

OUR LIBERIAN LETTER.

BY REV. OWEN L. W. SMITH, D. D.,
MINISTER RESIDENT AND CONSUL-
GENERAL, MONROVIA, LIBERIA.

Dear Brother Smith: While thinking of old home, it struck me that possibly a few lines from me, relative to the distant Republic, might be of interest to somebody in America. If so, permit me to say it is indeed a very fine, fertile and productive little country, producing such serials as rice, corn, etc., besides, potatoes, oats and cane, as fine as I ever saw almost in America, for the clearing of the land and the planting of the seed. Rice, coffee, potatoes and cosada, the latter a kind of native potato, are the principal productions; corn and cotton not being very extensively cultivated for the want of the mill and gin.

As it is very warm here, even in winter, vegetation is never killed by frost nor snow, and is therefore very thick and heavy. The forest has a very dense undergrowth. In many places it is almost impenetrable. And yet, while the earth amply repays the toiler, producing usually abundant crops, still the necessities of life are very costly. As an instance, I will name the following: ham, without cutting, 35 cents per pound; if cut, 40 cents; bacon 25 cents; lard 25 cents; beef 16 cents; butter 75 cents and flour 10 cents per pound; eggs, bought of hucksters, 2 cents, from store, 3 cents each. Wearing materials are proportionately high. As we have no saw-mills, except the old fashion saw-pits and whip-saws, building material is equally as high. Undressed lumber sells for 5 cents per square foot.

For these reasons I cannot, conscientiously, recommend the country as a most propitious one for a man without at least sufficient cash on reaching here to build him some kind of a house, fell his trees and supply himself and family for one year, or until he can make and lay in his first crop. As in America, so here, pauper immigration is no help to the country, but rather a burden; and they are the first to find fault and give hard names to the country and government. He should also have made up his mind not to look for nor expect the conveniences that he now sees in America, for fear that he might long for the flesh-pots of Egypt, or have a desire to return to the conveniences and pleasures of America.

We have no railroads and telegraphs. Travel is by boat or canoe while on the river and water coasts, and by foot or hammock after you leave the water. The almost vertical rays of the sun render it very warm, and almost intolerable to one accustomed to a cooler clime, but the effects of the almost constant sea-breeze so modify the effects of the sun's rays that the thermometer seldom reaches 90° F.

There is a change of seasons and in the natural position of the heavenly bodies here. I reached here early in May, just at the beginning of warm weather in America, but at the beginning of the rainy season or cold weather here. The months of June, July, August and September are the cool months here, while October, November, December, January, February and March are the hot or warm months! It is now what the Liberians call

cold weather; but to me it is very comfortable. It is, however, much cooler at this season of the year than it is in America. Excepting my overcoat and gloves, I am now clad in my full American winter apparel. I have not, however, found it cold enough for fire neither in my house nor office. At night I sleep very comfortably under a sheet, quilt and blanket.

To me the sun rises in the southwest and sets in the northeast, or as it seems to go down in the west with you, it seems to rise almost in the same direction to me. Taking an astronomical observation of the heavenly bodies, we can observe many stars in the firmament, that we read of in the study of astronomy in the western hemisphere, that you fail to find in the eastern. Again, we find many in the eastern that are not visible in the western. For instance, the "Southern Cross," visible in the northern horizon, consisting of five stars, three in a line each way are very valuable to seamen here.

Aug. 2, 1898.

Monrovia, Liberia.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

A FEW SNAP SHOTS.

BY REV. W. A. BLACKWELL.

The STAR is becoming a mammoth power in the Christian world; so far as Negro Church journals are concerned it leads. It teaches on every phase of church work, doctrine and government.

Invite discussion on "Pastoral Theology," subject mentioned by Rev. Brother C. D. Hazel in a recent issue. Those are things we want to know.

With all due respect to our woman elder, we do not need any more for all time. Mr. Editor, I see you do not fear to impress your individuality upon everybody. That's right. Speak out and be yourself, Astwood and Henderson to the contrary notwithstanding.

As a writer and cleaner-up of Henderson and his crowd, Dr. J. H. Anderson is a "daisy," isn't he? Lancaster, S. C.

FINE PASTOR AND WIFE.

