealous Zionite has organized a Mite Society.

We congratulate the Editor and Manager of the STAR on the able articles and splendid and winsome appearance of our Church paper, THE STAR OF ZION.

Troy, N. Y.

SAFE—NO FEAR.

BY REV. R. L. WRIGHT.

We often sing the song, "Safe in the arms of Jesus." So we as members of Zion can say that the STAR is safe, in the arms of Dr. J. W. Smith.

Mr. Editor, pull this STAR train on with her freight coaches. I learn whenever any one comes in to these STAR coaches, acting rudely or trying to misrepresent, you notify him to behave, and if he continues on, you give him a good bumping.

I like to see the STAR come. I get a smile on me, for I know I am going to read something good. Now and then you catch some fellow and give him a spanking. I don't believe any one can beat you as Editor. The STAR is alright, and you are out of sight.

Mound, La.

TWO PROGRESSIVE MEN.

H. E. EDWARDS.

Rev. Wm. Sutton, who is a presiding elder from the jump, has been with us. I have been in every quarterly conference held by him on Snow Hill circuit, and have been with him to several points, and I am one of the officers of the invitation church; and I am compelled to say as the officers said on

their return, St. John 8:46: "Never man spake like this man," with this people. He speaks kindly. I have never seen him in an angry passion.

He is a branch of wisdom, a young Solomon. His voice and words fall among the people like a good old slow shower of rain among plants. They go down to the heart and cause the soul to leap for joy. May the Lord give us more Suttons and Husseys. Look all over the North Carolina Conference and see how any in it can compete with these men. Elder Hussey is our pastor and he preaches the gospel without mixture and pours it out on the naked minds of the hearers. God bless him.

Shine, Green Co., N. C.

THE RIGHT MAN.

REV. R. C. NASH.

At the sitting of our last annual Conference Bishop J. B. Small assigned the writer to the Carthage circuit. On Saturday, March 26th, Rev. J. S. Jackson, P. E., held my first conference and explained the law to the people and laid all Connectional claims before them. They are encouraged and promised to do better. On Sunday he preached from Jeremiah 8:22 and captivated every thing in the house, white and colored. At night he preached a Holy Ghost sermon. It seemed at times that everybody in the building was moved by the Holy Spirit, and 25 or more sinners came to the altar to be prayed for.

He was invited to preach for the white people on the following Tuesday night, but as the King's business required haste, he had to leave. He also held my second quarterly conference and it was better than the first. Rev. Jackson is truly a great and grand man and knows how to lead the people in the right way. Bishop Small made no mistake in assigning him him to the Meridian district as P. E. He left Carthage in haste to go 70 miles South of Meridian to organize a pastor, church and members into the A. M. E. Zion Connection.

Canton, Miss.

A MINISTER DEAD.

BY R. STEELE.

One of our good workers, Rev. A. C. Cornelius, died June 30th. He came to us from the A. M. E. Church in '93 and has been a thorough-going minister. He leaves a wife and seven children. He succeeded Rev. Henry Hamner on the Fayette circuit after the death of Rev. Hamner in '93. He was appointed in '94 to Bank's Chape circuit which he pastored for four years and greatly improved the work. He was appointed by Rt. Rev. J. B. Small this year to the Castle Hill Circuit but was taken sick in March and lingered from that time until his death.

Woodstock, Ala.

We are on the road in the interest of our Zion High School at Norfolk, Va. At Rockingham, N. C., we found Elder Campbell very sick. We agreed to stop over a few days and help him in his meetings. Do not forget us, brethren. We are coming to see you.

Yours for Zion and the race,
E. C. Simmons, Principal of the above school.

ON THE WING.

BY REV. J. B. COLBERT.

MARYVILLE, TENN.

This church is composed of a class of intelligent people. They have splendid educational facilities, besides a Presbyterian church pastored by an up-to-date pastor which is always a strong inducement for the young people of this church; and where we are unfortunate in being unequally yoked in this particular, invariably we are the losers. We are glad to say that Rev. Whitted is able to hold his own here. This is evidenced by the large number of intelligent people who attend this church. Since he assumed charge of this work they have built a nice, commodious parsonage which he and family will occupy at an early date.

NEW MARKET, TENN.

Rev. R. Williams is pastor here. They have a live and interesting society with Mr. G. G. Huff as president. They have done some good work for the church. Rev. Williams knows how to use his young people "for Christ and the Church."

MOSSY CREEK, TENN.

Having been informed that the Knoxville district conference was in session at this place we stopped over with the brethren a day and a night. Rev. F. R. Howell, is the P. E. He and the rest of the brethren made it pleasant for us. All seem anxious to hear and learn about the V. C. E. movement which is destined to do more to help and strengthen the forces of Zion than anything else. We spoke upon the all-absorbing subject of V. C. E. The brethren were so delighted with our message that they passed resolutions endorsing the work most heartily, and peremptorily urged upon every pastor to organize the society in every church. On motion of Rev. E. P. Mayo the entire collection, of the evening service was voted to the support of the V. C. E. Union. This very act and many others indicated the kind of material out of which the ministers of the Knoxville district are made.

NEWPORT, TENN.

This church is pastored by Rev. L. V. Williams. He is a young man with a promising future and has a splendid V. C. E. with charter number 2, beautifully framed and hanging in a conspicuous place in his church. This is right. This is what charter number 2 is made for. His was the first we saw that was framed up to that time. It would be well if more of our Endeavorers would imitate Brother Williams in this particular.

NOTICE.

We will endeavor to be present at the following Conferences: the Kentucky, Missouri and the Alleghany and Ohio. All Endeavor societies within the bounds of the aboved named Conferences, that have not sent in their annual donation to the V. C. E. Department will send the same through their pastor or delegate to me at the Conference. It is hoped that the pastors of said societies will cooperate with the V. C. E's in this matter for no one ought to know the needs of the V. C. E. Department better than the pastors themselves. So pastors please attend to this matter.

Washington, D. C.