

The Star of Zion.

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

Vol XXVII

Charlotte, N. C., Thursday, May 5, 1904.

No. 17.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Contiguous Districts: District Departments: Educational Treasury.

BY R. J. CROCKETTE.

I have received the article on the question of "contiguous districts." It is just what I thought it would be. It is just all any honest man could make out of, and say for, a thing that has grown out of use—entirely.

He could not if he would, and would not if he could, say more about it than he did say: *The reason why they, were (primarily) so arranged.* The reasons are good. No one could have suggested better, under the circumstances. But the "circumstances" have changed, and what was once a necessity is no longer (mere) consideration.

The argument made in support of the "reason why" the districts were thus arranged, is straightforward and concise. This is not irony. It is fact. Its history is a revelation, and I hardly wanted to believe that the Zion Church had stood so long in the old grooves that the fathers placed her in under the war clouds, and other sinister conditions. Shame on us, young men, at St. Louis, if we do not suggest something more business-like than having one bishop, after doing one third of his work, crossing a part of three or four others, work to get to the balance of his, etc.

The part of the article that intimates that North Carolina will be the home of all Zion's bishops for all times to come, and the part that accuses one of not thinking "carefully"—I forego, and with a deep determination—doubled, I shall strive with vote and might to give the Church a plan that is not so expensive financially nor so taxing physically, nor so heavy psychically as the one we now operate, Contiguous Districts—heads (Secretaries, if you please,) for each of our departments, and an Educational fund established—if only for fun—is the Slogan. Since some think we do not need these, it will at least keep us from looking so ridiculous and feeling so awkward.

Allow me to add, that all has not been told about the whole matter. These awkward districts have "reasonably" been such a strain on our mission moneys and such a physical strain on our traveling officers until other Negro organizations have passed us in every thing except that their great organizations have not been reduced to such unique "personal conveniences" as attending commencements and affording summer resorts, and winter retreats.

The world will never accept our apologetic "reasons;" it wants results. We might pile on the altar all the personal conveniences of the past century, plus our seniority but the smoke will never curl heavenwards until Bethel steps up with her results of fifty-six domestic and eighteen foreign conferences, (while we explain "the reason" for having thirty-six) not until Bethel steps up with the results of her fifteen schools and ten colleges and universities, (while we speak of the convenience of four schools, one college and no universities.)

My friends, I hate these things.

We must give results and not "reasons." If old methods will not give them—we must give—despite any method. Being the oldest does not count much. Let's be the most useful.

Rock Hill, S. C.

Dr Bird For Manager.

BY REV. S. H. MCKOY.

God is in the midst of Zion to help her, and that right early. He called the Manager of the Publication House to heaven and put another in so that the Connection may be at ease and not left to wonder. It will be, if not already admitted, that Dr. F. K. Bird is fully equipped to fill the office, and will, for he is painstaking and will succeed, and it is usually his desire through God's will to give the whole Connection satisfaction. Then that is settled.

Then there is another of the number spoken of whom they expect to vote for for bishop. If they can vote like they talk, the bishop question is only to be confirmed. I believe if a day of fast and prayer is set forth for the work of this ensuing General Conference, it will be the best in all the history of Zion. The like never was heard of—superintendents of Sabbath schools, class leaders and members in service asking the Lord to have the Editor made bishop.

Now, then, give us the power to vote for the presiding elders. It seems to me that a preacher having knowledge to hold a station or a circuit should have enough to vote for the presiding elder. The man that is worthy and lives among his fellowmen with ability and manhood they are ready to ask for a chance to throw a vote for such a man. Then let us have it free.

The Connection asks for two bishops. If the writers are not guessing, by their letters Dr. J. W. Smith and J. S. Caldwell are the men. Whosoever shall be Editor may expect to prove a success or a failure, for the hands of friends and foes will be on him.

Give us F. K. Bird for Manager and J. S. Settles for presiding elder.

I am a member of Zion, and always have been, and for 16 years carried my full assessment to Conference and built and repaired as many churches in said time as any one else.

Troy, N. C.

A Branch House.

Bishop G W Clinton is of the opinion that a branch of the Publishing House of the A M E Zion Church will eventually be established at Louisville, and many Zionists heartily agree with him in this idea, and we think further that the general head quarters of the Church itself would be more advantageously gathered in Kentucky's thriving metropolis than scattered as it is over Charlotte, N C, Philadelphia, and New York. Conditions have so changed that desirable real estate and excellent business opportunity for Negroes are as plentiful south of the Ohio River as north of it. Louisville is a most hospitable city, with a colored population of 80,000 in a radius of fifteen miles. It is the natural gateway from the middle North and West to the entire South, and the regular highway from the Atlantic seaboard to the Pacific slope. It is the center of the promising field that Zion has been vigorously developing for the past twenty-five years and would be a fine strategic point for the convenient manipulation of her multifarious plans, the speedy distribution of her literature and the frequent consultations of her general officers. For these purposes Louisville is in every way superior to the cities which Zion now uses as bases of supplies.—R W T in Charleston (W Va.) Advocate.

