

The Star of Zion.

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

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No. 41.

CHURCH EXTENSION FOOD.

Victory for God and Zion All Along the Line.

TO THE CHURCH.

The true heroes of the cross and the true Zionites are manfully standing by their guns and taking hold of the Church Extension cause with grit and determination that say, "The thing must go." The church is becoming generally aroused to its own and best interest, and the brethren are doing well all along the line. Everywhere there is a general increase. The talks, addresses and sermons by the pastors on Church Extension work are beginning to tell, and the people are becoming thoroughly informed concerning the work. We are now preparing to send out our By-laws and other Church Extension literature that will fully inform the brethren concerning our department and its operation.

Up to date, the First and the Eighth Episcopal Districts are way ahead in raising Church Extension money. The New York, New England, Central North Carolina, Philadelphia-Baltimore and the Allegheny-Ohio Conferences, lead all the other Conferences, with a number of Conferences following close behind. If the increase made by the Kentucky, Missouri and the Allegheny-Ohio Conferences continues, the last of January will make the first named Conferences take a lower rank, possibly with the exception of the Central North Carolina Conference which will also meet before the first of January.

New York, the Mother Conference, to date, leads every Conference in the Connection. How long she is going to hold this position, we are not able to tell. At present, Philadelphia, (Wesley Church), Wilkes Barre, Pa., Camden, N. J., Fayetteville, N. C., Worcester, Mass., Asheville, N. C., are the banner charges of the Connection.

The Kentucky, Missouri and Allegheny-Ohio Conferences all doubled their collections. The anniversary collection of the Allegheny-Ohio Conference is the largest we have had this year, and excels any we had since we have taken the office, except that of the New England Conference at Hartford, Conn.

We are greatly in need of \$2,000 to save four churches and to purchase one in a city that will make Zion shout from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. We must have this \$2,000 at once, or our opportunity is gone. Will every pastor in Zion lift the Church Extension collection and forward the same at once? Will our noble Bishops and Presiding Elders urge the brethren to lift the above named collection? Brethren, do not let this opportunity slip out of our hands. Let every Zionite awake and rush to the rescue.

We have just helped three more churches, and are only waiting for the money to come in to help others. "You give it to us and we will give it to you."

By special request we have postponed our report by Episcopal Districts and Conferences until after the meeting of all the Fall and Winter Conferences. Then we promise a full report.

The Bishops, Presiding Elders and pastors are doing well in ral-

lying to the support of the department. It is now only a question of time before the department will be a perennial fountain to our beloved Zion. Presiding Elders and pastors, please do not fail to see that a Church Extension collection is raised in every charge.

In a few days we will start South and hope to meet as many of the Conferences as possible. The Kentucky, Missouri, and the Allegheny-Ohio were great Conferences, and tried to set the pace for the Connection. I certainly never enjoyed myself better and had more encouragement than I had at these Conferences. We are praying the blessings of Almighty God upon every minister of Zion; and from the bottom of our heart we thank you for what you have done, and again ask you, in the name of God and Zion, do not fail to lift a collection and send it in at once. You are doing well, and God will bless you. Remember that we need your prayers as much as your money.

Yours for God and Zion,
W. H. Coffey, Secretary Church Extension.
Philadelphia, Pa.

The Foreman a Printer.

BY A. R. MOORE.

I was the recipient of two blotters, a job gotten up by Mr. A. A. Underwood, foreman of the A. M. E. Zion Publication House, and I take this opportunity to say just a few words relative to his ability as a foreman. I have worked under him as a "typo" for three successive years. Therefore I know whereof I am going to speak.

The job to which I have referred is very unique. It shows that a skilled hand was the originator. It also displays taste for colors and fonts.

Mr. Underwood is an intelligent, unassuming, and above all, a Christian gentleman. His knowledge of the trade has been proven, in many instances, to be excellent. As a pressman, he is very hard to beat. He is one of Tuskegee's boys. Hence his success.

Anybody sending work to him may rest assured that he will give the very best satisfaction.

Meharry Medical College,
Nashville, Tenn.

Notice.

BY REV. J. T. McMILLAN, P. E.

The Tuskegee district conference will convene at Borom church Thursday, October 29th, 1903, at 10:00 a. m. During the sitting of the conference a special effort will be made for Greenville High School and the A. M. E. Zion Publication House. Pastors and members of the Tuskegee district, please govern yourselves accordingly.

Bishop Harris' Appointments.

OCTOBER.
3-7 Knoxville, Tenn., No. 122 Georgia St.
8 South Rockford, Tenn.
9 Straw Plains, Tenn.
10-12 Sand Springs, Tenn.
13-20 Knoxville, Tenn., Blue Ridge Annual Conference.
112 Mildred St., Montgomery, Ala.
C. R. HARRIS.

It is by prayer we invite God to come in to occupy His throne; and when He is in, prayer is inevitable.—James Stalker.

SHAKING THE PLUM TREE.

Why Oppose Dr. Smith?

BY REV. E. D. W. JONES, D. D.

