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Rev. W. J. Walls, 1724 W. Madison St.

SHAKING THE PLUM TREE

Real Vital Issues.

By E. D. W. Jones.

As has been told you by special committee of the Council, "We have implicit confidance in the church in the efforts of our delegates authorities and in the possibilities of our membership." Upon this foundation we base our optimism and begin now to look forward to the perfect harmonizing of all our interests so that the Zion of our choice will swing clear in its efforts to success and advancement.

Our departmental life is in healthy condition except the Educational and Missionary branches thereof. The Church Extension is clearing itself gradually and grandly under the economic and honest management of Dr. J. C. Dancy. It only needs to be let alone save some minor legislation that shall be recommended by the Secretary. The Publication House is doing the business tact of the church and race much honor, and the unselfish concern of Dr. Clement as Manager is shown in larger orders, receipts, punctuality and general progress. This too needs to be let alone save the election of a Manager in 1916.

The Brotherhood, Quarterly Review, Star of Zion, Christian Endeavor Societies, W. H. and F. M. Society and its several branches need but detail touches to bring them up to even a higher standard than they now occupy.

The Sunday School Literature moves on nicely as Dr. Bruce moves exact, well poised and gives to the youthful mind a splendid interpretation of the scriptures. Election of Bishops is assured. Retirement

general assessment and make each department with its board and Secretary responsible for the wise management of its affairs. Cut out forever and eternally Bishop's receipts and let them be paid in common with other claimants let them visit on the expense of the amount allowed them to the extent of its limitations and let the charges and pastors who need them and invite them pay their traveling expenses; with a further proviso that instead of Annual Conferences allowing the Bishops enormous sums for stationery and telegrams appropriate a specialized sum of not less than $10.00 for this item, as they are paid already for holding Annual Conferences; let Annual Conferences during sessions keep the law and handle their own monies distributing it per the Discipline, which book should be dignified by universal obedience thereto and stop forever dishonoring our Bishops by stooping them to the low grade of collectors of taxes at our yearly meetings. Bishops should not and legally cannot handle one cent of our Annual Conference money, not because they are dishonest, but because it is not their office, it is the gravest reflection on their order of ministry and has occasioned more scandals than all other irregularities moral and religious that has happened in the church. "The Bishop got the money" is a cry that is heard everywhere. It is indeed untrue in the spirit of its utterance but he handles it all and if a widow worn-out preacher, orphan or missionary fail to get their pittance alloted, the cry is accenuated—"the Bishop got the money and he's gone." We should in our financial adjustment save both our church and protect the righteous zeal of our Bishops from this opprobrious and damaging

BLADES FROM THE GRASS

Connectional Council — Mr. J. C. Dancy — Terrifying Sermons — Sunday School Multitudes Listen.

By Rev. W.

Sunday August 1 — the climatic day at Wesley Metropolitan church, St. Louis, when the A. M. E. Zion Council came to a close, General Convention Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, Sunday School, Christian Endeavor Society also held with a large degree of success. It was the meeting of its kind held among these forces and resulted in a request to the Board of Bishops to be held bi-ennially. Our Discipline also provides for a Secretary of Sunday School work which will be to confer with the General Superintendent, giving new plans and suggestions for the Sunday Schools throughout the Church. Prof. Dancy should be that man.

The preaching at the closing Sabbath was grander and glorious. Bishop Geo. W. Clinton, D. D., A. M., rose fresh and seemed at home when he began his masterful discourse which severely shocked the church while he in his sincerity "Hustled" the angels called "man" from their days. He was honored

proved a royal host at the head of the great Seventh District that is giving us a new Zion in the West.

Bishop Walters, still the lion representative of Zion in National ecclesiastical and Sociological Councils was in Indianapolis to spend Sabbath with Dr. W. L. Rowan who had arranged a magnificent entertainment for him in the Hoosier Capital.

The great Dr. B. G. Shaw, king of financiering pastors, was active on the scene, leading the enthusiastic host that had followed him into the most capacious church plants owned by the race. Shaw is a wonder and the world is watching him.

