

The Star of Zion.

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MUTTERINGS OF 1900.

Lightning Flashing And Striking Here And There.

BY REV. A. J. WARNER, D. D.

As the General Conference approaches, the Church becomes more and more interested about what will be the outcome of the legislation that will be enacted by that body; and well we may be, for there is a great deal more depending on the action of the next General Conference than a careless observer may suppose.

There are the great departments of the Church which must be placed upon solid basis. Our Church extension department needs our earnest consideration, and should be firmly established. The law governing it should be so clearly defined, that no chance will be left for arbitrary ruling by the Bishops to cripple the work of the Secretary, whoever he may be. For so long as the Secretary is to be met at each annual Conference with as many different rulings as there are Bishops in the Connection, just so long will the department be a farce and a failure.

Had the last General Conference placed this department upon proper basis, and the Secretary been supported in his efforts to foster and build up the department, the Church would not have been in the dilemma that it is now concerning that church at Chicago, but would have had money to have gone there and bought it without all of this weeping and wailing. Your Secretary, too, when he was traveling, sounded the alarm about Chicago and Cleveland and at other places, but little attention was paid to him. Now as we look back two or three years we see the same gentlemen, who ignored our appeals, camping on the same ground that we camped on four years ago.

Once more I sound the alarm to Zion Connection, that if she fails to place this department upon a solid basis, and elect a Secretary, and pay him a living salary, and remove from around him the embarrassing rulings of the Bishops, and allow him to be the actual head of his department, making him accountable to the Bishops Meetings, and to the General Conference, for his action, you may just as well do away with the department altogether. And what I say of this department is equally true of the missionary department.

I favor the women having charge of the W. H. and F. Missionary department; but that department should be simply an "auxiliary" to the great Missionary Department which should be under the absolute control of the General Secretary of missions, which Secretary should be the head of all missionary work so far as the finance is concerned.

And, by the way, there has been considerable talk about what rec-

ognition should be given our women in the general departments of the Church. Well, about all of the missionary work of the Church has been done by them, for indeed had it not been for them, the first hundred years of our existence as a Church would have long passed without a missionary society of any kind. Now since the women have perpetuated this department of our great Church from time immemorial, and our Church knows no male nor female, why not elect a woman as General Missionary Secretary, giving her the same salary, and the same authority that you would a man under the same circumstances? I shall not name any lady this time. Suffice it to say we have abundant material from which to select. If I was going to select a man for the place, I should name Dr. F. R. White of the Blue Ridge Conference; but let us give the gallant Doctor something else, and let the women have the missionary department.

Now as to the question of bishops, let us now refer it to the General Conference, and prepare to abide by the judgment of the delegates composing that body, and the will of an over-ruling providence who has led our Church through so many battles. I have no fears, for the God who was with the fathers will not leave their children. It is a great honor to our Church and to close our eyes of the institutions thereof if there is any more bishops elected, but God reigns, and the Church is safe. If God and the Church want any more bishops, they will be elected, whether it suits men or not. God and the Church both know who their men are, and where they live, and though Moses be hid in the bull-rushes, when God wants him, He will find him. So let us all be cheerful, and fill well the places that we now have, and when the Lord needs us higher, He will call us; and when he calls, devils must fear and fly. The bishopric is not a thing to be handed around to satisfy the personal ambition of aspiring men, neither is it a thing to be given to favorites in pay for past services, or because he or they belong to this or that select circle, but it should be given to men who are believed to be best fitted to fill the office to the glory of God and the good of the Church, regardless of where he lives, or who he may be.

Brother delegates, let us go to General Conference prepared to uproot all secret and devilish schemes and diabolical plans that are being laid by a lot of "would-be dictators" who imagine that everybody in Zion must do as they say or be maligned or killed off, and let us who have built the churches, suffered and sacrificed, and are now doing the tangible work, get together, and do whatever may seem best for the Church of our choice.

Charlotte, N. C.

C. E. UNIONS NEEDED.

The Charlotte Union Scores Another Success.

ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE.



For grace, wit, taste and enthusiasm, the Charlotte C. E. Union scores a complete victory and marks another epoch in its history "for Christ and the Church." It would be difficult to surpass it in any way which suggests genuine Christian enthusiasm.

The program was uniquely arranged and appropriately executed. Bishop A. Walters, D. D., delivered the principal address, while Bishop G. W. Clinton, D. D., presided with that grace, ease and adaptability so characteristic of him. Each local society in the Union was largely represented. What Charlotte has done by way of bringing the young people together in a unanimity of effort in the furtherance of the blessed cause of Christ, other cities and towns may do.

Suppose you try it, dear Endeavorers? You can't estimate the great good that would be accomplished by bringing the young people of our respective churches in a body against sin and thus train and teach them that more effective service can be rendered for Christ and more powerful influence can be exerted against the powers of darkness were more of our efforts concentrated and aimed against the enemy of the Church, and less against each other as followers of the Lord Jesus. We can't afford to set an example for strife, bickering and contention. All such is absolutely unnecessary and detrimental to the advancement of the Church of Christ. We would suggest that where it is impracticable for both races to form a Union, let all who will come organize themselves together for mutual helpfulness and more aggressive work along spiritual and evangelistic lines. Such would be a great help to the several churches composing the Union. It is hoped that all of the pastors will take the lead in this matter, and give the young people every possible encouragement, for in these times of so many diversions and inducements to decoy and entrap the young, the Church cannot afford to remain idle and indifferent in this matter.

