

The Star of Zion.

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EPISCOPAL VISITS.

On the Ninth District—Outlook for Zion Bright.

BY BISHOP J. W. ALSTORK, D. D.

Warren station, Ark., Rev. J. H. McMullen, pastor. He is a worthy and successful pastor and has the town in his own hands and is making good use of opportunities. He has completed the remodeling of his church on the inside, which is nicely papered and seated off. He has an organ and splendid choir. He is now preparing to rebuild the parsonage or repair the old one. The favor of the Lord is with him.

Rev. William Marshall has charge of Monticello station and is just the man for the place. I have not found any man on the district doing better than this young brother. He is loved by all and is building up Zion in this place in such a way that all denominations are wondering why this young man succeeds so much better than any other minister in the town? He is planning to build his church larger (as it will not hold his congregation) and is also planning to build a parsonage. He had the misfortune to lose his wife in July 29th. She died of consumption, was a devout Christian, and left two children. The Lord bless him and them.

I next visited the Louisiana Conference. Rev. W. M. Matthews has charge of Pettey's chapel station. He and people are getting along nicely. He is an intelligent young man and will do a great work in Zion if allowed a chance to prove himself. He is now rallying to raise money to relieve the church of some embarrassing debts. I hope that the late trouble in the city of New Orleans (where our church is situated) will not effect his plans though. I learned that he has gone from the city on account of said trouble and will not return until it subsides. I do not think that any harm would have come to him if he had stood his ground, as he had nothing to do with the matter. It was a matter between a desperate Negro and the police force of the city, and not race riots as some have said. It is true that many reckless and irresponsible persons undertook to avenge the blood of the dead officers by doing bodily harm to innocent Negroes and the white persons who were friendly to them, but the Mayor and Governor soon put a stop to it all. So I think that things will move on smoothly.

We have two missions in said city both of which are destined to be strong points. By searching the court records I found a lot properly deeded to Zion situated on Penn street. It is 30x140, and was purchased in 1868. A man has been appointed to it who will commence at once to get up a congregation at said point and build. We also own the property where the other mission point is.

Rev. J. W. Randolph has charge of Ponchatoula, La. He is much loved by his people, and is doing a grand work in that locality. The board of assessment for General Fund assessed him \$52, and he has raised \$62 and says that he intends to make it \$100. That is what Zion needs—more money to meet her demands. He is highly esteemed by white and colored in the city. The Lord prosper him and people.

Rev. S. M. Duncan has charge of the Mandiville mission. He has

bought one acre of land which is beautifully situated, and has ordered his lumber to put up a building 40x50x16, and has money enough to make a reasonable payment on the same. He has about 20 members. The people of the city, white and colored, are standing nobly by him. He being a business man, Zion may expect great things of him.

Rev. K. T. Thompson has charge of Amite City station. This charge has never been filled with more satisfaction than at present. The pastor is a fine preacher and a coming man in Zion. The ministers of the city all look to him as their leader and guide. He is a classic student of the Bible and is a governor of the people. I dropped in on him and people on short notice, and was never more surprised than when his people came forward and paid \$26.65 General Fund. I am very proud of this magnificent young man and his people. They tendered me a grand reception while with them, which would have done honor to the President. The Lord continue his favor upon them.

Rev. H. C. McNeal has charge of Bickham's chapel station. He is a grand man and successful pastor. He is doing a grand work at this place and is much loved by all. He has reported his spiritual success through the STAR recently. Zion can depend upon him as one of her safe sons. He promises to bring up every assessment. He is one of the strong members of the Ministers Union in Amite City. Success to him and people.

Ards chapel circuit, Rev. A. Washington, pastor. He is just the man for the circuit. He is carrying the people as by storm. He speaks good English and is a Holy Ghost preacher and carries the people with him. He has just closed a revival in which he was very successful. Grand man, he is. He had the misfortune to lose his wife by death. She left seven or eight children all of whom are very small; so he has quite a burden on hand and needs sympathy. Heaven smile upon him and children.

Big Zion station, Roseland, La. Rev. H. T. Henderson, pastor. He is doing well under the circumstances. He found this work somewhat divided, but he seems to be getting it in better shape. He and people did well on General Fund while I was with them. They raised \$9.30. He has a small membership. He has bought land and is building a two story parsonage and hopes to finish it by September. Grand and successful pastor.

At Amite City, La., we have a splendid school building 40x50x14 (which gives four good rooms) which was presented to the Connection for a High School, by Mrs. Eliza Lee, one of Zion's strong members and an intense lover of her church and people. She is one of the grandest women in the State. If we had men of push and tact, we could have had one of the finest schools in this part of the State. The white people were ready to help us in any way reasonable, but for the want of activity and business tact the work has been allowed to go neglected. I shall do what I can to organize and open up a good school in this building.

In September I shall visit the North Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma Conferences. I also hope to visit Porto-Rico in the Winter of this year.

(CONTINUED ON FIFTH PAGE.)

MRS. F. RANDOLPH.

A Woman Evangelist of the New Jersey Conference.

INTELLIGENT AND USEFUL.

We take delight in presenting to our readers the likeness and a short sketch of the eventful life of one of the most zealous and faithful members of the A. M. E. Zion Church—Mrs. Florence Randolph,



Mrs. Florence Randolph, Evangelist.

preacher and evangelist.

