

The Third Annual Session of the South Alabama Annual Conference.

The South Alabama Annual Conference convened in Mt. Zion A. M. E. church, Evergreen, Ala., Dec. 9th (Wednesday) 1914.

Promptly at 10 a. m., Rt. Rev. J. W. Alstork, D. D., L. L. D., presiding bishop of the 5th Episcopal district called the conference to order and led in devotions assisted by his three able presiding elders: Rev. L. D. Workman, D. D., Rev. John V. Catledge, D. D., and Rev. McGlover, D. D.

The Conference entered upon a busy day's work. The crowd at the opening session was unusually large. Ministers lay officers, Missionary ladies, distinguished educators were there to grace the very first session of the conference.

Prof. G. W. Perkins principal of the City Schools was among those introduced for the day. He made able remarks and asked for a delegation to be sent each day to visit the school.

NIGHT SESSION.

At 7 a. m., Rev. S. P. Jordan and Rev. J. J. Nicholson led a spiritual prayer meeting at 7:30; Dr. Meadows lined hymn No. 52 after scripture reading prayer by Dr. J. V. Catledge. Dr. L. D. Workman arose, and to a congregation that packed the entire sanctuary introduced Dr. W. S. Meadows to preach the annual sermon.

Rev. S. P. Jordan the great praying man was called to the altar and seemed to shake the heavens with his wonderful prayer, shouting and praising God was in order. The financial committee lifted a liberal collection.

WELCOME ADDRESSES.

With Rev. W. W. Herring as Master of Ceremonies. The welcomes to the Conference were of a cordial broad-hearted nature. Every department of the church and churches and city delivered words of welcome.

THURSDAY'S SESSION.

Thursday's session was greatly increased by every incoming train. The Conference had the city in full grip. Rev. W. W. Herring the pastor who is a native North Carolinian had homes for all.

The Conference opened with usual devotions Bishop Alstork read as a scripture lesson 2nd Tim. 4th chapter. His comment on the same was a touch as a coal of fire from the altar, while telling of the hardships, trials and persecutions of the apostle Paul, the conference was bathed in tears.

tract read a most excellent report of his district, of great revivals held, churches built and repaired. His report was a masterpiece; the pastors under him lined up and made their reports, Prof. N. E. Henry Principal of a high school at China, Ala., and one of Zion's strong sons was introduced and made encouraging remarks.

THURSDAY'S NIGHT SESSION.

With a house packed to the overflow a warm prayer meeting, Bishop Alstork who had been sick the night before arose and in appropriate words introduced Dr. J. W. Jones, D. D., Dean of Theology at Lomax-Hannon High School, Dr. Jones took as a text St. John 9:4, "I must work the works of him that sent me," subject: "Work." Dr. Jones possesses great ability.

FRIDAY'S SESSION.

Friday morning opened with the usual devotions, scripture lesson by Bishop Alstork; song and prayer, roll call, minutes read and approved.

Visitors introduced: Rev. Berry of the Baptist church being one of the number, Prof. J. R. Wingfield, Principal of Lomax-Hannon Industrial School, the leading Zion school in the Southwest came before the Conference to represent his work. Prof. Wingfield is an ordained minister, in this conference and this school is located in this conference.

His men lined up (a nice set they were), and reported showing they had been following to success their leader (Catledge).

Rev. A. L. Hudson fraternal Messenger from the North Alabama Conference delivered his message in strong tones and eloquent words which showed him equal to the task. After assignments and reports of committees, the Conference adjourned.

FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION.

Friday night was a banner session for the Conference for each day had brought many prominent lady missionaries to the Conference also Dr. J. W. Wood was on the spot, it looked like the whole of Evergreen was out. Mrs. J. W. Alstork was Mistress of ceremonies, Miss Olivet Juzan ably presided at the organ the choir composed of the best voices of the Conference rendered such music as would attract celestial beings much less poor mortals as we. Scripture reading Mrs. E. M. Brooks, prayer, Janie Zeigler; Lord's prayer chanted by choir, speech, subject: "Education," by Mrs. M. L. Salters, Solo, Mrs. Lena Martin; paper, Mrs. A. M. Gamble; solo, Josephine Gray; paper, Cora Maxwell; Solo, Anna Bachelor; Recitation, Sefrona Gaston; this is a gist of the programme while others participated, Mrs. Eliza Payne was prominent among the number, Mrs. Melissa Carter was sick but sent her report.

