

RALLY AT CHESTERFIELD MISSION CHURCH

By Rev. C. H. McRae.

Mr. Editor:-

Please allow me space in the Star of Zion to say a few words about our Mission Church at Chesterfield, S. C. Under the Pastoral care of Rev J J Hunter, this Mission is in splendid condition. The Fifth Sunday in April was a high day. Rev Hunter secured the Court House to worship in. Revs L A Thomas of the M E Church; Foster of the Presbyterian church and Little of the Baptist church closed their doors and worshipped with us at 11 am. and 3 pm. A large and appreciative audience attended each service. The sermons preached by the writer, Revs Hunter, and J. L. Little of the Baptist church were of high order and met the approval of the occasion. The Mission church is at the County seat of Chesterfield County and under the leadership of Rev W O Carson, Presiding Elder of the Cheraw District. We will soon have a nice church at this place. Total amount raised during the day, \$40.40. Chesterfield, S. C.

FROM SCANDIA, IOWA.

Dear Mr. Editor:-

Please allow space in the columns of the Star of Zion for a word from the new work at Scandia, Ia. This is the first time in our history to ever send an article.

About a year ago our Presiding Elder Rev. F D Douglass brought the pleasant news to us that there was a denomination known as the A. M. E. Zion church. We are thankful to God, that we can say at this time that we have a strong membership and a well organized church under the leadership of our Pastor Rev G W White, who is making himself felt as a leader among men in this part of Iowa.

We are now on the verge of the Annual Conference. On the 26th of May we gave the Presiding Elder a reception which was largely attended in honor of this great man of

God. If our Presiding Elder will return to us, the future bids fair for a good church building before the next Annual Conference, for already we have more than a hundred dollars on hand to erect the edifice. On Sunday, May 27th at 11 o'clock. We had with us our own Bishop L W Kyles, DD. AB. who was greeted by a large audience of both white and colored. Never before had we had a Bishop in this part of the world. We thank God for such Bishops as Bishop Kyles who will visit the small charges as well as the large. Bishop Kyles preached a powerful sermon sweeping his audience from their feet, he will never be forgotten in this part of Iowa and we shall expect him once each year. Although the Bishop could not be present at the reception, yet many good things were said concerning him by the Presiding Elder. The following program was rendered:

- Song, "It is Well With My Soul" congregation.
- Invocation, G W Montague.
- Address, Jas Hamilton.
- Response, Miss B. Madden.
- Paper Mrs M Hamilton.
- Instrumental so'o, Mr H Stone.
- Original poem, Miss M Madden
- Speaker of the hour, Presiding Elder F. D. Douglass.
- Closing remarks, Henry Madden.

Miss Murrell Madden rendered an original poem in honor of the Presiding Elder as follows.

Here's to the honored Bishop Kyles. Of the Methodist Episcopal Zion church.

A worthy and powerful leader indeed appointed and lead by God's power.

He leads the righteous and ungodly And the sinner along as well Out upon the road of success That leads to eternal Bliss.

Over hill, through dale on plain, He urges on his host, To never falter, no, never tire While journeying along this road.

Along this road are thorns and thistles And savageous beasts, bye, bye, To frighten those who will follow on After that fearless leader Kyles.

Under the banner of Christ, And under the stars and stripes, Music ringing and colors streaming, We are marching on to K. C.

Lead by the spirit of God, Lead under our Bishop Kyles, May this Conference at Kansas City, Be one of great renown.

... past records of the AMEZ church Can be pointed to with dignity and pride.

But the record we'll establish on June 15th, Will be an ideal and model for all.

God bless our Conference, Bless our Presiding Elders too, Bless every co-worker in our field. But bless our leader, Bishop Kyles.

Dedicated to Presiding Elder F D Douglass of Kansas City, Mo., by Murrel Madden:

To our Connectional Evangelist and Presiding Elder, A member of the noisy seventh. A Lieutenant under Bishop Kyles. In the mission fields of Iowa.

Douglass won this great honor, Through persistent efforts ever, Was chosen from the list of eligibles To rise as Presiding Elder.

God holds Douglass' destiny In His own powerful hand, Bishop Kyles holds his appointment And is watching Douglass command.

Whether Douglass can muster and general, God's vast army in Iowa If so, he's in line for promotion, To be a Bishop too some day.

Though the task is great and burdensome To cover this area assigned, But he'll make it in time for Conference, With three days in Scandia to spend.

He's up early and out late, And very seldom at home, Mission calls him far and near, But God bless his work and home.

FROM LUVERNE, ALA.

