

Virginia Conference.

The thirty-third session of the Virginia annual Conference was held in Edenton this week Bishop A. Walters, D. D., presiding. The Conference is composed of some of the best brain of the race, prominent among whom is the talented and able divine, Dr. George Lincoln Blackwell, of Charlotte, Manager of the Sunday-school Publishing House. The people of Edenton that visited Kedesh church this week have been ably entertained by the ministers, beginning with the magnificent sermon preached by Bishop Walters on Monday night.

In response to previous announcements a large audience gathered at Kedesh church to hear the Thanksgiving sermon preached by Rev. J. W. Wood, of Berkley, Va.

His sermon, which was a masterpiece of power evinced by manhood, held the audience spellbound, many of whom said in their hearts, what manner of man is this.

Among the many things he said in his prefatory remarks he said: "I am a man who likes to hear a lot of noise, and, in fact, I can make a lot of noise myself." This he did not conceal, for ere he had gone far in his discourse, the audience found him to be a man of force and power, each word of which went straight to its home. His text was selected from the 107th Psalm: "Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for his mercy endureth forever," etc., taking for his text "Thanksgiving." After giving the origin of Thanksgiving Day, he spoke of the many things for which we should give thanks—for the blessings of liberty and the sure success of the peace treaty of the Spanish-American war. Bearing immediately upon the impositions of the Negro in the South he said: "In North Carolina, South Carolina, Illinois and throughout the South the Negroes cry vengeance, vengeance, vengeance! But God, who fought our battles in the past, will have His revenge. Stand together like men for God and the right, protect your wives and homes and sustain the virtue of your daughters."

He thanked God for Zion and her noble men—for a Bishop Walters, a Blackwell and a Smith. And ironically speaking, he said: "The reason why the STAR OF ZION shines out like bright new metal is because it has a Black-Smith as editor.—Edenton (N. C.) Eastern Herald.

From Over the Sea.

Dear Brother Smith: I write to say a few things to you that I should like to have you publish under my name. First, I want to congratulate you for your true manly words to the white people against the miserable way they are using our race in America after all we have done to show our loyalty to the nation. Your issue of October 27th has the proper ring in it. The nation will never permanently prosper until it does what it knows is right, man to man.

If the whites were so afraid of the Negro why is it that they went away to fight the North and left their women and children and all that they had in charge of the Negroes? While the North was

stronger than they, and in that condition marched through the South to drive back that host that were striving to forge stronger chains for us; in all the two years and six months service in the dark days of the bloody campaign in Louisiana, Mississippi and Georgia, I never heard tell of any of their women or homes being disturbed. Now, to raise the issue, to gain Democratic success, they shout the false alarm of "Nigger Domination." They will never succeed nor be truly prosperous until they maintain law and order, and stand on the royal platform laid down by the leader of all men, "Doing unto others as they would others would do unto them."

Stand by your guns, Brother Smith; shoot straight, and hit a bull's eye every time with this grand old STAR OF ZION. If you continue to be as true in the future as you have in the past, you will lead many by the light of Zion's STAR to look up with gratefulness and gratitude to the bright and morning star with eternal hope.

I am having it rather rough here because I am out and out against drink, and that has got a wonderful hold here. The Wesleyan Church here is strongly identified with the drink traffic. I sent back some money to a spirit merchant, who is a member of the Wesleyan Church, superintendent of the Sunday-school and honorary member of the Band of Hope, and for my stand against that in this country I have been branded by many of its Wesleyan ministers, and dates have been cancelled, and they have done what they could to defeat my success; but thank God, I have triumphed over the wrong, and in one revival in Blackburn, added to the church 162 souls in five days, and in Ireland I have added 97 souls. I thought you would like to hear this. May God bless you and your companion in all your work for the uplifting of the long-oppressed race.

I am, your co-worker for the right,
J. H. HECTOR.

P. S.—I wish you would enclose me a dozen of your songs—"The City of My Dreams"—and I want to get a copy of sermons that you advertised some time ago by some preacher of our race. You will know what it is. If you will send it here to this address I will get it before the holiday time. I am anxious to have it, as my wife and boy are with me here, and we would learn to sing it in our revival services. Please be prompt in this and I will be very grateful to you.
J. H. H.