BY MISS MAGGIE THOMPSON.

In the two years in which Rev. M. R. Franklin has been with us at Mother Zion we have found him to be a Christian in every respect, willing and ready to give good advice to all. He is a good financier.

Bishop Hood knows that when Mother Zion has a good pastor she wants to keep him. He understands what kind of a man to send us.

We have never had a pastor's wife to take such interest in our church and the young people as Mrs. Franklin has taken. She works with a will and has won the love and admiration of many. May God bless the pastor and his beloved companion, and may we members do our whole duty by them and the church, remembering that if a pastor would be successful it must be by the help of the people.

New York City, N. Y.

BETHANIA NEWS.

BY J. L. LASH.

It gives me very great pleasure to chronicle that August 2nd witnessed the closing of one of those old time camp-meetings, conducted by Rev. J. G. Williams, our pastor, who has proved himself worthy and successful since assigned to Bethania circuit. There were 26 souls converted, 20 of which joined our Zion. There were present that eloquent, outspoken "Black Sam Jones," Rev. A. McLees, of Winston, N. C., and that sound gospel preacher and revivalist, Rev. P. A. McCorkle, our worthy and much beloved presiding elder. Both are preachers of known ability. Their forceful and logical sermons seasoned with the Holy Ghost, will be long remembered.

Bethania circuit is composed of Bethania church and Sides Town mission. Sides Town has paid up pastor's salary in full, and Bethania lacks something less than six dollars. The circuit has paid the presiding elder up in full to third quarter, and the Sabbath-schools are prosperous. Some general fund has also been collected.

We are very thankful to the proper authorities for having given us Brother Williams this year. While he is not one of those who has "rubbed his head against the college wall," yet he has Christian piety, and enough common sense to preach to and lead our people on and up out of the low huts of sin and destruction to the heights of Christian civilization. I voice the sentiments of Bethania circuit when I say give us Rev. P. A. McCorkle for our presiding elder, and Rev. J. G. Williams for our pastor during the ensuing conference year.

One of the drawbacks or shortcomings of Bethania previously, has been the premature change of pastors. Brother Williams is so far the right man for our people as he is a young and rising preacher of no mean ability, unassuming, gentlemanly and sociable, and hence the people's man.

Besides a great many accessions to the church at Sides Town, Brother Williams has received into the church at Bethania 29 members. God bless our Zion and her many institutions, bishops and officers, our presiding elder and our pastor.

Bethania, N. C.

A GREAT PASTOR.

BY E. U. A. BROOKS, ESQ.

The Douglass Memorial A. M. E. Zion church, of Elmira, N. Y., under the able Christian leadership of Rev. Sylvester L. Corrothers, A. B., during the last three and one-half years, has become "a thing of beauty and a joy forever."

Since his advent into our midst December 1, 1894, the number of members has risen from 70 to 260; the general fund of the church has been increased from \$36 to \$132. The Sunday-school membership has grown from about 80 to nearly twice that number. Instead of the dilapidated, weather-worn, time-stained frame building, which was used by the local society when the present pastor came, the same premises now contain a large, elegant and commodious brick structure in which over half a thousand persons can comfortably sit and

listen to the preaching of the divine word.

Never before in the history of Elmira, the beautiful queen city, has Zion maintained such a high standard numerically, financially and religiously. The citizens of Elmira, regardless of creed or color, assemble in one handsome edifice to work the omnipotent Father and to hear the evangelistic pastor deliver enthusiastic and inspiring sermons which are replete with plain, forceful, practical and scriptural logic.

Rev. Mr. Corrothers believes that the work of the Church is to save souls, and a church that does not save souls is unworthy of the name. Consequently he is an unremitting and tireless worker in the Master's vineyard. His church is lighted six evenings out of each seven for some good purpose. He is radically opposed to compromising with sin for the financial benefit of his church and has educated his membership along that line. The wisdom of his opinions is proven by the fact that the average monthly income of the Douglass Memorial church is \$200 which is a corroboration of the truth of the inspired word which says "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all other things shall be added unto you."

He is very popular among both Afro-Americans and Anglo-Saxons, and his successful evangelistic labors in his church and in the streets have elicited the approval and admiration of all classes of the community. He is an honored member of the clerical club and is the intimate friend of nearly every Christian man of wealth in our city. Over \$10,000.00 has been raised during his pastorate here and the present value of Zion's real and personal estate is about \$20,000.

