

STAR OF ZION

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

VOL. XXXIX.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 1915.

No. 36

RED HEAD-ED SQUIBS

By Rev. W. L. Lee, D. D.

THE SUPREME NEED OF AN EDUCATED MINISTRY.

Once again we find ourself speaking out on this subject that lies so close to our heart. We cannot promise when our final word will be said on this subject—surely not until we see the principalities and powers of Zion lined up to meet this need and to supply this demand. Until then we purpose to continue this agitation for:

The cause that needs assistance. Against the wrong that needs resistance.

For the future in the distance. And the good that we may do.

The cause is not ours it is the church's, the peoples' the Lord's. And we stand at the ministerial armageddon and we battle for the church, the people, and the Lord. Who will come to the help of the Lord against the mighty. Let each of the conferences put one good man in school and help him to secure the needed training to fit him for the duties of the office of the gospel ministry in our own church that would mean that between now and next June at least forty men would enter some one of our schools for the displacement of his illiteracy and hear me! twenty years of such campaigning would bring results that would more than compensate for every dollar expended in its behalf.

This need rises to such height and assumes such proportions as to eclipse all of the rest. Let us give it the first consideration when the subject of education comes up in the forthcoming General Conference. Again who among those in authority will speak a word in favor of this measure.

CONTIGUOUS DISTRICTS.

The Rev. E. M. Argyle very soberly and very righteously says as to the possibility of contiguous districts, "All is over but the shouting." But why should we have such districts? Surely if we had no other reason than to lead those who are without to believe that we are sane, and that we have a right to be on the field and at large and not in the asylum.

This however is not the best nor the chief reason why we should have them so arranged. First there are times when the Bishop needs to be in close touch with his brethren on the field, an emergency arises that demands his presence, and he must cross a half dozen other districts before he reaches his own. He is the chief Pastor and is sometimes needed at some point to handle some matters that cannot be delayed, and this is as old as the system itself and will never cease to be.

Secondly: The church is still in its incipient period, and the greater Zion is yet to be built. Our benevolent enterprises need the inspiration that the bishop can give them when he is close enough to the work. For example, we need ten missionary conventions to be held on ten episcopal districts annually, instead of the small one held in the name of the whole Church annually, and which represents one-tenth per cent of what is possible to the church. Ten contiguous districts where none of the delegates would have to travel over four hundred miles (and we are giving this the maximum stretch) to reach the seat of the convention, they could muster three times as many women as has ever attended any one of our General meetings, and roll up ten times as much money. Let us remember that in 1911, our General Missionary Convention met in Knoxville, Tenn., and raised about three thousand dollars, and one-sixth of the C. M. E. Church, viz: Bishop P. S. Williams, and his District, met in Charlotte, N. C., where they had no church and where we have always had and where we still have everything speaking from a Methodist viewpoint, and his little contiguous district raised three thousand dollars for education and missions.

Finally we want such an arrangement for the sake of less travel and more work. In the name of common sense, in the name of progress in the name of justice to the church let us have contiguous districts! Let ring from ten thousand throats, CONTIGUOUS DISTRICTS!

THE EPISCOPAL COMMITTEE.

We very happily agree with Dr. Argyle as to how this committee could be composed but we go further and say that each annual conference should elect their representative to sit in this body of men, and that each bishop should go before said committee and be examined as to his ability to serve the Church in that capacity and as to his conduct in office. This of course would be a radical departure for Zion but this is simple and Simon pure Methodism. Departure from this rule is good only for the individual but never for the Church.

PULL AND PUSH.

In the scramble for official preferment we hear much about the word "Pull." It purports to represent popularity and desirability. It may or may not represent merit or fitness. Pull represents what others may do for one push represents what one does for himself. Pull is from without. Push comes from within. Take the pull if it comes but have the push.

THE FIRST EPISCOPAL ADDRESS.

This was delivered in the year of 1812 by Bishop William McKenrue. It was to the first delegated conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the M. E. Church only the regularly elected delegates and the alternates exercise the right to vote in the general conference. And the recommendations contained in the address was as far as the bishops could take matters, they could not do and cannot do in

not deprive our bishops of the right to vote. It went out from the meeting at St. Louis, that only the delegates and the alternates within the several districts would vote in the next general conference. This however would not stand in bar of the General Officers and Officers of the various boards.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

NOTICE.

TWO MISSIONARY CONVOCATIONS TO BE HELD BY THE WOMAN'S HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY AND ITS AUXILIARIES.