NATIONAL REPUBLICAN.

Afro-American Council: Objects and Plan of Organization.

ORGANIZE! ORGANIZE!

At the meeting of the sub-Committee of the Executive Committee of the National Afro-American Council, held in Washington, D. C., December 10, 1903, it was decided to strike out the Non-partisan clause in the Constitution and to work in harmony with the Republican party;

First: Because we are forced to the conclusion that if we are to retain our civil and political rights, it will be through partisan action on our part. The Jim Crow car, the disfranchisement law, the convict lease system, and other discriminatory laws are the result of Democratic legislation; hence, we have nothing to hope for from that party.

Second: It is our bounden duty to do all in our power to secure the nomination and election of President Roose-



Bishop A. Walters, D. D.

velt to succeed himself. His noble stand for justice to all men regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude and his many utterances in favor of an open door of opportunity for the black man, which has done so much to create favorable public opinion for the Afro-American people, has placed us under a lasting obligation to him. It therefore becomes the duty of every Afro-American to assist in organizing Republican Councils in every city, town and village in the Nation. There ought to be a thousand Councils organized by the 21st of June, 1904, the date of the meeting of the National Republican Committee. We have a splendid opportunity to favorably impress the National Republican Committee which can only be done by going before it backed by a mighty organization. Properly organized, we can secure what we desire; unorganized, our cause is almost helpless.

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION.

Our plan of organization is as follows: Any person who has sufficient interest in the matter can send invitations to leading Afro-American citizens who are interested in the amelioration of the condition of our race, and the nomination and election of President Roosevelt to succeed himself, and the success of the Republican party can meet in some private house, according to the number invited. If as many as ten assemble and are willing to subscribe to the objects mentioned above, they can be organized by the election of the following officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Asst. Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, and an Executive Committee consisting of five members. Each club or organization is entitled to representation in the annual convention by the payment of \$5 for each delegate entitled to one vote.

Club already organized can join the National body by making application with list of officers enclosed, to A. B. Cooney, National Organizer, 828 Broad Street Newark, N. J.

W H Steward, Acting President, Louisville, Ky; Alexander Walters, Chairman Executive Committee, 28 Oak Street, Jersey City, N J; C F Adams, Secretary, 834 S. Street, N W, Washington, D C; F L McGhee, Financial Secretary, St Paul, Minn; John W Thompson, Treasurer, Box 493, Rochester, N Y; A B Cooney, National Organizer, Newark, N J;

ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Hon: James S Clarkson; Booker T Washington, Ala; J E Bruce, New York; Judson W Lyons, Ga; Charles W Anderson, New York; Henri Herbert, New

Jersey; J C Napier, Tenn; S L Corrothers, D C; Edward Morris, Ill; T T Fortune, N J; W F Farmer, Mo; J C Dancy, N C; P B S Pinchback, D C; Judge R H Terrell, D C; Bishop B W Arnett, Ohio; Bishop G W Clinton, N C; R L Smith, Tex; C N Robinson, N J; W H Lewis, Mass; Walter L Cohen, La; F L Barnett, Ill; Geo L Knox, Ind; I F Brady, Kan; H C Smith, Ohio; J R Clifford, W Va; Wm Trotter, Mass; E E Cooper, D C; C J Perry, Penn; Calvin Chase, D C; James Hayes, Va; Bishop A Grant, Ind; D R Wilkins, Ill.

Resolutions.

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God in His inscrutable providence to remove Rev. J. M. Hill, D. D., from his earthly labors to his heavenly reward, and whereas, the Ministers Union of Charlotte, N. C., the community, the Church and the race have sustained a great loss in the death of Dr. Hill who was an affectionate father, an affable man, a wise counselor and an exemplary leader, and while we deeply lament our loss, we bow in humble submission to Him who doeth all things well after the counsel of His own will.

Resolved 1st, That we commend the bereaved son to the tender mercies of our heavenly Father.

Resolved 2nd, That a copy of these resolutions be placed in the hands of the bereaved family; that we spread a copy of these resolutions upon the minutes of the Ministers' Union; and that these resolutions be published in the colored papers of the city.

Revs. R. P. Wyche, G. V. Clark, S. D. Watkins, A. J. Wilson, Com.

Resolutions.

ON DR. J. M. HILL.

To the Presiding Elder of the San Francisco district conference of the California and Oregon Conference of the A. M. E. Zion Church now in session:

Whereas, We have learned with profound sorrow and regret of the sad death of the late and lamented Dr. Jas. M. Hill, General Manager of our Publication House at Charlotte, N. C., who departed this life Saturday, April 2.