Dr. J. W. Wood, of Indianapolis, Indiana, Missionary Secretary, was introduced by Bishop Alstork. Dr. Wood's address was billed as one of the center of attractions for this occasion. Dr. Wood has traveled on the dark continent of Africa, preached to the natives took observations of needs to carry on the work. He addressed himself to the subject of "African Redemption". His address was an eye-opener and a heart rending appeal for the church to put on her strength and go to the rescue of the heathen Oh how his appeal rings on our hearts today as he spoke so earnest so powerful for a spiritual tide to sweep the world and Christ's kingdom come among all men even every creature. Dr. Wood sat down when tears were streaming, hearts burning; Bishop Alstork to add fire to fire, made some stirring remarks then came the time of war; a collection by the districts and conference resulted in raising nearly \$150. Benediction by Dr. J. W. Wood.

SATURDAY'S SESSION.

After the morning devotions

scripture reading song and prayer. The roll was called minutes read and approved, Visitors introduced Dr. L. W. Kyles, Editor of the Quarterly Review, Secretary of the Brotherhood and had arrived and received a warm reception. He made a strong speech. Rev. F. W. Ward one of the strong pastors of Montgomery also made able remarks. Rev. Mc Glover P. E., of the Brewton District read a splendid report of his district. He has made things hum under his administration. His report was a detailed report. His men had more round reports than any other District. The day was taken by hearing reports of committees.

The Missionary ladies made their report to the conference and they were spoken to by able men. The Committee on Admission, ordination, 1st 2nd, 3rd and 4th year's studies, V. C. E., Education, Temperance, Sunday School, State of the Country all reported. Rev. I. A. Chance was appointed to preach at 7:30 p. m.

SATURDAY NIGHT SESSION.

After prayer meeting, A lively song service. The speaker arose and took as a text Gen. 19:29, "And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain that God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in which Lot dwelt." Subject: "Intercessory prayer." After the sermon the conference indulged in an old fashioned hand shake, collection, benediction.

SUNDAY'S SESSION.

Sunday School was addressed by Dr. J. W. Jones, D. D., Rev. M. Clopton. The hour for preaching having arrived Dr. J. Wood lined "My hope is built on nothing less." Bishop Alstork after prayer arose and in well chosen words introduced Dr. L. W. Kyles, Editor of the Quarterly Review to preach the ordination sermon. Dr. Kyles took as a text Rom. 15:13. Subject: "Hope a Potential Factor in the development of the Christian character." Any one who ever preached to a large congregation of various minds knows how hard it is to satisfy all but Dr. Kyles proved equal to the task. To the spiritual as well as the intellectual he was master. After he had led his hearers into the deep things of hope. He seemed to have first gotten hold of their minds then their hearts began to catch on fire of the Holy Ghost. Dr. Kyles seemed to have been fully at himself. His sermon had a wonderful bearing on the conference and Dr. Kyles already popular has now gone to the highest mark.

After the collection Bishop Alstork ordained elders David Kelly, A. B. Dickerson, Joseph Ash, J. J. Nicholson, W. J. Prymus, T. C. Hilson. Deacons: Hood Johnson, William Andrews Steward. Benediction by Dr. Kyles. At 3 p. m., Eulogistic services, Rev. G. W. Moorer eulogized Rev. A. Middleton sang, "When my life work is ended." Rev. Mc Glover eulogized Rev. S. M. Washington, Rev. John V. Catledge, Dr. Moreland, Dr. F. K. Bird, Mrs. Daisy Lyman. A collection of \$6.05 was taken for Rev. Washington's family.

SUNDAY NIGHT'S SESSION.

Prayer meeting was led Rev. Wm. Mitchell hymn No. 770. "I love thy kingdom Lord." Rev. John V. Catledge, D. D., read St. Matthew 13th chapter, Rev. Mc Glover offered a fervent prayer; 2nd hymn No. 797, "Blest be the ties that binds" Dr. Catledge then introduced Dr. J. W. Wood to preach the closing sermon. Dr. Wood took as a text 13th chapter 33rd verse of Matt. "The Kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, Subject: "Faith." He likened the leaven to the ultimate evangelization of mankind by the gospel of Christ. He said the gospel will never lose its power on mankind and said it was planted in men's hearts. The task of preaching behind so many sermons in one day and to so large congregation but Dr. Wood proved equal to the task. Rev. M. C. Crawford approach the throne of grace, collection. Solo by Cooper Armstrong. The conference had much work to finish and labored until a late hour in the night. The reports showed nearly \$50,000 raised for all purposes. The general fund fell just a little over \$2,000 mark.