Rock Hill, S. C., October, 6th and 7th.

Conferences:
South Carolina,
Palmetto,
Western North Carolina,
Blue Ridge,
S. W. Virginia.

Goldsboro, N. C., October, 14, 15, 16.

Conferences:
Virginia,
Albemarle,
North Carolina,
Central North Carolina,
West Central North Carolina.

The representation will consist of the district officers from each department, all local officers and a delegate from each society, and any person who will pay one dollar as a membership fee.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

By Rev. E. F. Rollins.

All General Officers, Fraternal Messenger, and visitors, who expect to attend the Cape Fear Annual Conference which convenes at Southport, N. C., Nov. 18th 1915, will please inform me at once. In order that arrangements can be made for their entertainment.
Southport, N. C.

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.

CONNECTIONS IMPRESSIONS

A Man Overlooked Among the Worthies—A Bad Policy—Our General Officers and their needs.

By Rev. Geo. L. White, D. D.

I have been silent for a few months for reason that it was claimed by Bishop George V. Clinton, that my articles were damaging. I refused to reply because I believe in respecting the authorities of the



REV. LOGAN JOHNSON, D. D.

church, while I know that the

A MAN OVERLOOKED AMONG THE WORTHIES.

The distinguished gentleman I refer to; has been of a noble worth to Zion from a pioneering and missionary standpoint. He has built and organized more churches in the District of Columbia and state of Maryland than any other man. He is fully prepared and would honor with grace any position in the church. He is a graduate of Lincoln University, he is far seeing, he has an astute methodical mind, understands church government and is well versed in the operation of the Church, and a man of sterling qualities, untarnished character and a high class Christian gentleman. He has served the church profitably for more than thirty years; yet he has not received the consideration and deference from the General Church as have some other men who are

Is it possible, that the great Zion Church who has been in search for real men to grapple and master the affairs of a great church, would overlook this distinguished character? Among the worthies of Zion he has been overlooked yet, nevertheless he is deserving of Episcopal considerations. I now nominate and present the Rev. Dr. Logan Johnson of Washington, D. C., and the Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference, as a fit subject to be honored with the highest gift of the Church.

No man in the church is better prepared from an intellectual, moral and spiritual standpoint than the above named gentleman. If service and fitness amounts to anything and is appreciated by the Church then he should be considered.

A BAD POLICY FOR THE CHURCH.

The policy of concentrating the financial interests of the Church in the present Quadrennium is a bad one, I do not oppose concentration of finances if it is done properly. We have made a serious blunder at it. Concentration of finances cannot be successfully operated with the plans in vogue at the present time.

This plan calls for a board and the power must be centered in the board and not in the treasurer or secretary.

The trouble lies in the mode of operation; Conferences are assessed on pro-rata basis, this assessment is appropriated and expended before the receipts for which, reaches the office. The calculation to begin with is spurious; for the treasurer calculates and gives his word what he will do, and when the time comes

he has receipts, for the cash, and no cash. What is he to do but go out and borrow and pay an enormous bonus for money, and when he attempts to pay back the loan and the bonus with the interests, it leaves a depleted treasury, and he has really given away thousands of dollars from the coffers of the church; which on its ace looks ugly, when he says, I have no moeny in hand. Stop the Bishops from collecting money, with receipts, pay them \$3,000 a year as salary, and let business arrangements be entered that the office may pay them monthly and thereby relieve them from embarrassment. They need money every week and must have it.

The large bonuses is the thing that is wrecking the whole church. Put the affairs of the church in the hands of men who have business acumen and not the favorites from any section. Let the bishops look after the Church and not the money, and let the affairs of the church be governed by administrative boards, and these boards meet and make appropriations. It is too burdensome for these Bishops to worry with the temporal concerns of this church; they are to look after the salvation of souls, and keep harmony in the rank and file of the churches.

I think if the Annual Conferences were thus operated by boards we would have better results. When you pay your claims so far as you are concerned, the conference is over. If a man has the genius to get out on the field and maneuver plans to raise money for the Conference he ought have sense enough to count it and have some say about it, after he gets to the Conference.

My God! where are we heading to as a Christian institution. I sound the alarm now, lest to-morrow be too late.

ELIMINATION BY COMBINATION IS CROPPING OUT AGAIN.

