

The Star of Zion

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

VOL. XXXIV.

CHARLOTTE, N. C. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1911

No. 36

UNIVERSAL RACES CONGRESS.

By Prof. W. B. CRITTENDEN, A. M.

At a meeting of the College of Bishops during the last Commencement season at Livingstone College, the writer, to his great surprise, was chosen to associate Bishop Alexander Walters as delegate to the First Universal Races Congress, representing at that great gathering, the A. M. E. Zion Connection and Livingstone College.

The present writer, feeling that he should not let any lack of personal sacrifice nor any combination of adverse circumstances hinder him from answering this, his first distinguished call to duty by the Great Church he serves, began to make hasty preparations to cross the seas, and when the First Universal Races Congress began its four days session in the city of London, July he was at hand to present his membership card.

Upon his return, he takes this earliest opportunity to give through the columns of the STAR, a brief account of the Congress and the impressions he gathered therefrom.

Imagine, if you can, yourself in the great Auditorium of the University of London. There is gathered an audience of some five or six hundred earnest men and women, among whom are eminent representatives of more than twenty civilizations, there are men and women of almost every hue and color speaking some eight or ten different languages; they have come from every corner of the globe to discuss "The Light of Science and Modern Science, the general relations between the peoples of the West and those of the East, between so-called white and so-called colored peoples, with a view to encouraging between them a fuller understanding, the most friendly feelings, and a heartier cooperation."

Black and white and red and yellow and brown thinkers and scholars of various peoples mingling most friendly and freely in a kaleidoscopic picture of unusual and wonderful interest.

This Congress of Races is but a part of that World-wide Peace Movement, yet, indeed, a most important and elemental part; for those of the more progressive races of the earth, as they gathered at the Hague to formulate plans and methods by which the Nations of the world might be brought to reason rather than to fight together, found that the first great obstacle to be removed was race misunderstanding and race prejudice. That is how this Congress happened. Remarkable to say, too, it was suggested by an American, Dr. Felix Adler, of New York; so some good things along the line of race recognition do come out of the Nazareth of American civilization.

About forty-eight or fifty eminent thinkers and scholars of different peoples were invited to contribute papers on subjects covering nearly every phase that directly or indirectly affected the inter-relation of races, scientific, ethical, economic, and religious, purposely avoiding, however the politics. The papers were compiled and printed in book form a month or so before the opening of the congress and copies were given to the active members as they secured their admission card. They were "taken as read," which means that the writers did not read them during the sessions, but the topics variously treated in the papers were discussed each day, in five minute speeches, by men and women selected for their ability and their knowledge of the subject treated.

The sessions were opened by Dr. Seal, an Indian scholar, Principal of Maharajah of Cooch Behar College, Cooch Behar, India. He sought to define the meaning of Race, Tribe and Nation; then followed Anthropological and Sociological discussions affecting races and the problems of Race Equality, and in the afternoon of the same day, were considered The Influences of Geographic, Economic, and Political Conditions upon races, together with such subjects as Inter-racial Marriage, A Comparative

Study of the Intellectual Standing of Different Races, and The Consolidating and Separating Influences of Language and Religion. The second day was given to the discussion of the General Conditions of Progress among different races as evidenced by their tendencies towards Parliamentary Rule, representatives from China, Japan, Turkey, Persia, India, Egypt, Haiti and Russia, contributing.

Perhaps the most interesting, eloquent and impassioned speech of the whole Congress, was that delivered by Mrs. Besant, a resident of India. She spoke in behalf of the people of that country, portraying in graphic pictures the unjust treatment of the natives by the English who live in contact with them. Some of her statements could easily have been mistaken for descriptions of conditions that exist in some parts of the United States.

Dr. DuBois, of New York, who was one of the most popular delegates of the Congress, read an original poem at the opening of the Congress, and, because of his special knowledge of Sociological and Economic Questions, spoke upon that subject instructively and ably.

The session closed when the delegates from the States took with the keenest interest and anticipation was over Friday afternoon. Under the title "The Modern Conscience of Race Relations," the delegates considered "The American Negro." Those who were to speak on this subject were Dr. Du Bois, Capt. Moton, of the Institute, Mr. Milholland, of New York, Dr. Scarborough, of Washington, and Prof. Fisher of the same Institution. Of these, only Dr. Du Bois, Mr. Milholland, and Dr. Scarborough got a chance to speak, as the discussion on the preceding topic ran over time.

It must be confessed that from the speech of Dr. Du Bois on this occasion, considerable disappointment was felt on the part of some of the delegates from the United States, who hoped, from the Dr. for a clear unequivocal statement of the conditions that obtain in this country, and from which the Negro suffers. Dr. Du Bois had the opportunity of a supreme moment, he failed to use it. Mr. Milholland did not attempt a speech, for the reason that he had spoken often in no uncertain terms of conditions in this country. He always rings true. There is no hypocrisy in his make-up, and there is never any mistake as to his position on this question; one cannot help from being impressed with his earnestness, and from becoming infected with his enthusiasm.

Prof. Scarborough, who spoke at this time, labored under the disadvantage of a hoarseness and a bad throat, so unfortunately, could not do himself nor the occasion justice, nor should he be criticized by the Age for his statement that prejudice in America against the Negro, is greater now than it was forty years ago, if that statement be true. He should not be censured because he was not disposed to assume the role of a "trimmer." The only regret was the fact that Dr. Scarborough was physically not himself. It is indeed pleasant, as the Age suggests, to hear the history of the Negro's remarkable achievements, but although it may be unpleasant, yet, it becomes very often necessary that the tragedy of his struggles be heard. The one may serve to lull a nation into the sense of a fancied security, but the other is a warning note of a common danger which is only real.

