

# The Star of Zion

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

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## SHAKING THE PLUM TREE. Twenty-Five Reasons Why I Boast of our Zion.

By Dr. E. D. W. Jones.

Critics are seldom just. They always see the defects of one side and not the balancing good influence of the other side shows sternness and stoicism. Your estimate of his character depends therefore on the angle of your view.

Critics look at men and institutions subjectively and their estimate is colored by the variegated angular optical figures flitting across their visions. Zion Church has been passing through the critics scrutiny and it is our intent to look the great cause of the Church in square front face and see the regular lines of symmetry and beauty which makes the church a joy forever.

Have we nothing to boast of; to glory in? Is criticism all that we have for a church that has existed for over a hundred years? Is there nothing in its past, and in its pregnant present to make us all rejoice and be exceedingly glad? Let us see.

First: It is a source of just pride that the Church has kept steadily on its way, without losing its identity for nearly a score of years into its second century. It had most difficult sailing in its beginning and it has had to prove itself capable of a permanent place alongside of other competing institutions during these one hundred and twenty years.

Second: Aside from additions to its membership, the organization of the church with its...

As a glorious legacy, not a single member no matter his station, now in the Church had one thing to do with its beginning. It was all formed, its foundation was laid and securely built upon; its laws were formulated, its government was made to be just and conducive to encourage the very best deportment, its doctrines were written and all of us now active came into this well-constructed ark without sawing a timber or lifting a nail. "Walk in and occupy" stood in blazing letters over the door and personal possession is ours as long as we prescribe to the original plans of the fathers and "Keep the old ark moving." Legated opportunity.

Third: We have reasons to be proud of our Church because of the men it has produced, some dead, some actively engaged and others in preparation tramping rapidly to take their proper places. Few if any in Zion would have reached to such sudden heights outside the pales of the church. They may think so at times when discouraged and confronted with large duties and problems, but as we are dealing with facts and records based on experiences and tests, this idea of what might have been is not groven.

Fourth: We have reason to rejoice in our Methodism because of the opportunities it affords us for usefulness and service. If in her march through the decades she has not reached our conception of spiritual idealism, that lack should afford the strongest incentive for immediate effort and labor. If she has; there is still work for us to do in pushing her to an always roomy top.

If our finance is not larger, if any of our departments are not meeting their respective demands, if there is cause for complaint against our systems—our highest and best service is to be formed in regulating all seen and known irregularities. The mere fact that we notice a leak of breach is an invited opportunity for service. To say that we cannot, is to say that we are unfit to take charge of affairs and utilize them for the very best possible results; and to lay down in hopeless despair is but the last cover of the coward.

Fifth: We have reasons to be proud of our Church because of her history. In all great issues of the race we have borne our part of the (Continued on page 5.)

## THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF A ZION MINISTER.

By Rev. W. J. Walls, BD.