Ministers who preached in the leading churches were Drs. J. W. Brown, L. W. Kyles, E. D. W. Jones, Jas. E. Mason, J. W. McCoy, P. A. Wallace, G. W. Gaines, F. M. Jacobs. Ye writer also tried to fill the pulpit at St. Paul A. M. E. church for Dr. Brooks at night.

A significant event occurred in the afternoon when Rev. L. W. Kyles, Editor of the Quarterly Review in an appropriate and well phrased speech presented a Silver Service to Hon. John C. Dancy. Dr. Kyles said in part:—"In honoring Mr. Dancy the Church honors the greatest Editor in the A. M. E. Zion Church. He was the editor of periodicals for a quarter of a century and our cause has always been safe in his hands. The Church was never afraid to trust J. C. Dancy in her editorial forum in the most trying days. He has been a conservative editor and has expressed the best sentiment of the church in these years when he stood at the front in "Editorial Annals." Dr. Kyles was the instigator of the Dancy testimonial and show himself capable and broad by this unsolicited deed, for he is Mr. Dancy's

the expression of the Church's esteem Mr. Dancy stepped forward amid a round of spontaneous applause. He began speaking in touching tones and his clear voice and sonorous sentences rose higher and gripped firmer the hearers as he continued to disclose how profoundly appreciative he was to his many friends and the Church that had made possible this testimonial. He declared that he was struck by the intrinsic value of the Silver Service, that cost $200.00, as well as the generous motive that occasioned this expression of honor to him.

'I am the oldest General Officer of the A. M. E. Zion Church," he said. "I have been in the service of the church 42 years, since I joined the church at Tarboro, N. C. I began as a clerk in the trustee board and subsequently served as assistant class leader and trustee. I have never seen a Zion church too humble for me to worship at in any place.

When I was in public office under four Presidents, I found the A. M. E. Zion Church in every instance and made it my worshiping home. Dr. Kyles says I have been conservative. I have been both consistent and conservative and my conservatism has always been on the side of the Church.

The first year that was Editor of the "Star of Zion," I came out $165.00 less than no salary but I have never been sorry of any sacrifice for the Church. I am happy to have been associated with these Bishops and ministers in the building of this great Church. I am proud of the laity of the Church and have had some part with them in heroic sacrifices to make this our great Zion a potency for great good. I rejoice that this incident is enacted in the presence of these great churchmen and in this great church plant and in this western section where the great Dr. Shaw has led the force in waking up new impulses of zeal and in kindling the fires of daring connectional enterprise and church achievement.

And I rejoice all the more because this testimonial is made by a church that is destined to play a significant part in universal Evangelism and in the final consumation of divine purpose for mankind everywhere."

Indeed this was a notable event and of interest to laymen who watch the recognition of the Church for its laymen.

The General officers of the Missionary Society were still on hand and added much to the services at the various churches. Mrs. Annie W. Blackwell made a telling speech at St. Paul A. M. E. Church at night.

Louisville, Ky.

WATCHING THE BREAKERS

The Chautauqua by the Sea.

By Dr. W. H. Davenport.

On the 24th of August there were gathered together at Atlantic City a number of the pastors of the New Jersey Conference in their first chautauqua meeting, Bishop Geo. W. Clinton, D. D., who was associated by Bishop G. L. Blackwell, D. D., and Bishop J. S. Caldwell, D. D. presided.

The ministers present were Presiding Elder W. H. Coffey, D. D., W. D. Robeson, W. H. Davenport, N. W. Van Pelt, G. E. Ferris, J. M. Hoggard, W. M. Langford, the pastor and B. C. Robeson. The visitors were Drs. G. L. White, G. M. Oliver and Mesdames G. W. Clinton, G. L. Blackwell and W. M. Langford.

Bishop Clinton announced the object of the meeting was to awaken a deeper interest in Bible study to intensify the devotional spirit and to study the best methods of church government as it affects our Zion particularly.

