

The Star of Zion.

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Y. P. S. C. E. SOCIETY.

Why the A. M. E. Zion Church Adopted the C. E. Society.

BY BISHOP A. WALTERS, D. D.

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, which has a half million communicants and about 4,000 preachers, at its General Conference held at Mobile, Ala., May, 1896, adopted by a unanimous vote, the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor as the young people's organization of our Church, and appointed Rev. J. B. Colbert, A. M., of Washington, D. C., (one of our brightest young men) to organize a society of Christian Endeavor in every church in our Connection. I am here to give some reasons why such action was taken.

FIRST, WE ADOPTED THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY BECAUSE IT ENLISTS THE SYMPATHY AND ACTIVITY OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

How to reach the masses of our young people, especially the educated ones, so as to enlist them in the active work of the Church, was for years a serious problem with our colored Churches. Whenever this class of our young people were asked to take an active part they would inform us (and I must confess, in many instances, not without reason,) that our manner of conducting the regular weekly meetings and our method of holding revival services were antiquated, and, therefore, repelled them; notwithstanding they were anxious to engage in the work, they were unable to do so because of these hindrances.

The Christian Endeavor society has solved that problem for us by proposing young people's meetings; and further, has taught the young people how to conduct their meetings successfully. Whenever our Christian Endeavor societies are successfully operated—the pledge, the consecration meeting and the work of the committees insisted upon—such societies bring about the needed reform in our Churches. It does not take the older members long to discover the benefit of the new methods; they are rapidly learning that the methods of 50 years ago will not work successfully to-day. We are for the Christian Endeavor society because it greatly aids us in the development of our Church work.

SECOND, WE ADOPTED THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY BECAUSE IT STANDS FOR THE DEEPENING OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE.

We live in an age of looseness of morals in Church and State; an age in which men call license liberty; an age in which the Bible truth is so distorted as to make men believe that they can commit all manner of sin with impunity so long as they believe on Christ; that to accept the righteousness of Christ means to have none of their own. Men seem to forget that the object of Christ's coming into the

world was to save men from their sins. The object of the whole plan of salvation is the complete restoration of mankind to the image of God.

Purity of life has ever been the theme of God's messengers. The patriarchs, prophets, apostles and reformers have all urged purity of heart. Moses, in his farewell address to the children of Israel said: "And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul that thou mayest live." (Deut. xxx:6.)

Isaiah says: "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil." (Isa. i:16.) Ezekiel says: "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean; from all your filthiness and from all your idols, will I cleanse you." (Ezekiel xxxvi:25.)

John the Baptist came preaching the doctrine of repentance—the forsaking of all sin.

The Master in His sermon on the Mount, said: "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." Again, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." And again, "If thine right eye offend thee, pluck it out and cast it from thee; for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off and cast it from thee; for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." Finally He said: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Purity is one of the chief themes of the Pauline epistles. To the church at Rome Paul writes: "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin live any longer therein?"

Again: "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

To the Church at Corinth he says: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

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SOME RANDOM SHOTS.

State C. E. Convention—Black Warriors—Spain—Douglass.

BY REV. W. H. MARSHALL.

In brilliant "Majors and Minors" the notable productions of Prof. W. F. Fonvielle, reference is made to the fact that for the last few months "Random Shots" have not been shooting. A certain physician upon being asked why he was away from home when there was so much sickness, thus responded: Oh, I am giving my patients a chance to get well." But now, as by this time all the victims (readers) of "Random Shots" have had sufficient opportunity to fully recover their equilibrium, once again will I draw "a bow at a venture."

By the way, the Professor mentioned something about a B-O-O-M. In strictest confidence, all inquirers are hereby informed that my Boom is—but (as Kipling says) "that's another story."

The Pennsylvania Convention of the Y. P. S. C. E. was recently held at Harrisburg. Our jolly, brainy layman, Prof. J. P. Scott, was a conspicuous member of the committee of arrangements. The printing department was under his personal supervision, and he made a wonderful success. Zion had more ministers in attendance at this great Christian gathering than all other Negro denominations combined. The following were present: Revs. J. H. McMullen, A. M., B. J. Bolding, B. D., P. A. Wallace, A. M., S. S. Wales, P. E., Presiding Elder W. H. Snowden, J. S. Caldwell, B. D., S. J. Clemens, Dr. A. J. Warner, J. Q. Adams, Dr. Wm. Howard Day, G. W. A. Tolbert, James Stokes, G. J. Hawks and T. H. Scott. Zion's Juniors under the direction of Miss Lillian Stuart made a magnificent showing and received a memorable ovation. Glory to God, Zion is marching on.

In spite of the fact that his unequalled heroism in the revolution had wrung words of highest commendation from the "Father of his country;" notwithstanding his fortitude without which Jackson could not have been the victor at New Orleans; and disregarding the intrepidity which he manifested throughout the late rebellion, there were still a few who elected to believe that the Negro was a coward. No one who has heard of the courage of the Ninth and the Tenth Cavalry and of the Twenty-fourth Infantry in the Battle of San Juan Heights will ever again ask, "Will the Negro fight?" The desperate charge of those black soldiers was by all odds the most brilliant achievement of the American Army in the Spanish-American war. How can prejudice raise its hateful head after such a blow!