Died.

Rev. Albert Whitman, one of the pioneer ministers in Zion, and for fifty years a member of State-street church, at the ripe age of 84, passed away Wednesday afternoon. He was a native of this State and one of the old landmarks of the city, well known and respected by all who knew him. He was the father of Mrs. M. D. Nicholas from whose residence the remains were carried to State-street church, where Elders Tobin, Strong and C. H. Smith spoke of the life and character of the deceased, paying a splendid tribute to him as a Christian worker. The interment took place in the family lot in Magnolia cemetery. Much credit is due Messrs. Chas. and U. D. Nicholas for the handsome funeral outfit.—*Mobile (Ala.) Weekly Press.*

V. C. E. Talks At Random.

BY PRESIDENT J. B. COLBERT.

Pastors, have you organized V. C. E. Societies in your churches? If not, why not?

Some of our V. C. E.'s observed Anniversary Day, lifted a collection for the V. C. E. Union, but have not reported up to the present. Some people should be more punctual, reliable and honest.

Let all of our V. C. E.'s send in their orders for topic cards for 1899, so as to avoid the usual rush which we have at the commencement of the year.

Suppose we have an extra session of the Board of Bishops and General Officers at Washington, during the Afro-American Convention. There will be reduced railroad rates on all roads leading into Washington, and the leaders of Zion will be there of course. Let the proper authorities call an extra session of the Board. There are some matters of great importance that could be transacted.

Rev. J. B. Colbert, president of the Varick Christian Endeavor Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, has been "on the wing" among the Endeavorers, about whom he says many good things for the *Varick Endeavorer* for September.—*C. E. World.*

"Some Refreshing Songs," is the book for the people, and they are evidencing it by the large number which is being sold. Send 15 cts in stamps for sample copy. Words and music, 15 cents, each; 12½ cents each for 12 or more. We would be glad to supply every Sunday-school and V. C. E. in the Connection.

Our Church should send some one to Cuba and spy out land and report at once. We are entirely too slow any way. Come, brethren, let us get a move on ourselves.

We are sending out a large number of our one-cent-a-week pledge-book to such persons who have been recommended by their pastors, to collect not less than one cent a week from every member and friend of the A. M. E. Zion Church, for missions. Let all of the pastors aid in this matter.

If all of our pastors would organize V. C. E. Societies and have them chartered, we could report 75,000 Varick Christian Endeavorers now; but for a lack of interest along this line, we can only report 15,000.

Send to 111 6th St., N. W., Washington, D. C., for anything you want in the line of Mission and V. C. E. literature. Don't forget; clip this out and place it in some conspicuous place for future reference. Address Rev. J. B. Colbert, 1114 6th St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

A strong, Christian character is the eternal granite foundation of all true happiness; therefore strive to obtain character rather than wealth or popularity.

Prof. Patterson, (white) principal of the State Normal School, Montgomery, Ala., favors us with a subscription to the *Varick Christian Endeavorer*.

When the ministry becomes better informed upon the general interests of the Church, they will find that they can more readily interest the people.

Development of the general departments should be the shibbo-

leth of the Church for the next six years.

The greatest need of the A. M. E. Zion Church is not more bishops, nay, verily; but more men and means. Oh! that somebody could be convinced of this self-evident truth.

There is nothing the matter with the rank and file of the membership of our Church. They are ready and willing to work; all is wanted is for some one to wisely direct them. Our greatest need as a Connection is wise leadership.

The greatest need of the A. M. E. Zion Church is, "men and means." God help us to get these and we will do our part in taking the world for "Christ and the Church."

If we had about \$2,000 in our missionary treasury we could keep such points as Charleston, Atlanta, Nashville, New Orleans, Richmond and other minor points. Zion Church, wake up! lift up your eyes! The field is white for the harvest.

A Few Notes.

BY MRS. C. E. SCOTT.

On last Sabbath services were held as usual at the A. M. E. Zion church. Preaching in the morning by the pastor, Rev. W. H. Newby. In the evening he preached logically and effectively to the J. H. Ferrell Lodge of Yonkers, from 1 Kings 5:5.