PAPERS.

"The Duty of the Ministry and the Church in Pressing the Claims of the ministry upon our Young People.—Dr. W. H. Coffey.

"Are New Methods of Evangelism necessary to promote a revival among our people?"—Rev. G. E. Ferris.

"Should the Pastor endeavor to Promote a revival at every service, or set apart a special season?"—Rev. J. M. Hoggard.

"How to promote a deeper interest and awaken active service among

"Some reasons why the Presiding Elder and Pastor should help circulate our periodicals and other literature."—Rev. W. H. Davenport.

The papers were well prepared and well delivered, all present participating in the discussion of them to profit and advantage. But a very interesting feature of the chautauqua was the Bible reading and the off-hand and independent exposition of the scriptures. The originality of thought displayed by the various speakers was illuminating. Those woh were there were men who had studied and read a great deal. Besides their own language there were students there of Greek, Hebrew and Latin. If any broke from their Methodist moorings however they were brought back and safely anchored. Song and prayer would soothe the overwrought nerves. It was a splendid beginning, it was a good tonic in every way and it looks as if the chautauqua is here to stay, and it should stay.

I desire to lift my hat to editor Clement for recognizing my successful struggle for real democracy at the Council at St. Louis. But Mr. Editor my fighting "days are gliding swiftly by, and I a pilgrim stranger."

And yet I am pained when I hear so often, "A white man said so." Suppose he did?

We want no war with Germany or anybody else.

Some years ago Napoleon made his wild dash for Moscow. But he reckoned without a knowledge of a Russian winter and Moscow snows. Let Germany beware. History has a disagreeable habit of repeating itself.

The Kaiser was bent on ruling or ruining. He is about to ruin both himself and his Empire.

The man who can not take care of twelve hundred dollars worth of his own property is hardly able to care for twelve thousand dollars worth of other peoples property.

Red Bank, N. J.

NOTICE.

The New Bern District Conference, V. C. E., Buds of Promise, Y. W. H. and F. M. Society, and the W. H. and F. M. Society and the Sunday school convention of the A. M. E. Zion church will convene at St. Matthew chapel, Trenton, N. C., September 21, 22, 23, and 24, 1915.

Wm. Sutton, P. E.

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other as candidates, the need of the election of a Bishop to care for our Foreign possessions is being so widely discussed since Dr. Crooke's record breaking candidacy for the position and his honest straight forward campaign until it will no doubt become an important subject in the Quadrennial Episcopal review of our great Missionary needs, and we have only now to consider two departments.

The Missionary discussion can be postponed for the time being on the positive words of its present Secretary at the recent Council. He said before Bishops, General officers, visiting clergymen and officials of the W. H. and F. M. Society, ladies and gentlemen that the Missionary Department as now run "a'nt fit for anybody to have." He also admitted before the same august assembly that "he was now nothing but a figure head." The discussion narrows down therefore to the securing of a man to conduct the affairs of the office who will not be a figure head and who will keepu the office "fit" for his own occupancy, and the glory of our cause of Mission. This department must either be reconstructed, or combined with some other department like the Brotherhood or Church Extension or it must be given entirely over to the control of the W. H. and F. M. Society regulated, operated, and its revenues brought strictly under the management of a full-fledged active board of missions. The Missionary Seer must be edited. It must never die or be dealt with as a cast off publication coming to our homes. It has done too much in shaping legislation, in stirring up missionary Endeavor in giving the work of our women, as the excellent last issue of August by Mrs M. L. Clinton their proper place in the ranks of our progressive activities—it is a necessity and must not fall into the hands of irresponsible squibblers whose best evidence of their unfitenss is found in their productions.

Finally the department itself through Annual Conference special legislation and taxation must care for our local or home missions which are indeed the only sources from which we are to draw our material for a larger and greater Zion.