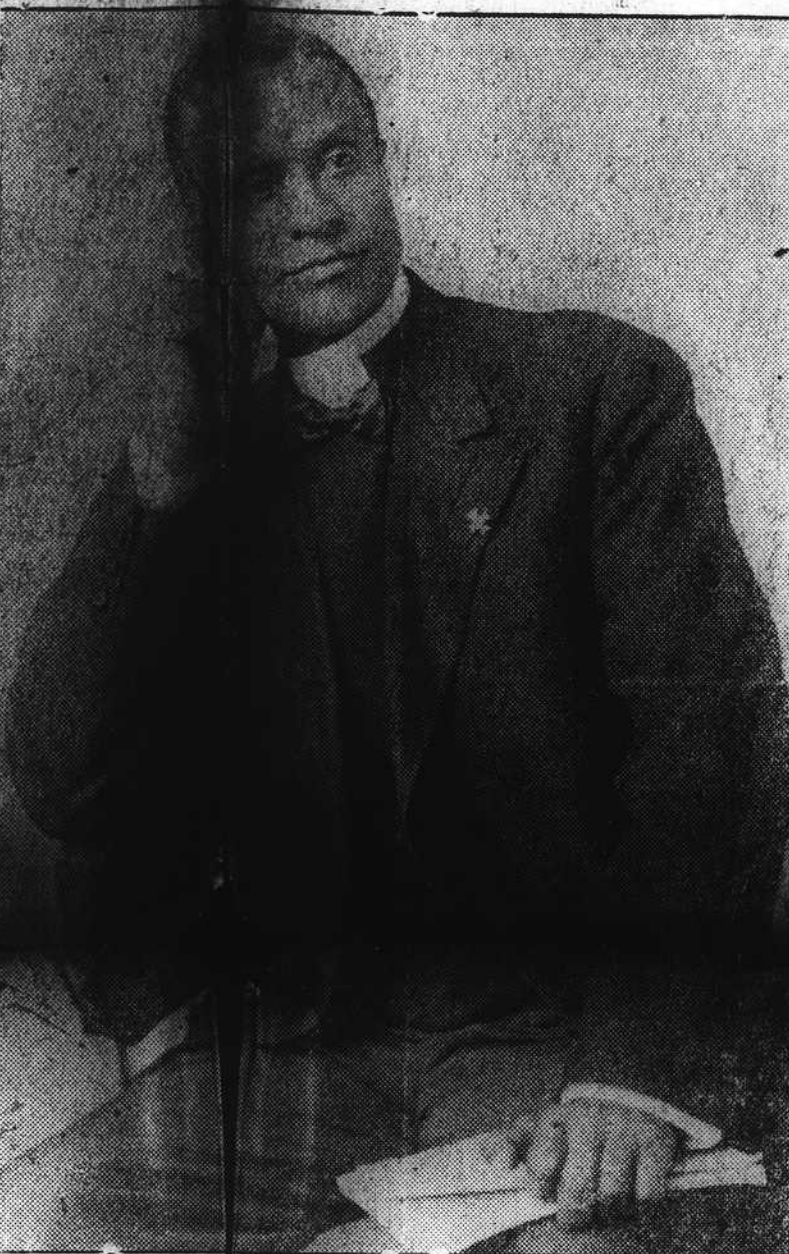
The recent election for the city of Louisville and Jefferson County was one of the greatest and most decisive victories for Republicanism for more than a quarter of a century. The municipal affairs had been conducted by a debauched Democratic machine, dominated by the Roman Catholic church, committed to corruption, graft and trickery to perpetuate itself in power. There was no crime in the calendar that had not been connived at and resorted to by this corrupt ring. For years, voteselling and repeating were carried on with impunity by the trashy element of both races, to the shame of democracy and the disgrace of the decent people. That something had to be done to purge out such a condition was evident to all, both white and black, agreed that this was the time to begin the work of house cleaning. Mr. Chesley Searcy a white man was made Chairman of the Republican Campaign Committee and Dr. Jesse B. Colbert was the chairman of the Colored Republican Campaign Committee, thus giving the Republicans the most perfect organization ever had in its history. Dr. Colbert is successfully practicing law at the bar of Louisville and the State of Ky. as well as pastoring our historic church at Bardonia, Ky. the home of our lamented Bishop A. Walters. By his unflinching efforts and progressive work, he has won his way into the death knell to the corrupt political machine in this city, and now we have a full fledged Republican party in control of a democratic State and Southern City. The colored man can now expect to be regarded as a citizen and if party loyalty and dignified deportment count for anything they will be. Dr. Colbert is conceded to have the inside tract, his vigilant and industrious lead, the influential forces of his people, has caused him to be sought and courted by scores of people of both races, seeking consideration at the hands of the new Administration. The writer was in Conference with the Mayor and other prominent officials and was told that Dr. Colbert was the most deserving colored man in the city and no doubt would be substantially rewarded. The Dr. has chosen Louisville for his future home and purchased a beautiful residence on W. Walnut St. a most desirable locality.

When I met Dr. Colbert the other day I made inquiry of him as to what was his primary motive for taking such an active part in the campaign at this time. He made this reply, "After I had been honored with the very important and responsible position of the Chairmanship of the Colored Campaign Committee, a position offered me without the remotest attempt on my part to obtain it, I had an opportunity to learn a great deal concerning the work of one of the most malicious political machines that has ever cursed an American city, and since I was a citizen of Louisville, own property and pay taxes as well as many others of my race, I felt that was my civic duty as a citizen to contribute my 'bit' towards the destruction of the infamous policy of 'one man power,' to make myself better understood, the administration of Louisville had been practically dictated and manipulated by one man, by the name of John Whallen, an Irish Catholic and had subsidized the whole city to the benefit and in the interest of the Roman Catholic Church which in its final analysis was a policy of 'Whallensism' and was a synonym of ballot stuffing, thievery, thuggery, vice and gambling dens. It was this same identical machine that matched out the obnoxious Segregation ordinance which has just been declared invalid by the Supreme Court of the United States. I am inherently and unalterably opposed to ring or machine rule both in church and in State, for the reason I believe it to be out of harmony and contrary to our American institutions. It is a species of autocracy which is at the bottom of the world-wide war which is now being waged in the world to-day. I have vowed to strike it down when and wherever I see it. I verily believed that 'charity should begin at home.' The results of this election have shown beyond all reasonable doubt, the trend of the times and what we may expect when once the conscience of the people becomes aroused against wrong doing and injustice.