The standing committee of opposition in Zion Church, is woefully and woefully without an issue that can even be given the slightest notice, and it is not surprising that they should chase shadows and greedily grab at straws. The unjust fight against Dr. Smith is becoming more pronounced every day from this source, which but proves that the former mighty efforts to create sentiment against him in voluminous contributions to the STAR were dismal failures. The conqueror never howls; it is the defeated that puts up a pitiful wail; and the silence of Dr. Smith under fire speaks his assurance of victory, while the ceaseless lamentations of his would-be traducers show that they are smarting under the anticipations of inglorious failure.

It is encouraging, however, that the more bitter the fight becomes, the greater the determination of the rank and file of the Church to crown Dr. Smith's successful career with the highest honor in its gift. Neither God nor humanity will keep long silent under persecution. Taus Paul's halt on the way to Damascus and the civilized world's rush to Dreyfuss on Devil's island prove this. Truthfully, Dr. Smith is being unmercifully persecuted, and the Church which believes in fair play to every man, has risen in righteous but sullen indignation against "man's inhumanity to man."

The only grave crime that I have committed, which also makes me the object of sneering attack, is to take a decided stand for Dr. Smith, and in every reply to the Plum Tree articles you can see evidence to stab Dr. Smith, not me. It is generally admitted that the desperation of the opposition has reduced them to such weakness that their present puerile writings do not sustain their former reputations as cool thinkers and convincing reasoners. Such strides from lofty churchmanship to peanut politics to crush a worthy man has so disgusted us that we would refrain from giving cause for further expositions of littleness but for the fact that some one in Zion must defend the weak and curb the strong against oppression. Dr. Smith has not asked us to say anything in his defense, nor boom him. He does not know what articles I written until they reached the STAR office. I have my convictions like other men concerning Church matters, and the right and courage to express them. Neither Smith or Caldwell is using me as a tool any more than they are using their opponents or accusers as tools. Since Dr. Smith is being wickedly attacked for the purpose of killing his influence so that the road may be clear for the favorites of the opposition, and as he should be treated as fairly as any other man who has aspiration, I take the liberty to register the protest of a host of Zionites who do not enjoy this ungodly method.

The only thing that Dr. Smith has done is to stand like the candidates of his opposers, as a candidate for the bishopric, with a host of friends praising him and wishing him success. The very individual, who would rather be in heaven than sit on the bench with him, is doing the same thing himself for another candidate that he himself brought out, and he has unskillfully used his golden opportunity by replying to the Plum Tree, and violating the General Conference order which he strenuously objects to the ministers and laymen violating, to boom his "chief and favorite candidate" for the bishopric, by intimating that he possesses better qualities for the office than any man in the Church. That is a big thing to say, considering the thousands of pastors we have. It looks like a reflection, invidious comparison, upon the abilities of other men. We see no confession, humiliation nor financial sacrifice in giving up the presiding eldership in the New York Conference to take the pastorate of a great church like Mother Zion. It is a stepping up instead of stepping down. The only difference is the coming of the two cases is, this Episcopal courtly boom his candidate, and his Church in general booms Dr. Smith. This is what adds the opposition. This is no; the first time that this same Bishop, who destitute of argument sneeringly compares me to Jonah's gourd, set up other men as only "H." for Church honors, and said men, as a result of such comparison, have gone down to defeat. If the ridiculous comparisons and reflections are to continue, the candidate who in qualities is put above every man in the Church should leap from the load and throw himself

in line with the men who make under divine direction the officers of Zion Church.

Why under different pretexts and excuses try to kill off Dr. Smith in order to land some favorite? The general Church can see through it. Smith is as able and worthy in every way as any who are being mentioned or pushed for episcopal honors. As Abraham Lincoln once said, "All the people cannot be fooled all the time." A majority of the Bishops have openly declared themselves for Smith; the majority of conferences that have met have endorsed him, and as I hear from the field, nearly every Winter Conference will give him their support next May 1904.

You need not make any calculations now from conditions existing before the last General Conference. All things have changed. Every department is in a flourishing condition. The Publication House that came up to Washington begging for relief from financial depression will come to St. Louis with a neat balance on hand. The STAR that was almost collapsing in 1900 is on the wings of prosperity. The financial department at Philadelphia will come to St. Louis with accessions that will surprise the Church. Widows and Orphans will be reported as having been aided who never received before a dollar. Superannuated preachers have drawn from our general Exchequer. The Connection with its high monetary standing has been able to negotiate a seven thousand dollar loan on our Chicago property. The Church Extension department has rolled up its thousands; salaries have been arranged and expenditures wisely made; while Livingstone College which was on the eve of closing up because of threatened resignations, if speedy relief was not provided, has unexpectedly leaped into the vanguard of glorious prosperity, and Dr. Goler, a conservative of conservatives, is so sure of the ability of the Church to keep up its steady and onward march and meet its increased obligations, has already started his petition on the way for an increased appropriation of four thousand dollars. Not a single argument used in 1900 about the ability of the Church can be used in 1904.

Therefore the opposition to electing bishops must indeed be *personal*.

