

ODDS AND ENDS.

THINGS WHICH HAD BETTER BE CONSIDERED.

BY REV. J. H. MCMULLEN.

Our good friend Fonvielle has put every thoughtful reader of the STAR to thinking along lines which the Church would do well to consider, by calling attention to the fact that our laymen are not recognized in the distribution of positions in the gift of the Church as they should be; and Rev. George B. Walker, of Kentucky, suggests to Brother Fonvielle that not only are the laymen of the Church ignored in these things but that the ministers who were born and raised up in Zion, made it what it is, are constantly set aside for the interlopers from other denominations whom the Bishops bring in and give the fat of the land.

As Prof. Fonvielle stated, I fear this is only too true. What is the result? This: There is not a colored denomination of worshippers possibly in America which has so many churches bordering on disloyalty—not willing to be governed by the rulers of the Church—as Zion. Name every one of these churches if you can, and four out of every five have in time been pastored by some of these preachers coming from other Churches to Zion.

No minister leaves a Church where he is doing well and not under a cloud of some sort, to go into another unless he has truly outgrown the Church tenets or creed. And with colored ministers all believe about the same creed. Therefore when one changes from one to the other denominations; he either desired to have his own way where he was or he sees that he had better get away before he is expelled.

Our Bishops think they are doing big things by taking them in; and in they come and on they go to our best churches. What follows? This unruly fellow knowing nothing about our Church law goes on disregarding the law and telling the people how such and such a Church does, and soon you have a Church which says "We don't believe in taxation; we don't believe this and that, and we will not do it. The bishops want too much. It's all the time money, money." All this has come about by allowing these interlopers to come in and imbed themselves in the minds of our strongest churches.

There is only one of two things true. To receive them is either an acknowledgement that our own men are inferior, or that there is no regard whatever paid to character, the latter too often being only too true. At this writing, in our leading churches representing the different sections of our country with but one notable exception—Mother Zion, New York—new and strange pastors fill our pulpits who have only recently left some other Church because they either had to do so, or because they were disposed to have their own way. How long, O Zion! how long shall this be? No other denomination does this; but as upon the woman ordination question we lead even if everybody else criticises us.

It appears to me that there are some articles or rather some assertions made by some persons—

notably the one by Rev. E. Geo. Biddle—which disgrace the pages of our Church organ and reflect upon the sense of our Church. If ever an article was written which emanated from the brain of a crank—such as the one who assassinated the Empress of Russia—it must have had in it just the sentiment enounced in Rev. Biddle's article. If such talk or writings characterize a sanctified and holy man, it is very fortunate for Christianity that there are but few holy men.

Let us all conclude hereafter to use chaste language in the expression of our thought. The controversy between Rev. W. H. Snowden, P. E., and Dr. John E. Price on one side, and Bishop J. W. Hood, D. D., on the other, is the style of writing the STAR needs. Well, says one, "Consistency is a jewel." Alright, did I not say let "us" "hereafter" write clean articles? I am included in "us." Where is your argument, brother?

I love the title given me by the head of the Church, "Young Master." The master must give orders. See? I am with you, Brother Fonvielle.

Harrisburg, Pa.

MR. DANCY WANTED.

Hon. John C. Dancy delivered the annual address at the opening of the Colored Fair at Rock Hill, S. C., last October. Some of the best white men have asked that Mr. Dancy be requested to come and address us again this year. They believe that he is the finest Negro speaker that ever came to that town. The whites say that the effect of his speech is still felt there, as it has brought about a better relation between the whites and blacks. He will be invited to come. The friends everywhere will leave nothing undone to make the Fair a grand success. All kinds of mechanical and agricultural products will be displayed. The dates of the Fair are October 25, 26, 27 and 28, 1898. All entries must be made October 25. Reduced rates on all roads. Hope to have fine representation from Charlotte and other cities.—M. D. Lee, President, Lancaster, S. C.

BRIEF NEWS.

BY REV. W. S. COOPER.