APPOINTMENTS.

Greenville District, Presiding Elder, Dr. L. D. Workman. Greenville Station, Dr. J. C. Thompson. Searcy Circuit, J. W. Jones, D. D. Mt. Olive Circuit, Rev. F. L. Bell. Ft. Deposit, D. C. Kiser. Indian Hill Circuit, Rev. L. Lewis. Cedar Hill Circuit, Rev. Joseph Ash. Hopewell Circuit, Rev. L. R. Johnson. Sandy Ridge Circuit, Rev. T. C. Hilson. Oak Grove Circuit, Rev. W. E. Escutle. Calhoun Circuit, Rev. T. S. Jones. Rev. I. A. Chance was appointed traveling agent for Lomax College, Georgiana District, Presiding Elder Dr. John Van Catledge. Georgiana circuit, Rev. M. Jackson.

Zion chapel circuit, Rev. T. L. Holt. Forest Home circuit, To be supplied. Braggs Hill circuit, Rev. G. W. Moorer. St. Luke circuit, Rev. C. W. Thomas. Iduma circuit, Rev. G. H. Gafney. River Falls circuit, Rev. Wm. Wilson. Florala circuit, Rev. Henry Warner. (Warner). McKenzie Mission, Rev. J. S. McKezie. Kelly's Mission, Rev. David Kelly. Brewton District, P. E., Rev. Mc Glover. Brewton circuit, Rev. W. S. Meadows. Twin Beach circuit, Rev. G. C. Champion. Atmore circuit, Rev. J. J. Nicholson. Monroeville circuit, Rev. S. P. Jordan. Evergreen circuit, Rev. W. W. Herring. Milledgeville circuit Rev. F. H. Hubbard. Castleberry circuit, Rev. R. H. Kemp. Garland circuit, Rev. E. A. Moorer. Burnt Corn circuit, To be supplied. Poland Mission.

THE EAGLE'S ALARM FROM ARKANSAS.

Retrospective Comments.

REV. C. W. P. MITCHELL, B. S.

The Fall Conferences are all over; and while most instances they were marked by "financial fall-offs," yet whatever happened, has happened and the men have gone to their respective fields of labor to set sails for another year's voyage. While the southern wing of Zion's watchmen is taking the "long breath" that is so naturally the last trace of a hard years service, brought on by the adjournment of their Annual Conference sessions, the northern wing is feeling the radiations of heat coming from the Episcopal blazes and Connectional departmental "sweat boxes" that tell them that "they are to the margin come." May I say to these Brethren "Fear not, Brethren, joyful stand, on the borders of our land." We of the South in spirit, one, "Bids you undismayed, go on."

For the third year I pick up the reins of authority with which I must hold the fiery steed of Zion Methodism on the Little Rock district of the Arkansas Conferences as Presiding Elder for another year. While last year was in many respects a hard one, yet we have reasons to thank God that the Grand Old Little Rock District, though one of the least of all the districts in the State from the standpoint of membership, led in the amount of General Claims reported for the year. Not unto me, not unto me, but to God, the ministers, and the faithful members be the praise for this success and distinction.

Dr. J. B. Colbert, A. M., LL.B., the hustling P. E., of the Louisville district of the Kentucky Conference, Editor of the "Columbian," one of the best edited papers of the race, and a strong candidate for the bishopric at the next General Conference; with Dr. W. A. Blackwell, A. M., one of the greatest platform speakers of the race, a great pulpiteer, and a formidable candidate for the Editorship of the "STAR OF ZION, who pastors in Cincinnati, Ohio, were present; they were of great service to the sessions and great inspiration to the brethren. Their speeches and sermons so electrified the ministers until in spite of the Bishops disposition to object to conference endorsement to candidates, the men "got loose," and endorsed the candidacy of Dr. Colbert for the bishopric and Dr. Blackwell for the editorship of the STAR.