Elmira, N. Y.

BATTLEFIELD NOTES.

BY REV. LLOYD F. A. WATTS.

Gettysburg is the place made famous in history by the great battle fought in and around it on July 1, 2, 3, 1863.

We have a very neat little church here, 60x30, with a ceiling 23 feet high, which makes it very pleasant for the speaker. Membership is about fifty. Rev. P. A. Wallace is our pastor. He is a recent graduate of Lincoln University, a young man of fine talent, an earnest and forcible preacher, truly devoted to God and an able defender of the doctrines and Discipline of the Church of his choice. He is held in very high esteem by all classes in this community.

Sunday, August 28, was our grand rally. The pastor had given out cards to all the members and friends, offering as a prize a lady's gold watch and chain to the one collecting the most money. The rally netted \$65.02. Mrs. Ellen Harrigan collected of that amount \$17.68, winning the prize, a handsome gold watch and chain. The watch was presented by Prof. Evans in a few well chosen words. The services throughout the day were very enjoyable. At 10:30 a. m., Rev. Acquilla, of Asbury, M. E. church, preached; at 2:30 p. m., Rev. Dr. Woods, pastor of the Presbyterian church, delivered an able and instructive discourse; and at 7:30 p. m., the pastor conducted the services. The day was very pleasantly passed and all felt wonderfully benefited.

Gettysburg, Pa.

DOWN IN DIXIE.

BY REV. I. F. ALDRIDGE.

Mr. Editor: Permit me to tell through our brilliant STAR, what I saw and heard in traveling 1,358 miles enroute to Tuscaloosa, Ala. The scenes by the way were beautiful.

Traveling from New York Southward, I passed through New Jersey by the way of Trenton. In Philadelphia I stopped a few hours and made a visit to the Publishing House of the A. M. E. Church. Rev. T. W. Henderson, D. D., kindly conducted me through the building, and introduced me to his corps of helpers. Manager Henderson seems to be proud of the success of the department under him. More and larger rooms are needed. The Rev. Dr. Johnson, Editor of the *Christian Recorder*, was out of the city.

At Greensboro, N. C., I spent a night with Rev. P. J. Jordan, pastor of the A. M. E. church. It is the finest "colored" church in the city. Rev. Jordan is a subscriber to the STAR. We also met the Rev. F. J. Lee, pastor of the A. M. E. Zion church. He and his good people are engaged in building a fine two-story brick church which will be the best looking church in the city when it is finished. I had the pleasure of being in company with the Rev. P. A. McCorkle, P. E., of the A. M. E. Zion Church, from Greensboro, N. C., to Salisbury, N. C.

At Charlotte, N. C., I spent a night at the comfortable home of Rev. Dr. Smith, the faithful and able Editor of the STAR. His faithful wife knows how to keep house. Dr. Blackwell, the Business Manager of the A. M. E. Zion Publication House, was out of the city, but the good Editor showed me the different rooms and departments and introduced me to the large corps of printers in the building. They have large rooms and a plenty of them. I found everything in order. The establishment of this Department in Zion is a great achievement. The Editor and Manager ought to be encouraged and supported.

Tuscaloosa, Ala.

WORTHY OF PRAISE.

Mr. E. J. Young,

Sec'y and Mgr. P. B. and R. A.

Dear Sir: Allow me to say to you and the public, that the said Association is the greatest Negro enterprise in North Carolina, and every colored person should join. It does just what it says. It did for me and my neighbors. I did not care much to join at first, but my husband had me to join, and now I am very proud of it. When I was sick it paid me my sick dues without any trouble, and I do highly recommend it to the public.

Yours truly,

(Mrs.) Nannie Stewart.

One of the grandest meetings that have been witnessed for years has been going on in Zion here. It was difficult to tell who were Zion members. Rev. J. H. Sliger is the right man here. He holds his own. He will have his church ready for the annual Conference and the people will have their hearts and homes open to receive it. The people say they will cry if the Bishop fails to send Rev. Sliger back.—Rev. S. M. Charles, Abingdon, Va.