Mrs. Randolph was born in Charleston, S. C., and enjoyed the advantages of the public schools and of Avery Normal Institute of that city. She was converted at the age of 13 in the Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church, of Charleston, S. C., and three years later left Charleston, coming North, where she completed her trade. Joining the A. M. E. Zion church of Jersey City, N. J., during the pastorate of Rev. J. H. White, D. D., having married Mr. Hugh Randolph, a very estimable gentleman, they settled in a comfortable home on Fifth street, Jersey City, N. J.

Mrs. Randolph became especially interested in missionary and church work during the pastorate of Elder E. Geo. Biddle; though at that time she was conducting a successful dress-making business. She took a very active part as an exhorter and organizer, assisting the pastor in organizing holiness meetings, King's Daughters, etc.

In July, 1897, during the pastorate of Rev. J. C. Temple, she was granted local preacher's license, and greatly aided the pastor in his church work, often preaching to crowded houses. At one time Mrs. Randolph was left in charge of the church, and gave perfect satisfaction. On the recommendation of Bishop A. Walters, the New Jersey Conference has admitted Mrs. Randolph to membership and made her the Conference Evangelist, so that now she is an authorized preacher and evangelist, "with the world as her parish." She is a zealous temperance worker; at present

County Superintendent of the W. C. T. U. of Hudson Co., N. J., and has lectured acceptably in the leading colored and white churches. She is also a member of the Home for Destitute Women in Jersey City.

Mrs. Randolph is refined, graceful, handsome in form and features and commanding in pose. She is of unaffected and childlike piety, conscientious and exemplary in

her deportment and esteemed and respected by all who know her. A careful reader and study of the Scriptures daily make her a skillful and successful Bible preacher, and her preaching is in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. May God continue to bless her labors for Zion.

Dr. John F. Moreland of St. Louis, Mo., cleared \$817.10 from his big basket meeting August 12th.

Rev. W. A. M. Cypress, of Carlisle, Pa., left last Monday for a ten day's stay in Washington, and will return August 30 with his family.

Rev. J. B. Mobley, of Charlotte, who is a wonderful revivalist singer, leaves to-day to assist Rev. W. M. Massey in a basket camp meeting at Dogged Grove above Henrietta, N. C., number 1. It will run two weeks.

Rev. A. McNeill, of Winnsboro, S. C. opened a big camp meeting yesterday at Camp Welfare and has 300 tents on the ground. The outlook for a big meeting is bright. His work—Gladden Grove circuit—is prosperous.

Two More Grand Men.

BY BISHOP J. W. ALSTORK.

At Parkdale, Ark., I found Rev. E. M. Martin in charge of the Parkdale circuit. He is much loved by his people and seems to be doing fairly well and promises to bring up a good report.

Rev. H. C. Jones has Gum Ridge circuit. The high water had kept him from his work for several weeks before he visited his work. He was not with the Presiding Elder and I while on his work. I found his people grumbling about his absence. I hope he has reached there by this time.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

North Carolina has Blundered—Excursions.

BY REV. W. H. DAVENPORT, A. M.

The old North State has blundered. Any State blunders that proscribes against and restricts the liberties of its people. The State of our birth and training has forgotten its Mecklenburg Declaration, and has imposed an unnecessary humiliation upon a large number of its most useful citizens—useful to the State upon the farm and upon the wharfs, in the mills and the mines, "on excursions and in camp-meetings."

We were called to South Carolina a few days before the recent election in North Carolina, and despite the heaviness which bowed is down, we became deeply interested in the outcome of the elections. We were not surprised at the results; but we were surprised to find in the columns of the Charlotte (N. C.) *Observer*, a strong Democratic paper, a pungent criticism upon the extravagance of the colored excursion and a cynical reference to the repentance of these people in the Winter when they would be exhorted against extravagance. On the very day that the ballot was being wrung from the Negro in North Carolina, the Negroes from around Chester, S. C., ran an excursion into Charlotte, and it was reported that there was a great sale of melons that day. A few days thereafter a large excursion was run from Charlotte to Salisbury. The *Observer* declared that 150 of these people got left in Salisbury. It is to be presumed that a lot of the money they will need next Winter got left in the same town. One thing is certain that the money that they squandered on these excursions would go a long way in helping to make them competent to vote under the new law.

Another thing is certain: that we will continue to run these excursions until a fresh crop of fool-killers is raised. Our enemies gave us the jim crow car. The separate car system is a living venture for the railroads and they rought it. The Negroes proceeded to assure the railroads that they would digest the jim crow car system and make up for the deficit in Summer excursion. They have kept their word.

Their enemies subsequently agreed that the repudiation of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and the disfranchisement of black illiterate simply would be a good thing. The Negroes didn't take to this proposition very kindly, but they found consolation in the knowledge that they could run excursions just the same. And they are running them. Where are the colored preachers? Why do they not fulminate against the excursion devil? Are they afraid to lift up their voices, to cry aloud and spare not? Or are they making money out of the business and dare not not open their jaws.

Mr. H. J. Green, General Insurance Agent and a trustee of Editor Smith's church, Charlotte, N. C., is one of our most successful men. By hard work and persistent effort he has gone to the top of the heap in the insurance business in the State. Such young men as Green are useful to any community or organization to which they may attach themselves.

Camden, N. J.