The spirit of revolution and reformation is in the very atmosphere which we breathe. In Louisville political bossism has been dethroned and the chaos of right and justice has been enthroned. The Republican party which is conceded to be the party of liberty and freedom, is entrusted with power to rule in the affairs of Louisville for the first time in full in its history. The thing that pleases me most is the fact that the colored man had a part in the destruction of the vicious machine which has worked a hardship and exploited its perpetrations of injustice upon my race for all the years."

After hearing Dr. Colbert speak at one of the great meetings last fall during the Presidential campaign, Mr. Wood F. Axton who was a candidate for Mayor a few years ago, said, Dr. Colbert delivered one of the ablest speeches to which he had listened during the whole campaign, notwithstanding he had heard Mr. Hughes, the Presidential Nominee, Col. Roosevelt and many other local

## BEACON LIGHT FOR THE A. M. E. ZION CHURCH OF THE PRESENT TIMES.



DR. JESSE B. COLBERT.  
Of Louisville, Ky. Great Preacher and Lawyer. A Logical Candidate for the Bishopric.

speakers. Mr. Wood is a man of great wealth and influence, the President of one of the largest manufacturing concerns in the West. Dr. Colbert enunciated the slogan which was caught up during the campaign to the effect, "the machine must be destroyed" and it was destroyed and it remains to be seen what substantial emoluments will come to him for this unprecedented victory for the race and the citizens of Louisville and the State of Kentucky.

## MISSIONARY CONVOCATION AT INDIANAPOLIS, IND., A GLOWING SUCCESS.

By Miss Frankie L. Wallace.

On Thursday Morning, Aug. 2, 1917 a representative body of A. M. E. Zion Missionary women gathered in the auditorium of that historical Jones' Tabernacle, where they were greeted and cordially received, by Rev. and Mrs. S. D. Davis and the good members of the above named church. There were Missionary women from New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia and Pittsburg, Pa., Kentucky, Missouri and a host of women from Indiana.

The opening session was formal with a soul-stirring sermon by our Missionary Secretary, the Rev. J. W. Wood, D. D., after which holy communion was administered.

The organization for the Convocation was in order and the following persons elected: owing to the absence of Mrs. L. W. Kyles, (due to illness) the General President, Mrs. Florence Randolph of Jersey City, N. J., presided; Mrs. L. B. Evans-Pierce, of Louisville, Ky., was elected Secretary. (Continued on page 5.)

## WALKING ABOUT ZION.

By Bishop J. S. Caldwell, D. D.

Editor of the Star of Zion—

It was my privilege to visit the Western North Carolina Conference a few weeks ago at Charlotte, N. C., presided over by Bishop G. W. Clinton. This Conference is composed of some of the best and strongest men of our church. Within its boundary is Livingstone College, our chief Educational Institution. I was pleased at the spirit which pervaded the sessions as regards the progressive movements of our great Church. The Debt-Paying Rally was taken hold of with a steady hand and with a determination by both the Bishop and men. We were assured that more than their quota would be forthcoming ere the Rally closes. Rev. B. F. Martin one of the pioneer members of the Conference preached an eloquent, logical and very instructive sermon at the opening of the Conference session. Rev. T. H. Jones was heard to good advantage in a sermon also.

Our next stop was at Birmingham, Ala. Here we found Bishop J. W. Alstork presiding over the North Alabama Conference. This Conference made a considerable increase in its financial reports

with good results. The men here pledged every cent of their quota in the Debt-Paying Rally. The men of the Conference planned a purse of \$400 or \$500 with which to send Bishop Alstork on a little rest tour to some resort. Mrs. Alstork, as usual, was there, doing her mite to aid the Bishop in every way possible.

Our next stop was at Montgomery, Ala., where we found Bishop W. L. Lee, presiding over the Central Alabama Conference. Here we spent two days very pleasantly. We had the opportunity to observe our brother beloved for the first time wielding the gavel in one of his own Conferences. He went about his work like an old experienced man. He was methodical and carried on the business with great dispatch. This Conference, like the others, pledged their full quota in the Debt Paying Rally.

Our next point was Mobile, Ala., where we held the West Alabama Conference. The brethren in this Conference each pledged his quota of the Debt Paying Rally money. Bishops Blackwell, Warner, Kyles, Bruce and Clement have all been interviewed upon the outlook of the Debt-Paying Campaign, and have reported that every dollar asked by the Committee and more will be raised. We find some of our brethren willing and ready to raise more than they have been asked to raise.

Remember, the first report will be made in May in connection with the Commencement at Livingstone College. Let us see how much we can roll up by that time. More anon. Philadelphia, Pa.

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