Why oppose Smith? What has he done? Are you against him because he has pastored successfully every charge that he has ever held? Are you against him because he has stood unharmed in the terrible siege of a long candidacy in which everything has been brought to public view? Are you against him because he has been as great an Editor to and for Zion, as Dr. Buckley has been for the great M. E. Church? Are you against him because he wrote the *Life and published the Sermons and Addresses of Bishop Jones*? Are you against him because he has in connection with his editorial work pastored and built one of the finest brick church edifices in the South? Are you against him because he has raised all of his general claims? Are you against him because he is a sober, industrious, painstaking, able, pious, whole-soul gospel minister? Are you against him because he ably defended the Church against the attacks of Dr. J. M. Henderson and others?

Tell us and if you can satisfy us with fact, not fiction, then we will consider your objections, and your 'private appeals' with flattering promises, to desert him.

St. Louis, Mo.

Bishop J. W. Alstork's Appointments.

OCTOBER.
4, Perry, "
5, Guthrie, "
6, Shiloh, "
7-12, South McAlistier Annual Conference.
13, Oklahoma City, O. T. TEXAS CONFERENCE.
14, Calvert, Texas.
15, Jerusalem, "
16, Anderson Chapel.
18, at 11 a. m., Hearne, Texas.
18, " 8 p. m., Pettey's chapel.
19, Waco, Texas.
20, Stoneham, Texas.
21, Navesota "
LOUISIANA CONFERENCE.
22, Gipsion, La.
23, Pettey's chapel, New Orleans.
24, Mandeville, La.
25, Baton Rouge, La. at 8 p. m.
Address from September 28 to October 5th, Guthrie, O. T. From October 5th to 12th, South McAlistier I. T. From October 12 to 18th Hearne, Tex. From 18 to 21, Navesota, Tex. From 21 to November 10th, Montgomery, Ala.

The popular ear weighs what you are, not what you were.—Quarels.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Concerning the Zion Churches at the National Capital.

BY REV. R. S. RIVES, D. D.

I would not force an article upon the STAR at present but for the fact that the Zion Church has some interests in the Capital City, and because our interests here are not wholly neglected by those to whose care they were committed. I feel it proper, therefore, that some one should make known the very excellent work being done by Revs. P. A. Wallace, L. W. Kyle and Logan Johnson.

Many doubted the possibility of Bro. Kyle's success when he was appointed on account of some complications known only to a few persons. But and because it is not my purpose, nor do I think it necessary, therefore, I will say nothing of the conditions when Bro. Kyle took charge. Rev. Kyle has the physiognomy of a stubborn or bull-headed, dogmatic ruler. These characteristics he found the only armor for the battle confronting him on taking charge of John Wesley. Bearding the lion in his den, breaking the horn of the unicorn and bringing order out of confusion, lifting the church to hope and establishing confidence, he now is known and regarded as one of the most lamb-like and prince of pastors. He is an ideal pastor, a wise, sagacious manager, and with a fine gospel preacher. His charge is increasing in membership. His services are attractive and increasing in interest ever and anon.

Rev. P. A. Wallace came to Metropolitan church, D St. S. W., at a time and when circumstances challenged the courage of the timid. But he happened not to be so timid nor easily discouraged. He took his 230 pounds of avoirdupois manned by his herculean brain or intellectual force and started out with so much pretension that those who thought he could not succeed, like Saul among the prophets, are now shouting his praises. We do not nor would not offer one word that might reflect in any degree upon his predecessor, but the people say they have never had such crowds, nor has the church enjoyed such spiritual and financial prosperity since the days of Dr. Dyeon. It rejoices my heart to see our Zion walking abreast and keeping pace with the spirit and motion of Christianity in this great city. Wallace like Kyle is a preacher of the first order.

Rev. Logan Johnson has had charge of Trinity mission for the past six or seven years. He works for the United States Government and hence his ability to hold on and do the great work already accomplished by him. But the Trinity mission has reached a stage in its history upon which its rise or fall must terminate. Bro. Johnson may not have the temerity to say so, but I do say that unless the general Church intervenes, we will lose one of the brightest prospects for a first class station we have ever had in this city. Trinity mission must have six thousand dollars (\$6,000) dollars. The people have purchased and nearly paid for a splendid plot of ground, but they have so nearly exhausted their strength, that it is like a man who has fallen overboard and swims to the shore, but who has not the strength to grasp a rope, though it be within his reach. I suggest that the general Church out of the General Funds or any money in sight advance this mission six thousand dollars. To my mind six thousand dollars is the establishment of a first class church here just now will pay better than the election of two bishops, while I am not opposed to that number.

If we wish to keep abreast with the times and show that we are progressing, the election of two bishops would indicate our condition. But I believe the present bench can do the work, or the men who would be elevated could be of greater service in the pulpit pastoring the flock than they would as they increased the overseership by being put on the bench. As I see it, the Zion Church never needed so many strong pastors as she does to-day. I believe the demand for commissioned officers of the second and third rank is infinitely greater than that of the first; therefore, I hope not to be understood as being opposed to any man or measure that may enhance the Redeemer's kingdom as represented by the great A. M. E. Zion Church.
Washington, D. C.

Mrs. E. D. W. Jones left Thursday night for Hartford, Conn. to visit her parents. Her son, Dancy, accompanied her.—St. Louis Palladium.