Be it resolved, therefore, that we lament the sad death, because the Church has lost an indispensable factor, a great worker, a Christian gentleman, a worker and Christian scholar who was the embodiment of intellectual refinement, social purity and Christian perfection which were the mottoes of his life. His philosophical mind constantly thinking and his great executive ability have done much to build up our great Church and race.

And whereas, he has left an only son, we, therefore, commend him to Almighty God, our Heavenly Father and His Son Christ as the only safe protection for mankind in this life and the life to come.

San Jose, Cal.

Medal To Colored Student.

WILLIAM H. COFFEY, JR., GETS FIRST PRIZE IN ORATORICAL CONTEST.

First prize in the junior oratorical contest at the Central High School last evening was awarded to William Henry Coffey, Jr., a colored classmate. He spoke upon "Thomas Babington Macaulay," and both in delivery and in handling of his subject he was adjudged the leader of the twelve boys who competed. He received the gold medal given by the fifty-seventh class.

The second prize, a silver medal, presented by the same class, went to Sidney Loewenstein, who spoke upon "Count Cavour, the Italian Patriot." Harry Sylvester McDevitt and Bismarck Kiesewetter, who spoke upon "Toussaint L'Ouverture" and "Nathan Hale," respectively, were awarded honorable mention. Israel H. Levinthal, George E Mumford, George C Rogers, Arthur C Sender, William R Neely, George W Elliott, Irving D Rosshelm, and Martin Rehfass also spoke.

General James W Latta presided, while Alexander Simpson, Jr., William T Tilden, and Horace M Rumsey acted as judges. Music was rendered by the High School Orchestra.—Philadelphia Evening Telegraph.

CHURCH EXTENSION.

This is to be a White-Letter Day in Zion.

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 1904.

The pastor, raising the largest sum of money, will receive a handsome present, or its equivalent in money, if he prefers the latter. The presiding elder who puts his entire district on the roll of Honor (every church raising its full assessment for Church Extension,) will receive a handsome present, or the equivalent in money, if he desires the latter.

These premiums are only offered for Church Extension Day, the fourth Sunday in May, and, therefore, do not refer to Annual premiums offered in the "STAR." We have various kinds of money collectors for sale, from two dollars (\$2.00) per hundred and upward. Order, sending cash to W. H. Coffey, 420 S. 11th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

The friends of Rev. W. H. Chambers, of Indianapolis, are hopeful that he will permit the use of his name in connection with the office of General Steward of the A. M. E. Zion Church. If elected steward this year it will be Bishop Chambers in 1908.—Indianapolis Freeman.

The great western city, St. Louis, is noted this year for the World's Fair, religious gatherings, the General Conference of the A. M. E. Z. Church which will be held there soon. We learn that there is a possibility of electing one or more bishops. Rev. J. W. Smith, the present editor of the STAR OF ZION, will possibly be elected on the first ballot. The Advocate hopes to congratulate him in his new sphere. Dr. Smith has been quill driver of that grand old STAR OF ZION quite a number of years. We hope to hear of his election.—Covington (Ga.) Advocate

Great Men Are Falling.

BY REV. L. E. KINSLER.

The news of the death of Dr. J. M. Hill came to me as a dark cloud with heavy peals of thunder. The God of heaven, who rules, said that one of our greatest men had toiled here on earth long enough, and with just a few days' suffering he was called from labor to reward. Beloved brethren, without shame we can follow his footsteps. Do not let us stop here. Do you not see that our great men are falling every day and men of God must fill their places. So let us press on.

I was glad to hear him say "Carry on the work of the Publication House and get ready for the General Conference. I am going home." He must have sung in his soul:

"I heard the voice of Jesus say, Come unto me and rest; Lay down, thou weary one, lay down Thy head upon my breast."

We are without language to express our sorrow for the loss of Dr. Hill and Mrs. Katie B Hill, his beloved wife.

I also highly recommend the Rt. Rev. C. R. Harris for forcing the ministers to educate their sons and daughters. I, as a minister of the South Florida Conference, will take due notice and govern myself accordingly, for we see the great need of education. Great men are falling and we must prepare to fill their places.

Micanary, Fla.

It is a Possibility.

It is among the possibilities that the General Conference of the A M E Zion Church will choose a woman as Secretary of Missions. Favorably mentioned in many quarters for the position is Mrs. Mary E Washington, of New Albany, Ind., a Christian worker of enthusiasm and large experience, and who has shown a splendid capacity for organization and administration. She is now vice-president of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Department and has borne the brunt of the battle, especially in the western and southwestern conferences. Mrs. Washington is an expert accountant, a careful business woman, and understands fully the needs of the missionary cause as well as the splendid results that can be obtained through it for the Church. She is a forcible and enjoyable speaker, a writer of marked talent and possesses a personality that is magnetic and winning. The Zion conference would make no mistake in electing Mrs. Washington as missionary secretary.—R. W. T. in Charleston (W. Va.) Advocate.