Elimination by combination is cropping out again. It is now mooted, that, we eliminate the office of General Secretary they say it is a fifth wheel. It is strange after all these years we have just found out it is a fifth wheel. It has served for years to answer the means of the machine as to place somebody there to keep it from crying.

Then again, they said for economy sake lets combine the Church Extension and Missionary Societies. The difference between the two, are as distinct as day and night, as water and oil. The Church Extension Society is the Realty and Calateral holding society of the Church and deals with business only of this nature. A layman may be Secretary of the Church Extension Society but not of the Missionary Society for it has to do with things out of his elements.

It is all tommy-rot, to continue experimenting with Church concerns, there are laws peculiar to each department and violate them, and insolvency is the next thing. Put each department separate and distinct, let it have a board headed by a Bishop, to govern and appropriate its funds, let each have their own depository and form or build its own credit, and if the General Department is in tough corral your influence and rescue the situation.

Let some business man get at these departments not because a man had a rally, or built a church, or held a revival, be given as a reason, but let it be the "survival of the fittest."

To be Continued.
Baltimore, Md.

New Song Books.

We have "Soul Echoes," the charming song book of Bishops Caldwell, Coppin, Blackwell, Dr. Tindley and others for sale. A choice collection of songs for only 10 cents each or \$1.00 per dozen by mail prepaid. Order now.

We are prepared to send you **Fields Hand Book on Theology** for \$1.00; **Hints to Self-Educated Ministers** for \$1.25, and **Outlines of Church History and Outlines of Bible History** 60 cents each. Send order at once.

MISSIONARY CONVOCATION

THE WOMAN'S HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY GETTING THE "VISION."

Two Convocations, for the Month of October.

ROCK HILL, S. C., OCTOBER 6th, 7th.
GOLDSBORO, N. C., OCTOBER, 14, 15, 16, 1915.

By Mrs. A. W. Blackwell.

The fact that the territory covered by the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society is so large and that the expense to reach the General Meeting, so great, has influenced the Foreign Mission Board to adopt the plan offered sometime ago, to group the conferences into Missionary Districts and hold convocations in different sections of the church during the Quadrennium and the General meeting at the close of the Quadrennium.

Acting upon this decision, two convocations have been planned for the month of October. The first to be held in Rock Hill, S. C., October 6, and 7, comprising the Palmetto, South Carolina, Western N. C., Blue Ridge and S. W. Va., Conferences; the second, Goldsboro, N. C., October 14, 15, 16, conferences: Va., Albemarle, North Carolina, Central N. C., West Central N. C.

The Presiding Elders, pastors, District and local officers have for the most part been personally notified in all these conferences. Those who have not received notice is because their address is not known. Many have responded, signifying their interest and pledging their hearty support.

Meetings a source of information and inspiration to our women. Every district and local officer should plan to be present and have a report from her work and society regardless of the sacrifices she may have to make to get to the meetings as it will mean a broader and better service for the local and general church.

There will be "conferences," by the district officers each day and the difficult problems of the work will be taken up and thoroughly discussed, and the best methods offered for their solution, so the women may be able to do better work on improved plans in their local society.

There will be model business meetings and Mission Study classes held to give practical demonstration of the best way to reach and keep our women actively engaged in the Missionary work, so there will be fewer dead and dying societies.

The Song and Praise services will give the "upward pull" so necessary to the strengthening and fortifying the spiritual life of those who are to carry on the work.

In order to increase our funds and make the convocation a financial success. We are asking all societies to report in classes. We have used this method in two former meetings with very great success, and we believe that we shall not fail now.

Any one reporting \$20. will be placed in Class A; have front seats in the meeting and receive a yellow badge; \$15 Class B, blue badge and seated in rear of Class A, and so on through all the classes. \$10 Class C, red badge; \$5, white badge, less than \$5 a purple badge. These badges are beautifully made and have a medallion photograph of our Missionary, Mrs. Peters, attached, which makes it doubly valuable as a souvenir.

Besides these class badges to the individual contributor we are offering in each convocation a prize banner to the DISTRICT, that sends up the largest amount of money. We do hope the presiding elders and pastors will encourage and cooperate with the missionaries in their respective districts and put forth extra effort to secure this banner. If there is no real competition in the effort to secure it there will be no material gain in awarding it. We feel the honor of being the Banner District is worth while the effort to secure it.

Now let the departments in each district combine their efforts and secure the Banner. Let every one who can possibly do so report in Class A.

Philadelphia, Pa.