

DOUGLASS MEMORIAL CHURCH
AND PASTOR.

BY BISHOP GEO. W. CLINTON, D. D.

Mr. Editor: Your many readers have heard of this church and pastor before in these columns; but there are features about them worthy of special note to which I wish to devote this article. Through the kind and urgent solicitation of Elder Corrothers, it was my privilege to spend several days in Elmira, embracing the latter part of August and the first of September. This was my third visit. Whoever goes to Elmira once will be delighted to return, if his lot be cast among such friends as I have met upon each of my three visits.

The great changes which have taken place since I first visited Elmira during the pastorate of that grand and good man, Elder M. H. Ross, and my former relations with Elder Corrothers, when he was but a youth in South Carolina, caused me to make a study of the man and a close observation of his work. The observations made and the information gained have prompted these lines which I hope may prove a stimulus and inspiration to others of our brethren who are striving to build up Zion in different parts of the land.

When I first visited Elmira, Zion's forces were worshipping in a small frame church near the A. M. E. church, and raising money to purchase another lot elsewhere. Instead of that frame structure and upon the same spot Zion now has an elegant and imposing brick church, with modern improvements, well furnished and finished, having more than double the seating capacity of the old church. This change has been wrought in three years under the pastorate of Rev. Corrothers. This splendid church bears the name of the lamented race-leader and champion of human rights, the late Hon. Frederick Douglass. Every one who sees the building and who knew the great man in whose honor it was named, will say that this is a fitting monument to a noble man.

The structure is but part of the achievements of Rev. Corrothers. The membership which has always had some of the best people of Western New York in its make-up, was small, and laboring under many disadvantages. The original Zion church across on another corner, used by another denomination, was seemingly more prosperous, and the death of Dr. J. P. Thompson so soon after taking charge and other hindrances dating back nearly a quarter of a century or more, made the work a task of no small proportions. With these difficulties confronting him, Elder Corrothers went there as Bishop Walters' appointee and took up the work.

That small membership has been more than trebled, while the church has become one of the most potent spiritual factors of the city. Hundreds of persons have found this edifice to be none other than the house of God, the gate of heaven to their souls. These have not been confined to people of Negro extraction, nor to persons regarded as common people. Every phase and department of the church and its work have gone forward along the most healthy and substantial lines of progress.

Elder Corrothers has also organized a promising little society at Horseheads where he has a small membership and flourishing Sunday-school. You ask how was this done? Did the pastor do it all? I answer the latter question in the negative. But to the former I would say that a strong young leader who had faith in his God, faith in his people, and faith in himself was the master force which planned and largely executed the work which brought forth the grand achievements I have narrated. I have known Elder Corrothers from his boyhood. I remember his first effort to join the South Carolina Conference and his failure; and how he was encouraged by another young man and told not to give up, but to study, pray and work and come again. He heeded the advice given and went to the next Conference with two flourishing small societies, one of which was organized during the year, and would have grown into a strong church second to none in the State but for the failure of some one to recognize the young man's worth and grasp the golden opportunity.

Elder Corrothers is a man of limited educational acquirements, so far as the school and early training go; but he is a man of broad information obtained from hard study, extensive reading and constant association with men of culture and piety. He is deeply spiritual and intensely earnest. The Bible is his chief text book and *vade mecum*. When he takes charge of a church, he feels that he sustains a certain relation to the entire community, colored and white, and he labors in a way that all who come in contact with his work are made to enter into sympathy in a greater or less degree with his plans. This has been demonstrated South as well as North. He believes in live, practical and consistent methods of church work in harmony with the teachings and precepts of the Bible and old time Methodist customs. He discards anything bordering on the frivolous or worldly in Christian work, and tells his people that God is able, and will carry on His work to a glorious and triumphant success, even with a few, who adopt proper plans and stick to purely Christian methods. He opposes extravagance among his people on all lines, preaches against all frivolities, useless excursions, laxity in morals and Sabbath observance; but urges the people to be thrifty, economical, secure property, lay up something in the way of a bank account and educate their children to the fullest extent of their ability and opportunity. He gives the precept along these lines and sets the example.

If called upon to epitomize my opinion as to the causes which make Elder Corrothers a successful pastor and a strong religious factor in any community where he labors, I would give the following: (1) A man who is sound in his religious convictions and unwavering in his faith in the God of the Bible. (2) A man of high moral character, intense earnestness and a firm believer in the practice and efficacy of prayer. (3) A man who believes that the Church and the Christian religion are the most potent forces in the world, and that all victories for good and God must be fought and won along the

lines which these represent. (4) A man of great faith in himself as a man and servant of God, believing that he has a mission for and under God and cannot fail as long as God is with him. (5) A man while opposed to extravagance in any form, yet believes that Christians should be models in all that is tidy in person and comely in apparel both at home and abroad. He fully illustrates this in his own life and example. (6) A man of great courage, and one who hesitates not to present what he believes to a righteous and just claim to every man whom he believes to be able to assist him in any way.

As a rule he generally succeeds in making substantial friends among those who are best able to give him material aid; and he generally proves that such aid is wisely bestowed. Through his efforts Zion Church and the Negro citizenship of Elmira, N. Y., now have a standing never before enjoyed. He is a power on his knees and a preacher of force and effectiveness, whose sermons are always spiritual and practical. His home is a model one with an amiable wife and three children that make the home circle a place where not only the father, but all good people may find the lines falling upon them in a pleasant and congenial place.

IN ITHACA.