Ere coming to the Educational department, I must say just here that the Financal department does not need wholesale legislation for its adjustment. Just one or two little enactments will insure its perfect operation. Move the headquarters back to Philadelphia where it belongs as the reason for moving it to Birmingham to increase its borrowing capacity has gone glimmering, restore to the other departments their pro rata share of the

of our recently St. Louis Council and thunderously deny flagrant charges growing out of this condition of collecting claims in our church. It was thought that they had it all, that they had been paid all because they collected all, and while it was far from being true that they had fared much better than the rest, the criticism was based on this leveling of lofty Apostolic collegiates to the despised plan of drudgery publicans and sinners; and this criticism will continue with its naturally connected Episcopal scandals until the regnancy of the written law is obeyed by Annual Conference Treasurers and their finance committees and the Bishops are permitted to unfetter themselves of many cumbersome money bags and secratorial experts and given free chance to exercise the special gifts of heaven which fitted them for high exalted position in God's church. Regular, systematic, positive actual meetings of the Financial Board must be held, and statements of the quarterly condition of finances must be made and the bond of the secretary must be gilt edge.

Now for Prof. Trent's discussion of our Educational department into which he pleasingly and very acceptably interjected our editorship ambitions. This is indeed most difficult of all other subjects to deal with. Prof. Trent is handling the generalities of the situation ably, but has not as yet given us a specific plan of easy and profitable operation.

I confess that I cannot now give him any better, but must content myself with simple observations that might help abler minds to arrive at something definite and fixed.

1st In dealing with this department, its schools and the destinies of our young people, all sentiment should be thrown aside and nothing but intellectual experts should have a hand in prunning its board and its plans of operation. Men should be trained who handle the affairs of training others. I am no specialist like Drs. Goler, Atkins, Profs. T. W. Wallace, Martin, Trent, Walker, Walls, Foote, distinguished and learned philosopher Edward Moore of the chair of language of Livingstone, Crittenden, Hannum, Aggrey, Carrington, Aaron Brown, Sociologist James Ed. Mason and others and therefore do not believe my view should occupy any degrees of positiveness when brought into comparison with their authoriative and experienced positions. Every intelligent and every educated man is not an Educator. The church that stands for and supports educational institutions produces but few educators. This work therefore is the work of specialists and with this department primarily as with all other departments secondarily;

"I am just agoing over Jordan," that melted hundreds of hearts to tears and there was shouting from humblest members to towering Bishops.

Bishop J. W. Alstork edified the saints in East St. Louis at the church pastored by the learned Editor T. W. Wallace, of the Western Star, who by the way has purchased a commodious and beautiful church with parsonage adjoining. It is a perfect structure and as good as new. Prof. Wallace his six children.

Bishop Alstork was much in demand and after some insistence he preached the closing sermon of the Council at 8 p. m., where he struck in a definite way at the flagrant vices of the day and took off the participants in dramatic fashion.

Bishop J. W. Hood was there, casting over a range of service longer than any living Methodist Bishop. His very presence, when he arose to announce a hymn, excited tears of wonderment and reverence.

Bishop C. R. Harris, quiet and unobtrusive was watching events with the same culture and high tone Christianity that have made him our greatest technical observer and scholarly author of Church literature.

Bishop J. S. Caldwell growing old under the financial burdens of the church under which he is leading the vanguard was there still rolling but teh Gospel on song wings and carrying the multitude Homeward.

Bishop G. L. Blackwell did not fail to show himself the master mind and as able as the most cultured Bishops of the country. He

should be planned and governed by specialists. From my point therefore we are glad that the epidemic of making many schools has passed.

Secondly we note with pleasure a return from the craze of Industrial education which has but one master Prof. Booker T. Washington, to our own system of higher education which recognizes as its founder the late Dr. J. C. Price adopted evidently in the establishment of our own great Livingstone. The Industrial feature was hitched on to our original propaganda to get gifts and it has strengthened Mr. Washington's more than all else besides. Now, that philanthropists are not giving but little we can afford to return to the day of our original proposition, the highest possible education for the student who aspires.

In this connection Children's Day should be made mean something big for education. Restore this

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