Organize a Christian Endeavor Union wherever there are three or more Christian Endeavor Societies.

SOCIAL TO SAVE.

Mrs. Mary Washington and her

excellent committee deserve special mention for the splendid arrangements to serve the large audience with refreshments after the exercises were over. All of local societies contributed something in the line of ice cream, cake and bananas. Everybody seemed cheerful and happy, and went away seemingly thankful that each had embraced another opportunity to enjoy a "feast of reason and a flow of soul" simply to await the repetition of an event, which meant so much to both soul and body. This was one of the evidences of the fact that there is a reality in the term "social to save." Go thou and do likewise.

On the eve of the nineteenth birthday of Christian Endeavor, a new Endeavor society was born in Portland, the Varick society of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion (colored) Church. This is a thriving society of some twenty-eight members, and the pastor is looking forward to much help from it. The pastor, Mr. Singleton, is untiring in his efforts to unite his people, and we expect a brilliant future from this baby society of Portland.

(MISS) A. L. HORRIS, Secretary of the Portland C. E. Union.

We rejoice to know that Rev. Brother Singleton has succeeded in organizing a Varick Christian Endeavor Society, at the place where the first Christian Endeavor Society of the world was born. Good.

WILL YOU BE REPRESENTED?

Dear Endeavorers: This comes to you to inform you that we are arranging to have a sample V. C. E. badge from every V. C. E. society in the Union on exhibition at the forthcoming General Conference which convenes in Washington, D. C., May next. Please send us one of your V. C. E. badges, so that your society may be represented. If you have no badges we will be pleased to make them for you. In order to have them ready by the time specified, you will act at once.

Our prices for making ribbon badges, are as follows: From 10 up to 25, 15 cts. each; 25 to 100, 10 cts. each. No order taken for less than ten. Please let us hear from you at once in regard to the matter. It is very necessary that your society be represented by a badge. Don't allow your society to get left.

Yours,

JESSE B. COLBERT,
Pres. V. C. E. Union,
Charlotte, N. C.

We would say to Mr. F. P. Paulk, of Union Springs, Ala., who says he is well pleased with the STAR, that we could not give space to the unscriptural remarks of the local preacher he speaks of. Tell him to subscribe for the STAR and get his pastor to buy him the necessary books.

Allow me to say that you, Mr. Editor, have given our Zion a bright STAR in the last four years. Your editorials have been versatile, thoughtful, spicy and interesting. No one has slept under them. I believe in giving "honor to whom honor is due."—Rev. J. C. Saunders, Luthers Store, Ala.

OUR LORD'S SERMON.

On the Mount Analyzed—Riches of Gospel Truths, in Them.

BY BISHOP C. R. HARRIS, D. D.

I must confess, my dear brethren and fellow preachers, that I have invited you to the analysis of the Sermon—not so much as a study in homiletics as to call your attention to the riches of gospel truth stored up in this remarkable discourse, and because I believe if more of our sermons were based on these blessed and living truths a greater harvest of spiritual and holy fruitage would result. The growth of the Church of to-day is chiefly in numbers and wealth.

A greater need is growth in holiness and love—a holiness not evidenced only by the lip, or manifested by unctuous ejaculations, but by a godly walk and conversation as well as sincere and suitable utterances of praise. No where in this Sermon is wealth or numbers reckoned as desirable or essential to a prosperous church, but every point is permeated with an imperative demand for holiness in heart and life, for humble, pure loving service to the Ruler of the Gospel Kingdom,—the service that is well deserved from a people redeemed and quickened into spiritual life and power by his own mighty Spirit.

Worldliness is sapping the life out of many churches. Ungodly aims and aspirations fostered in their methods of management. In our own Church organ we are painfully made to see by a series of articles how far the Methodist Churches of to-day differ from the holy self-denying societies of John Wesley one hundred and fifty years ago. Deny as we may the utility of the "General Rules" we dare not cavil at the authority of the Sermon on the Mount. And while the one is to be regarded mainly as hints to a godly life, the other is Christ's exposition of his own law for his own people.

How poor and feeble is the life of that church whose maintenance depends not upon the cheerful contribution of its members, but upon cake-walks, lottery chances in church fairs, and unwilling contributions begged from non-members. Hence we see churches incurring obligations which they cannot discharge and knowingly violating the rules of the Church.

Salisbury, N. C.

Bishop Hood of the A. M. E. Zion Church and Bishop Gaines of the A. M. E. Church have both recently published books, which are said to be of a very high literary standing.—Seattle (Wash) Republican.

Bishop Small informed the membership of State St. Church that Elder Tipton had been elected a General Officer of the Zion Connection, the position being Treasurer of the Sunday School Dept. The Board of Bishops know a good man and have done well in election. Tipton is alright.—M. (Ala) Weekly Press.