We were favored with the presence of Bishop G. W. Clinton July 31st. We had a splendid audience. His address to the Sunday-school was timely. At 11 o'clock he preached a masterly sermon from Gal. 6:7. He has been justly styled the "silver-tongued pulpit orator," and the impression made is simply phenomenal. At the close of the sermon 6 persons came forward and united with the church. And a collection of \$2.55 was raised.

We hastily devoured the good things brought out by the kind sisters at Pope and were then driven in the direction of the Courtland church where the Bishop was slated to preach at 3 p. m. Here we were greeted by the pastor, Rev. L. D. Jones. The Bishop preached to a dense audience. His sermons are all practical and never fail to impress the people. One member joined the church and more than \$6.00 was raised. The Bishop says he is much impressed with my work.

Courtland, Miss.

ZION SAFE.

IN THE HANDS OF HER GENERAL OFFICERS.

REV. W. W. MATTHEWS.

Zion, the great Church in which I was born and cradled, has ever been my choice.

For every effect there must be a cause. Well, the first cause of this effect of choice with me is quite natural to illustrate. Every boy that has a principle according to that of humanity has within him a superior degree of parental affection for his mother in preference of any one. It is because she is his mother, the one who gave to him birth. She always cares for her own son as no one else would likely do; hence, her influence over him stands supreme. The same that is true of mother and son in this case is also true of Zion and myself.

There is still another effect not only binding me so closely to this grand Church, but also making the most wonderful impressions upon the entire world. It is Zion's present system of government and Church polity, and the great progress she is now making. Do you realize how this progress goes on so nicely? I do. Her several interests have been for several years been and are to-day placed in the hands of trustworthy men with tact and ability. They are such men as Dr. W. H. Day, Zion's general secretary, and Dr. J. W. Alstork, her general steward. These two men who have been standing at the head of the financial department of the Connection for years have by their honest and fair dealing with the Church done honor to themselves and won the highest respect of the whole Connection. So I can say every night, "Now I lay me down to sleep," for the finances of Zion are safe in the hands of these two generals.

The next department is the Publishing House, the Varick three story brick building in Charlotte, N. C. This department has gained glory and independence by the wise and able management of Doctors G. L. Blackwell and J. W. Smith. The last General Conference on sending out these two commanding generals placed upon them no greater restriction, as I so understand it, than their honesty and good judgment, (of course no one to my knowledge ever questioned them along this line,) and they have conquered for Zion at Charlotte as Dewey did for the United States at Manila. The American warriors have with the big guns of the Navy honored the stars of the Union flag. Smith, with many heavy strokes of his fiery pen, has made Zion's worse adversaries honor the STAR OF ZION. Blackwell, with indefatigable zeal, has hoisted the entire department so high that the highest honors come to it from all. Then in the hands of these two heads the publishing department of the Church is absolutely safe.

The *Quarterly Review* is safe in the hands Hon. John C. Dancy—the great layman.

The Book Concern in New York City, now under the agency of Rev. J. S. Caldwell, is in safe hands, if not in a safe place. Zion is willing to trust the man connected with this department at any rate, but will talk about the "place" at the next General Conference.

The Varick Christian Endeavor Department, under the control of Rev. J. B. Colbert, A. B., has developed beyond the expectation of his most sanguine friends.

The erudite Rev. B. F. Wheeler, our Educational Secretary, is worthy of all the good that may be thrust upon him by the Connection. Colbert and Wheeler are alright.

Zion's statistics are safe in the hands of Dr. J. H. Anderson, the greatest Negro statistician.

Four among the most talented and distinguished women of the race are carefully looking after our Woman's Home and Foreign Mission work, namely: Mesdames K. P. Hood, M. R. Morris, S. E. C. Pettey and M. E. Harris. I cannot in detail speak of each one of our General Officers, but they all have the high respect of the Church, I believe. I am sure they have mine.

