

The Star of Zion.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22ND, 1898.

Editorial.

We wish you a merry Christmas.

If you fail to get the STAR, write for it.

Two prize Christmas conundrums: "What shall I get?" and "What shall I give?"

SANTA CLAUS prefers the old-fashioned wide-mouthed chimneys. He finds them so much easier to get at the stockings.

"Christ is born, the great Anointed; Heaven and earth His praises sing; O receive whom God appointed, For your Prophet, Priest and King."

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins."—Matt 1:21.

Have you accepted God's "unspeakable gift?" If not, the Christmas festivities will be meaningless to you? Why not accept Him now?

PROF. AND WM. A. WALKER of Union, S. C., celebrated the fifth anniversary of their wedding Wednesday, evening December 21st. It was a grand affair.

ACCORDING to a long custom, the printers will spend Christmas week having a high old time, and, of course, the Manager will not issue the STAR before New Year week.

That will be a great gathering of representative Negroes at the National Afro-American Convention in Washington, D. C., the 29th inst. Read Bishop Walters' powerful letter.

GREENEVILLE COLLEGE in Greenville, Tenn., has secured a charter from the Legislature and will soon make application for State aid. She is prospering, having 105 students enrolled.

THE Editor did not return in time from the W. N. C. Conference to look over and publish this week several important articles which came during his absence. Look for them and Bishop Small's address in the next issue.

REV. A. B. SMYER writes from Pine Bluff, Ark., that a team ran away there last week and nearly killed Bishop Jehu Holliday. He is getting gradually better. God be praised for his miraculous escape from death. He is a great and noble sire of Zion. Let all pray for his recovery.

The Star of Zion shines more brilliantly in each issue. Its brilliancy never wanes; and it is our desire to tread the floors of the Publishing House from which shines this mighty luminary.—Bristol (Tenn.) Ship.

Neighbor, you will receive a cordial welcome when your feet strike our floors.

EDITOR ROBERT B. RUSSELL has ceased to publish the Maxton (N. C.) Blade and will move to Raleigh and will publish the paper next month under the name of the Raleigh Blade. Brother Russell is one of the ablest and most conservative Negro editors in the country. Success to him.

It is well known that the great aim and object of the preaching of the gospel is to save men. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation. For this reason it is to be preached to every creature. The work of the Church is to carry this gospel to heathen lands, and to enlighten and convert the people.

All moneys coming into the V. C. E. hereafter from whatever source, either from sale of literature or by donations, will be used exclusively for missions in the A. M. E. Zion Church.—Varick Endeavourer.

"All moneys," did you say, will be "used exclusively" for missions? Brother, how will you live? From what source will you get your salary? You can't live on wind.

BISHOP G. W. CLINTON and Rev. J. F. Moreland, of St. Louis, attended the recent North Arkansas Conference, presided over by Bishop Holliday, and were royally received. Their sermons and speeches made great impressions upon the Conference. It was certainly cheering to our brethren in the southwest to look for the first time upon another one of our great bishops. We hope others of them will visit and encourage Bishop Holliday's Conferences.

AS REV. J. B. COLBERT is the Missionary Secretary, he will doubtless read Rev. W. H. Snowden's communication with considerable interest. Brother Snowden says there are plenty of unheard-of men in Zion who can make a success of any of these departments. Brother Snowden is right. If any General Officer cannot make some kind of a success of his department in four years he is a failure, pure and simple; and the General Conference should have the backbone to let him down gracefully and elect another to fill his place.

THE N. C. Conference of the M. E. Church, South, in its session last week in Elizabeth City, N. C., adopted a resolution requesting more preaching during the Conference sessions; that a sermon be preached every night of the Conference. This is in accordance with what we said editorially three weeks ago. The people want to hear the different preachers. Give them preaching, and let these young school-boy preachers who are trying to turn the night sessions of Conferences into concerts, literary lyceums and debating clubs have the afternoons to show the people how much they know.

Good News.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their

flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone around about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men."—Luke 2:8-14.

The Value of Civility.

We must all be willing to acknowledge the worth of civility when we daily see how a disregard of it has severed friendships tender and true, broken domestic felicity, and caused cruel estrangements in every relation of life that time itself refuses to heal.

It costs us nothing to be courteous, and since it is so rich a virtue, and so necessary in our daily intercourse with others, would it not be well to cultivate it more fully and exercise it more generally? The neglect of civility is hurtful, and the want of a delicate and instinctive appreciation of the rights and feelings of others has occasioned disruptions in homes and communities that have engendered the bitterest and most lasting feuds.

We should make it an unailing rule never to say anything that will wound the delicate sensibilities of others—never find fault unless compelled to do so, for although many persons profess to be invulnerable on certain points, and desirous of courting criticism, yet it would be well to remember that it should be administered most carefully so as to not provoke ill-feeling. A truly wellbred and polite person will always endeavor to interpret charitably the acts and feelings of others and will more frequently err in a too lenient judgment than in its opposite of harshness and severity.

A Worthy Minister Gone.

The following postal card written from Yonkers, N. Y., by the Rev. William B. Bowens, dated December 14th, came the next day to the STAR:

"Dear Editor: I have not had the pleasure of reading the STAR OF ZION for five weeks. Send it to me here where I am under medical aid."

Just a few moments before the card arrived the following startling telegram from Rev. W. H. Newby, of the same city, was received at our office:

"Editor of the STAR: Rev. W. B. Bowens died last night in this city. Funeral Sunday."