The Sunday-school, under the judicious management of Mrs. Carrie Tolbert, superintendent, is well attended each Sunday and great preparations are being made for their usual Christmas exercises.

On last Thursday evening an Old Folks' Concert was given at the church by the Mite Society. Mrs. S. Jackson, who was president, and Mr. M. Overton, manager of the concert, deserve great credit, for it was greatly enjoyed by both white and colored. Proceeds amounting to \$25 were presented to the trustees.

We are sorry to relate that Rev. Bowen, of Troy, N. Y., and also his wife, are quite ill in our city, at the residence of Rev. E. Johnson. Rev. Bowen came to Yonkers for the purpose of regaining his health, but so far he has not been greatly benefited. The doctors pronounce him having consumption. He and wife, if able, desire to return to their home in Troy this week. We ask the brother ministers, friends and well-wishers of Rev. Bowen to pray for his recovery, that he may yet be spared to do greater work than ever for the Lord.
Yonkers, N. Y.

Two Able Men.

BY REV. L. G. HEMPHILL, P. E.

Dr. G. L. Blackwell and Rev. J. B. Colbert were with us in the South Georgia Conference which met in Athens November 9th, and preached powerful sermons. Both are strong men of great ability. Zion is safe in their hands. They made themselves at home in the Conference. If all of Zion's General Officers are as kind as these two men then Zion has a grand crew of officers. The boys were glad to see them. Come again, doctors.
Athens, Ga.

Cannon Ball

FLUNG AT BISHOP H. M. TURNER BECAUSE OF HIS RECENT TALK.

BY REV. S. A. CHAMBERS.

Bishop H. M. Turner says, "I see no future in this country for the Negro, and the man who is not able to discover that fact from existing conditions must be void of common sense."

The Bishop forgets that the trouble with the Negro is, he is trying to do things and obtain heights by long leaps in thirty years which have required other races with superior advantages to do and obtain. It takes more than thirty years of culture and development to prepare a race of people debauched by 246 years of slavery, for the enjoyment of every right of citizenship. The race has been and is being badly led.

The plain truth of the whole matter is the Negro is trying to "cross the bridge before he gets to it." He is asking and demanding things which he is not, by half, prepared to receive. There is a future for him but he must prepare himself for that future. The Negro has been fooled and flattered by visionary leaders as to his possibilities, capabilities and achievements till he has well-nigh made a fool of himself, and is, in a large measure, reaping what he has sown.

The white man, drawing on the stock of intelligence of England and Great Britain, has been 406 years reaching his present heights, and it is folly of the grossest kind for Bishop Turner to argue that "there is no future for the Negro in this country," simply because he can't get everything in the narrow limit of three decades. If he means that "there is no future for the Negro in this country" as a ruling factor, he is about right; for neither he nor his children's children will ever live to see the Negro rule this country.

Every race has passed through its ordeal, and the American Negro need not despair. If he can obtain in the next 150 years what he wants now, he will do well and may congratulate himself. Everything has a future but God; and if God is a Negro, as Bishop Turner says, he has one.

Bishop Turner wants the Negro to migrate to Africa. Why does not the Bishop go and stay? No; with less vexation on the part of the Negro, and less envy on the part of the white man, we can work it out on this side of the Atlantic. If the associate press story of George Anderson and E. W. Burnett, colored, who have just returned from Africa, having been persuaded to go there by Bishop Turner, is worth anything, it will be seen that Africa is not our place. They tell of the horrible suffering of those who have gone there, because native labor has a monopoly, and foreigners have no means whatever to make a livelihood.

Senator Jarvis, of North Carolina, said in the Governors' Convention which met in Florida three or four years ago, when the Negro question was being discussed: "The Negro is here, and here to stay. He couldn't go if he would, and wouldn't go if he could. So the best thing to do is to help educate him and make the best possible citizen out of him." His views have not as yet been wisely improved upon. Mr. Jarvis said it all.

I will shell Bishop W. J. Gaines in my next.

Rock Hill, S. C.