But I cannot close without a word for Livingstone College, the great pride of the lamented J. C. Price, D. D., who was the greatest orator and benefactor of the race. Few were his equals, none his peers, or ever will be, I am afraid. I am glad to learn that this great institution of ours is succeeding so admirably under the conduction of the faithful and learned Dr. W. H. Goler. Of course there always have been some doubting Thomases, and always will be; but thank God, Livingstone is safe in the hands of Dr. Goler. There are others whom I did not mention, but the future as well as the present is shining so brightly before us that I close by saying Zion unquestionably is safe in the hands of her General Officers.

Little Rock, Ark.

HAVING GRAND SUCCESS.

BY REV. J. E. SPRINGS.

A few words about the Smith chapel circuit. I have had a grand revival; 35 converts, and have added 80 to the church. I had with me Rev. R. S. Sings, P. E., of the Augusta district, and Rev. P. B. Simpkins, who preached at my old home in Pineville church, where I was sent from to the South Georgia Conference in 1896. This makes two years for me here. Last year I built a church at a cost of \$600. In Zion this year I have organized a V. C. E. Society and a good Sabbath-school. The good people of this vicinity say I have had the best meeting here since the earthquake. The white people are stirred up. I closed the meeting with 100 mourners. The brethren begged me not to stop, but I had been holding meeting six weeks and was broken down.

Mrs. S. L. Springs, my wife, and six children are well. Look-out, boys! Hold the fort for I am coming. Jesus is leading me, and by His grace and help of the good people, I will raise all the law calls for. I am glad to see Zion alive here. If we had a little money in the W. H. and F. M. Society to help Zion down here, she could be something. We pay to that society every year. We need more ministers down here. These people are in need of them and school teachers in Zion. I pray God the time will soon come when our Livingstone students will come South.

Girard, Ga.

ONE'S OWN FAULTS.

BY C. H. WETHERBE.

It seems to be a deep-seated trait of human nature to delight in the exercise of viewing the faults of other people, with two eyes wide open, while one's own faults are mostly out of the range of one's own vision.

I know a minister who is expert at detecting the faults of every body who comes within the range of his observation. Concerning many members of his own church he says that they have but little spirituality, and of course he cannot see any spirituality in the most of members of other churches, belonging to other denominations. Then, too, he quickly discovers faults in other preachers' sermons. He says that they lack thought, they are weak in structure, they are poor in delivery. He also observes that nearly every Christian is selfish; whenever they do any good thing there is a selfish motive behind it. And yet it is the decided belief of those who know the man quite well that he is exceedingly selfish, and also very faulty in many other respects. What he greatly needs to do is to make a daily practice of looking at his own faults, and then, in view of them, refrain from being so uncharitable towards other faulty ones.

There is great meaning in the apostle's word: "Consider thyself." If we would keep in the habit of considering our own infirmities, how frail we are, how often we blunder, how frequently we act inconsistently, how selfish we are, we would be more likely to be less harsh in our judgments of others than we generally are. Of course we cannot avoid seeing faults of others; and the faults of some are more conspicuous than are the faults of others; yet it by no means follows that we should allow ourselves to parade the faults of others among those in the community who would use those faults against the faulty ones and damage their influence, especially if the faulty ones be trying to live Christian lives. Indeed, even though some of the faulty ones be not Christians, but are trying to be honest and useful people, their faults should not be dwelt upon and paraded about. Such a practice injures the one who engages in it.

Remember that if a certain person come to you frequently, telling you the faults of others, he will make a practice of telling your faults to others. Be in the good habit of speaking of the best traits of others.

Holland Patent, N. Y.

CONFERENCE STEWARDS.

Conference Stewards will please not send me personal checks for general fund, as it puts me to unnecessary trouble to send them back for collection, which usually takes four and six days, thereby delaying monthly payments several days. It will be better to send all money through postoffice money orders. This is the safest and quickest way; therefore send all money by postoffice money order, and oblige,

J. W. Alstork, General Steward.
Montgomery, Ala.