During the visit to Elmira, I spent two weeks at Ithaca, the guest of Rev. W. A. Fitch and estimable wife. It was a pleasure to meet our Educational Secretary and his admirable wife, each of whom contributed much to the happiness of my stay. Elder Fitch, the pastor of Zion's forces in the cultured city of Ithaca where Zion has a beautiful and strong church, is the right man in the proper place. He is one of our most promising young men, a preacher of much power, and a faithful pastor who always succeeds and builds. Dr. Wheeler is at the work for which he is especially fitted in the presiding eldership. Mr. and Mrs. Coleman and others were among those who placed me under special obligations to them while at Ithaca.

Charlotte, N. C.

POINTS OF INTEREST.

BY MACK C. ALEXANDER.

We as Methodists are very strong in this section. Zion's flag is floating as no other flag could do as long as a Zionite can keep his balance. We are striving to lift our race in every way possible, and have to stop occasionally in our onward march of success and dismiss some of our number of the household of faith because they are so prone to evil.

Remember that a stranger can do no harm to a man who is at home. O, that some people would learn to let other people's affairs alone, and not meddle what does not meddle them. They would be happier and wiser.

Van Wyck, S. C.

Rev. N. E. George, Georgiana, Ala., says it seems as if the white people will never stop lynching Negroes; that a colored man was lynched near him September 24th. Rev. George must not be discouraged, for lynch law will be put down some day even if the Negro has to put it down.

SILVER WEDDING.

MANY FRIENDS CONGRATULATE BISHOP AND MRS. SMALL.

Among the prominent social events in this city this season was that tendered Bishop and Mrs. J. B. Small last evening at their residence, No. 256 East King Street, in honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of their married life. The spacious parlor on the first floor, which for the occasion was converted into a reception hall, was elaborately and artistically decorated with a profusion of stately palms and rare potted plants. The guests comprised a large number of Bishop and Mrs. Small's friends, resident in this city, with a goodly sprinkling from abroad. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of York, of which Mrs. Small is an honored, consistent and zealous member, attended in a body. The vocal and instrumental numbers of the programme were among the pleasing features of the evening. Refreshments were served under the supervision of that prince of caterers, J. G. M. Brown. Bishop and Mrs. Small were the recipients of a large number of rare and costly silver souvenirs, tokens of the high esteem in which they are held in the community in which they have for a number of years resided.

The anniversary programme opened with a wedding march, by Miss Stella Tann, followed by prayer by Rev. Dr. Hubert pastor of Bethel A. M. E. church, after which Rev. W. H. Marshall, of Harrisburg, read an original poem dedicated to Bishop and Mrs. Small.

The topic "Bishop Small as a pastor and preacher" was discussed by Rev. Clinton D. Hazel, of Paterson, New Jersey. He spoke of the qualifications, duties and high responsibilities of the successful pastor and preacher. A good pastor, said he, is a man of deep piety, for piety is the life and soul of pastoral fidelity. Again he should be a man of good nature and acquired ability and possessed of a judgment sound and reliable. All these traits and others not here enumerated are embodied in Bishop J. B. Small. As a pastor his piety cannot be questioned. His natural and acquired ability; his early education; his years of experience and natural judgment; his council to those who come under his supervision; his prudence in dealing with perplexing problems and the courage he demonstrated during the thirty years of his Christian ministry, place him in the front rank of successful pastors. These qualifications so well known in the Church gave him recognition and to its credit elevated him to the position of its chief pastor.

The next topic, "Bishop Small as a husband and lover of home," by Rev. P. J. McEntosh, D. D., pastor of A. M. E. Zion church, was a most happy resume of Bishop Small's noble Christian character as exemplified in his every day home life.

Miss Ella J. Robinson responded to the topic "Rev. Mary J. Small as a youth and young woman," giving in detail the successive steps that led to her conversion and subsequent worth to the church and the world at large.

Bishop Small in closing spoke of the past twenty-five years as being the brightest in all his life; and

how in truth Mrs. Small had been to him a wife and helpmeet, contributing in no small measure to his success in life. Bishop Small has won the name of a Christian gentleman, is a brilliant penman, an accomplished poet, and reads several languages.

Bishop and Mrs. Small leave on Friday evening for Mobile, Alabama, where the anniversary inaugurated last night will be concluded on the evening of November 2nd, in State Street A. M. E. Zion church. They will be accompanied by their daughter, Miss Julia L. Small.—*York (Pa.) Daily*.

PROUD OF HIM.

BY MEMBER.

Presiding Elder S. C. Birchmore held the first quarterly conference for this year here July 26th, and was much pleased with the many improvements which had taken place since the new pastor Rev. J. H. Young had been with us. The church is greatly pleased with him. He is already popular with colored and white here. We are pleased with his excellent wife.

At the quarterly conference the treasurer reported received from all sources the first quarter \$58.00. A C. E. society has been organized, and we have a new choir of nine voices with Mr. Elijah Austin as chorister. It is already a great attraction to the church.

Bishop Hood and wife made us a brief visit not long ago, and we all enjoyed them with us.

The church has received a new coat of paint since Elder Young has been with us; in fact, he solicited the money for paint and put it on himself with very little help from any one. He also built a nice kitchen, a room which we needed very much. In the twelve years that the church has stood here we never before had such a pastor to do such work. If this is not a successful year with us it will not be his fault.

Great Barrington, Mass.

WHAT JESUS IS ABLE TO DO.

BY REV. T. H. SCOTT.

Able even to subdue all things unto Himself. Phil 3:21.

Able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. II Cor. 9:8.

Able to keep you from falling, and to present your faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. Jude 1:24.

Able to succor (relieve effectually) them that are tempted. Heb. 2:18.

Able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him. Heb. 7:25.

Able also to perform what he has promised. Rom. 4:21.

Able to make him stand. Rom. 14:4.

Able to keep that which I have committed unto Him. II Tim. 1:12.

Able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. Acts 20:32.

Able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. Eph. 3:20.

Believe ye that I am able to do this. Matt. 9:28.
Middletown, Pa.