These are great men than whom Zion has produced no greater. Each of them would do credit and great service if elected to the positions to which they aspire.

Bishop G. L. Blackwell, A. M., S. T. D. ruled over the deliberations of the conference with both ease and dignity, and in the "School of the Prophets" told the men how to plan so as to prevent "panic straits," brought on by "Administration Crisis," bad cotton crops, and other social conditions from hindering them in the work of financing the church.

We visited the Arkansas Conference, the session of which was held in Pine Bluff, Arkansas; and in spite of financial conditions from without, and rainy weather within the city, a happier set of ministers would have been scarcely found anywhere. Drs. Colbert and Blackwell were there also, and after making a like impression upon them as upon the brethren of the North Arkansas Conference, they too thought it not robbery to endorse their candidacy.

Revs. G. R. Nelson, of the North Arkansas and R. B. Macon of the Arkansas, with their good members, entertained their respective conferences in creditable style, and were retained in their respective charges.

Elder Macon, has all the people of Pine Bluff "his way," and seems to be content to remain. Judging from the hat, suit, and shoes given him by his good members as well as from their high regards for him as a Christian gentleman, I decided that he has really learned that "Godliness with contentment is great gain." The Negro Suffrage League a political organization of the city made up of such men as Messrs. Price, Havis, Jones, Powell, Taylor, and others tendered the Bishop, his cabinet, and few of his leading pastors a reception. It was a high class affair, and is an index finger pointing to the popularity of Elder Macon in Pine Bluff.

Because of the ill-health of Rev. W. L. Clayton, ex-presiding Elder of the Montrose district, he accepted the appointment as pastor of Mt. Pisgah, while Rev. J. M. Irvin was appointed P. E., in his place. While we have to lose the strong and matchless preacher, parliamentarian, and companionable Elder Clayton from the galaxy of P. E.'s, in the State, we welcome Elder Irvin and feel that under his careful oversight the grand Montrose district will lose no ground in the "District March" of the State.

Common sense, it seems to say nothing of other qualifications should teach those who as ministers consider themselves big men in the church, that they can never make their landing by continually pouring out vituperations upon the so-called little men.

When ever a man condescends to strike at a man beneath him, he is then seen upon a level with the man he has conspired to fight. A heavy weight should always stay in the heavy-weight class. But Brother, "Forget not the day of small things;" for be it useless or not useless, to consult these "Jack-legs" as some consider them, they outnumber the other legs in Zion or other church; and if any man is elected to any position in Zion church, it will be, for the most part, the results of the ballots cast by these "little men." Remember that these "Jack-legs" are not all "logger-heads." They will never allow one to mock them three years and eleven months, and then the "twelfth" month use them as stilts to step into a general office on during the General Conference.

I am no prophet, neither am I the son of a prophet, but I believe with the apostle James that, "If any man offend not in words the same is a perfect man, and able to bridle the whole body." When one reads such things from the pen of a so-called wise man? he is forced to ask with the same Apostle, "Who is a wise man and endowed with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom."

But if ye have bitter envyings and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthy, sensual, devilish. For where envyings and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace to them that make peace." James, 3:13-18.

This is the description of the man that Zion wants and delighteth to honor. We are looking for a man of this stamp to fill the editors chair when in 1916 the Zion Church will say to Dr. Clement come up higher. "The last word has been said."

Little Rock, Ark.

Things Tabulated for the Ensuing General Conference.

By Rev. J. T. McMILLAN.

1st That the ensuing General Conference should enact a law, that not in no case make new appointments to a charge until said church shall have paid the full amount agreed upon for the support of the former pastor and family; or shall have given him satisfaction concerning the same. This would enable the pastor to pay his debts and thereby relieve him of much embarrassment.

2nd. That in no case shall a pastor serve a church without a written contract, that said contract shall be signed by the officers of the church.

3rd That the term of the presiding Eldership in the A. M. E. Zion Church, shall be four years; however, that, he shall not serve another term in succession, unless he is elected by a majority of the annual conference. This would give relief and encouragement to the brethren in many sections of the Church.

4th. Now as to the question of equal lay representation in the "General Conference, that the A. M. E. Zion Church has not sufficiently developed to undertake such a mighty matter. Tuskegee, Ala.