Truly this proves that "there is but a step between me and death." Rev. Bowens, who suffered with hasty consumption, was buried last Sabbath afternoon. He was the efficient pastor of our church at Troy, N. Y. He was born at Newbern, N. C., March 12, 1853, and went North during the war. He was converted December 19, 1867, and joined Zion, and was licensed to preach August 11, 1875, and joined the New England Conference June 16, 1879. His labors at Waterbury, New Bedford, Cambridge, First church, Providence, Derby and at Troy, unwearied and self-sacrificing,

were crowned with great and glorious success. He was a fine man and a good doctrinal preacher. Zion has lost one of her best workers. Heaven has gained a faithful minister. *Requiescat in pace.*

Keep Your Mouths Clean.

Bishop B. T. Tanner, of the A. M. E. Bethel Church, in his Conference which met a few days ago at Lexington, Ky., denounced the use of cigars and tobacco by ministers, and closed by saying "You shall not take God's money and burn it up in cigars and tobacco as long as I am your bishop."

All denominations are now a unit against receiving into the ministry men who use tobacco. It is a filthy habit. People's mouths as well as their hearts should be clean. "Cleanliness is next to godliness." Our ministers should give up the use of tobacco and take the money and buy theological books and other literature, and homes for themselves and families.

Our bishops have long since decided that no man who chews tobacco and smokes cigars shall join our itinerancy. Our presiding elders should also refuse to give such men exhorters and local preacher's licenses. Of course several candidates for the ministry who stood before the altar in conference and solemnly promised the Bishop to quit using tobacco are still using it. They lied to get in and should be called to an account for lying and deception. Men who at the beginning of their ministry will deceive their bishops and beat their way in this manner into the conferences are too slippery to be entrusted with churches. "Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord." Isa 52: 11.

Christmas Reminiscence.

Hail, all hail! to thee, rosy, joyous, holy old Yuletide. Nearly nineteen centuries ago you first came to us, bringing the richest, rarest gift that God ever gave to mankind, and each successive twelve month we have heard your welcome tread upon the threshold of our homes and hearts as absent ones and sweet souvenirs and tokens of love and good-will have gladdened our lives.

Yes, here comes Christmas, bringing back many boys and girls who years ago strayed away hundreds of miles from the fold. The door-bell rings, and mother and father, sisters and brothers, auntie, cousins and friends make merry over the return of the wanderers, and the Christmas carol rings out cheerily in the old-fashioned parlor where the ponderous oak logs crackle and hiss as long fiery tongues leap up the broad chimney to clutch old Santa Claus should he attempt another descent.

Ah! We are dreaming. We are talking of the old by-gone when mother and sister busied themselves over tray and pastry-board, and the old gobbler felled from the porch, and the jelly bag was noisy with its amber drippings, and the hog was killed and cleaned, and the great fruit-cake towered like a snow mound above the tempting plum and cranberry tarts. This picture is quite familiar to hundreds of the STAR readers in whose hair are now silver

threads, and whose eyes years ago vied with the raven's wings are dim now from vigils and tears; for Yuletide or Christmas seasons are full of bitter memories and fragmentary echoes of happy song and thrilling nursery tales. But we will not chill your mirth by telling what the years may be laying up for the readers. We wish you all a merry Christmas!

Successful Pastors.

It is a great thing to be a minister for the Lord Jesus Christ. The minister's great work is to win and save souls. To this end he is to employ every legitimate means. He is to study the word daily so as to preach the word intelligently and faithfully.

He is to admonish, entreat, persuade. He is to work in public, in the house of worship, on the street, and from house to house. He is to work in the "great congregation," in the social circle and heart to heart with individuals in the privacy of their closet. He must do these things if he would be successful. This shows he must be a pastor as well as a preacher.

Whatever else he does is by way of preparation and equipment for this one work. We are therefore not underrating intellect, culture and study. These elements of a fully furnished minister mean much. Without them the minister's best efforts may prove very ineffective. His efficiency depends upon other things than zeal and diligence. But it is nevertheless true that a man must be an earnest, zealous, energetic pastor if he would achieve the full measure of success.

Men who have been endowed with vigorous intellects, who have been characterized with remarkable erudition and exemplary piety, who have been diligent students and eloquent preachers, have also been "splendid failures" as soul-winners and soul-savers. Others less noted for scholarship and eloquence, but who proved to be most diligent pastors, have made their ministry a grand success. They have gathered large congregations, have reaped magnificent harvests of souls, and have led men onward to the higher planes of Christian life.

Men are influenced in relation to their souls by many things of a very simple and natural character. It is often not enough that the truth be preached to them and preached by a minister who is a scholar and an orator. The avenues to the heart may be closed against learning and eloquence. Men's ears must be opened. If they refuse to hear a minister, what good can he do them? Men cannot be forced into heaven, nor to Christ. They must be drawn. "I will draw all men unto me." But this is done by influence natural and human. A minister can do almost nothing with men whose love and confidence he fails to command. He must get a personal hold upon their affections. He must get into loving personal contact with his people. Thus alone can a pastor reach and win those under his ministrations.

Rev. Dr. Love, of the Zion church, is attending his Church Conference at Washington. His people sent him off looking fine enough to preside over it. He will be the best dressed man in the Conference, and St. Peter's church hopes for his speedy return.—Kinston (N. C.) Searchlight.