The paper contributed by Dr. Du Bois for its comprehensive history of the Negro in America, for its great mass of weighty statistics strikingly so, for the terse, epigrammatic style in which he disposes of the real grievances of the race in thirteen short sentences and his conclusion of the whole matter is anything but luminous, instructive or hopeful—"Whether, at last, the Negro will gain full recognition as a man, or be utterly crushed by prejudice and superior numbers, is the

Continued on Fifth Page.

NOTES FROM LOS ANGELES.

By Miss Cornelia Petty.

It has been some time since you have received a letter from Los Angeles. I remember distinctly when Mrs. Carrie Haines (now deceased) would send an article to the STAR occasionally telling of our struggles on the Coast.

Now in the beginning I wish to say that I know that the work on the Pacific Coast is considered a Mission field but are we never to work it up to that state where it

two thousand.

The church has been completed and neatly furnished. Our pastor never hesitated to use the hammer and saw whenever his help was needed and that was very often. During all these years he has been a hard student taking a theological course at the University of Southern California, one of the best schools in the Country completing a four years course in three years and receiving the degree of D. D. And say he has written a very delightful and elaborate Book on the Prophets.

Rev. Speight is an ambitious man and should be encouraged. We



Bishop G. L. Blackwell, D.D., as he looked when M'g'r. Pub. House.

field on the Atlantic Coast? I have been out here some years and have labored long and hard in the work especially in Los Angeles. Thus you see I have a fair insight in regards to the work. The field is large, but the laborers are few. We can make this a rich paying field with a little sacrifice (our sister Churches have done so.) The way was blazed years ago by Bishops, Moore Hood and Walters who established a church in San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose, with a small Mission here in "The City of Angels."

Today we have here one of the most beautiful churches in the city white or colored. True there have been some breaks in our ranks here which gives us a small congregation, but we manage to pay our present pastor Rev. W. D. Speight \$1200 a year.

Bishop George W. Clinton who succeeded Bishop A. Walters reorganized the work and much good was accomplished under his leadership and wise guidance. Missions were established in many small towns and the few Zionites who were scattered here and there were glad to be housed once more in the Church of their choice. Bishop Clinton served us faithfully and well and we regretted much his transfer to other fields. We cannot speak to commendably of him and his work.

Bishop J. S. Caldwell, D. D., took up the work where his predecessor left off and under his administration the work continued to prosper and expand and today we can boast of a few staunch and loyal churches. I wish to mention especially two churches in the small towns Monrovia church in Southern California, whose pastor is Rev. D. Mucker. This little church is quite up-to-date and two years ago entertained the Conference.

Hanford church in Northern Cal., whose pastor some of you know well Rev. George H. Haines. This is a very strong church and entertained the Conference last year.

Bishop Caldwell realizing the need of strong men to hold these most important charges sent Rev. W. D. Speight to Los Angeles to complete our unfinished Church Building. He found the Building very much unfinished with \$18,000 (eighteen thousand) dollars indebtedness and nine members (and by the way) these nine were Trustees. Our pastor gathered together the scattered sheep and during the five years of his pastorate our indebtedness has been reduced from eighteen thousand to

OBSERVATIONS AND OPINIONS.

Observations and Opinions on the Shaw Missionary Letter to the Missionary Secer.

By Rev. J. FRANCIS LEE, A. M., S. T. B.

We have carefully read the letter which appears in the August number of the Missionary News, from the pen of the Rev. Dr. Shaw, our missionary to the West Coast of Africa. Such information concerning the privations and sufferings which a foreign missionary must know, should stir up the missionary spirit of our Zion as nothing else is capable of doing. Then, when we remember that it is the voice of our own missionary, his words should appeal to our personal pride.

The pastor who serves the home church, thinks that his lot is a hard one, and that he does not get the consideration due him; it is true that the home workers make considerable sacrifice, and sometimes his work is too soon forgotten; yet the most humble mission point in our American church, is often more inviting than some of the large stations in a foreign land.

There are but few of us above thirty who would be able to go into the mission field; there is a still smaller number who may be disposed to go into a foreign field; yet we are obligated to make a distinctive contribution to the foreign work. Our responsibility does not end when we collect for mission work the amount which is wanted.

Is there not something more important than we can do for the foreign field?

The writer would make the following suggestion: Let the general church have a Ministerial Rally. Let our chief pastors or some one selected by them organize and put the rally in operation. Let the church see to it that every Bishop, Presiding Elder, local Elder, Deacon, Local preacher and exhorter contribute to this great rally one dollar. Let the money accruing from the rally be known as the Bishop J. B. Small Memorial Fund for our African work.

Such a rally would bring to us several thousand dollars; it will at the same time set a noble example for laymen of our church.

Harrisburg, Pa.

A Splendid Convention.

By Rev. M. C. McCELLAN,

The Sunday School Convention and Varick Christian Endeavor League of the Columbia, S. C., district convened July 26-30, 1911, at White Oak, S. C., with the St. James A. M. E. Zion Church of which Rev. J. H. Thomas is the worthy pastor. The sessions throughout the convention were very interesting as well as profitable.

With Rev. D. C. Covington, D. D., as presiding elder, ably associated by Mr. W. M. Wallace as District Superintendent of Sunday Schools, Miss Rosa L. Laury as District secretary; and Miss Emma Epps as district treasurer, for seven years the Sunday School zeal and interest has been raised and heightened to the desired standard.

Among the distinguished visitors that looked in upon us were, Dr. F. K. Bird, the manager of our Publication House, Profs. R. J. Crockett, Harper and C. T. Hinton.

The total amount raised during this convention for all purposes which was \$101.98 eclipses all amounts yet raised. Truly Zion has been awakened and is now doing her duty in this section of the Palmetto Conference. Mr. Editor we shall begin very soon to erect our new brick church in the Capital City.

Columbia, S. C.