Next to emancipation, El Caney has done more to remove from American eyes the scales which colorphobia had placed there, than has been done by any other

event. In a recent issue of the New York Mail Express the following appears editorially:

"What folly it is for the nation to discourage citizens showing this valor by closing the door to promotion for colored men? Three Negro colonels, one in Ohio, one in North Carolina, and one in Illinois, have been appointed; but in the earlier organization of regiments the path should have been as open to colored as to white regiments in the National Guard of the various States, and if the Southern States had been wise their quota would have been filled with colored as well as with white citizens."

Poor Spain! Where will it next break loose? And now one of the authenticated (?) remains of Christopher Columbus is to be borne to Spain in solemn estate. What's the difference? This hemisphere has at least one or two more well authenticated (?) tombs in which can be found the dust (?) of Columbus. So Spain can have another tomb and more of Columbus' dust if she will only be real good. If our discoverer could come from the grave now and behold deteriorated Spain, he would probably exclaim: "Thank God, Colombo (for that's my right name) was born in Italy."

In a recent issue of the *Astonisher*, Editor J. Gordon Baugh very rightly took exceptions to the following from the *New York Sun*: "Douglass was almost a statesman; but then it must be remembered that his father was a white man, and besides he was married to a white woman." Without discussing what influence his father had upon his destiny, Editor Baugh says, "Douglass had made his reputation before his marriage." The *Sun* will have to try again.

Harrisburg, Pa.

A FEW NOTES.

BY MRS. BETTIE E. BOHANNON.

Presiding Elder E. J. Carter held his last quarterly conference here August 27th, 28th, and preached two powerful sermons on the Sabbath. The V. C. E. tendered him a grand reception on Monday night and a fine program was rendered. Rev. W. L. Lee, our pastor, and Rev. W. L. Carr spoke in high terms of him as a presiding elder. Mrs. Bettie E. Bohannon delivered the welcome address which was ably responded to by Elder Carter. Prof. N. A. Wilson, of the city school, complimented him in behalf of the citizens. The sum of \$4.50 was donated to him.

Our church is moving on nicely. Rev. W. L. Lee, our pastor, styled the logician of the West Tennessee and Mississippi Conference, is an up-to-date speaker. We all are looking forward with anxious hearts to the coming of our worthy Bishop G. W. Clinton. He always brings good news and glad tidings to us.

God bless you, dear Editor, for the able way in which you are holding up Zion. May you continue to go higher and higher in Zion's ranks.

Coffeyville, Miss.

ZION IS MARCHING ON.

Bishop Walters At a Big Hotel. The Clerk Astonished.

BY REV. JAMES E. RODGERS.

The annual convention of the Christian Endeavor Societies of the State of New Jersey was held last week in this our city by the sea, Asbury Park. Zion was ably represented by her brilliant, magnetic leader, Bishop A. Walters, D. D.

His entrance to the exclusive hotel "Albermarle" caused the dignified clerk to almost collapse, he not knowing that a colored man was included in the number of distinguished State officers who were assigned quarters in the aforesaid hotel. He quickly recovered upon the black Bishop presenting a letter from headquarters and very pleasantly assigned him to one of the best rooms in the house.

After delivering the best address of the session everything changed, and the best places and people were none too good for the Bishop. He was lionized, congratulated and sought after to such an extent that it seemed that he was the only man of prominence at the convention. His address needs no comment. It was complete. We send you a full printed copy. Only three were printed and the Bishop's was one of them. Zion was much helped by his being present.

Your humble servant was honored with a place on the executive, finance and reception committees. No other colored body had ever before been remembered in this way. Zion had to lead so that others could follow.

It was hinted when we were assigned to this work that it was undesirable and discouraging, but by a hard effort on our part, and the good work of our predecessor, Rev. W. H. Davenport, who resurrected a dying church, we have succeeded and improved the church internally and externally, and also noted a spiritual and numerical growth. The doors of the most exclusive and cultured homes are open to us. Zion is marching on.

A number of white clergymen were shown the STAR OF ZION recently and were greatly surprised to see such an ably edited and neatly printed paper produced by our Church and race. Their comments were highly favorable.

The New Jersey district conference and Sunday-school convention held recently in Matawan, N. J., showed signs of marked improvement along all lines of church work. Rev. C. D. Hazel, of Paterson, was elected president for the ensuing year.

Asbury Park, N. J.

Rev. F. M. Jacobs, who has been quite sick, is convalescing. His church work in Brooklyn, N. Y., is in splendid condition. He is studying for a physician. He puts on his apron and goes to the hospital nearly every time a dead or live man is put on the dissecting table. He will be prepared to give the boys pills at the next General Conference.