Dear Editor:-

Please allow me, in our Star to speak a word for our hustling pastor

First, I must say to all that we have a blessed man on this circuit. He has done more on this circuit in 3 months than any Pastor we have ever had in so short a time. In every quarterly meeting he raises his assessments. The first quarter he raised \$42.95; the second quarter he raised \$53.62 and \$11.00. General funds \$10; education money on hand \$25; conference money.

Our Christian Endeavor is alive under his hand. He also has six auxiliaries and from \$10 to \$15 in each treasury. So when Bishop W L Lee, DD., makes his call our Pastor Rev G A Howard will be there with the goods. We have a live Sunday School at each church. Everybody loves him both white and colored. He has a good reputation here. He made an impressive speech at the Court House God bless his efforts.

We are storming him on every hand. The good Baptist people are very handy in helping us. God bless them. We raised \$349.38 since the annual Conference. Zion is safe at Luverne, Ala., under our Pastor.

Our stewardess board is in fine shape.

Yours for God and Zion, L. V. Turnipseed.

THE RESULTS OF THE RURAL SCHOOL EXTENSION MOVEMENT.

The first of the year, the wise and prudent business man usually takes an inventory of his stock to ascertain whether or not his business is growing or at a standstill or falling off.

When he has made a discovery of the results satisfactory to himself, he will then know how to take his bearings for the future, if he continues in business.

Following such an example, let us take "stock" of the results accomplished in the rural school Extension Work and see if the movement has been worth while.

Recently, I have been making a careful study of the Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with a view of learning whether or not any progress has been

made in the improvement of the Colored public schools in the State, especially since the establishment of the Rural School Extension Department by the State Teacher's Association.

I have made a study and comparison of data and statistics of the school years 1914-15 and 1915-16 along four specific lines, viz: School houses length of term, salaries and school furniture. The Rural School work as established by the Teacher's Association for two years and four months only starting in September 1915. The other school years, there fore between which we can make any comparison with any approximate certainty of the correctness of the information are the two school years mentioned above; for there has been no official record as yet compiled and published for the school year 1916-17.

I usually am engaged in the rural school work about eight months in the year. During the twenty (20) months, therefore, this movement has been in operation, I have visited fifty (50) counties, travelling over 25,000 miles, making an inspection of the school conditions in these counties. In the meantime I obtain such information regarding them from the local school officials and our own people, as will enable me to be of some service to those for whose children the schools are operated. Now, what are the results?

First, of the fifty counties I have visited, I find that from one to four new school houses have been built in thirty-two (32) counties in the school year 1915-1916.

As to how many were built in the past school year—1916-17, I have no definite record, as much has not yet been published.

But last July, before the teachers in the summer school at the A. and T. College at N. C. Newbold, State agent of colored schools, in an address, gave the information among other things that Supt. J. Y. Joyner said, more school houses had been built for colored children during the past two years—1915-16 and 1916-17 than had ever been built before under any other two years of his administration. And, furthermore, Dr. Joyner himself asserted

in a conference in the fall of 1916 with some of the members of the Executive Committee of the Rural School Department that more stimulus had been given towards the building of new school-houses for the colored people during the past year (1916) than ever before, and he, moreover, gave credit for this activity largely to the rural school extension movement.

I regret to say however, that owing to the stubbornness or lack of interest on the part of some local school officials, there are a few counties where no school houses have been built in a number of years.

Second, in thirty-seven (37) of the fifty (50) counties I visited the school term has been lengthened by from two to ten days.

Third, I find that in forty-one of the fifty (50) counties the salaries have been increased, however little or much.

There was an increase of \$6.14 in the average annual amount paid each colored teacher in 1915-16 above that paid in 1914-15. The average annual amount paid the colored teacher in 1915-16 was \$155.80. We are satisfied the amount will be bound to be more for 1916-17 when the State Supt's next Biennial Report is published and also for this school year 1917-18.

But even with this small increase it is not sufficient to meet the increase in the teachers' living expenses, nor in proportion to the increase made in other lines of work in the state and nation.

The result is there is a greater demand for competent teachers than the supply.

Fourth, there are in the state 2356 colored rural school houses. 557 of them in 1916 were equipped with modern school furniture, an increase of 160 over 1914.

In the same year 1190 school houses were equipped with home made desks.

The above are the results of my "findings" after a close study of the biennial report of Dr Joyner, our State Supt. of Public Instruction.

I leave it to the reader whether or not the rural school extension work is "worth while," not claiming however, that every improvement (Continued on page seven.)

90C.

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NOTICE ?

On account of the Great Increase in Sunday School orders, we fell short of Literature for the first quarter. All orders that came in since February 1st will be filled the second quarter.

Respectfully

J. W. Crockett, Mgr.

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