

## New York Church 127 Years Old.

And Within Past Decade, Under Administration of Rev. J. W. Brown, Has Made Wonderful Progress And Advancement.

(Continued from last week.)

It is planned that the new building will enable Mother Zion to take an advanced place in the church life of the race. It is not intended that the building will be only for periodic use, but a seven-day church, purveying to all the rational needs of the community, without regard to social or religious lines. It will be a place for religious instruction and education, but it will also be a place for social life and recreation for the community. There will be all modern conveniences, with ample equipment, including a community hall, gymnasium, dining room, kitchen, parlor, library, and these facilities are to be constantly available that a definite and imperative need in the community may be supplied.

The Sunday-school will be amply provided for, with rooms for adults and children and parlor for the young people. Special means will be provided by which young people of the community, male and female, may find it possible, not only to enjoy the conveniences afforded, but to profit by special training along lines to be developed that will fire them for broader and more effective work.

When the new building shall have been completed and in operation, the present church building will be remodelled and turned into a general community house, with far-reaching ramifications. It will be made four stories, and will embrace offices for all the administrative boards, a spacious assembly hall, dormitories, for the accommodation specially of dignitaries and officials of the connection, and other guests of the church, and a gymnasium which will be of the most modern convenience.

### A Brief Autobiography.

To review the work accomplished by Mother Zion during the past ten years is to summarize the accomplishments of a man just at the 50 year milestone, who has spent just twenty years in the gospel ministry. The baby boy, whose work is told above, was born July 19, 1872, at Elizabeth City, N. C., and entered Shaw University, Raleigh, at the age of 16. In 1893, he had won an A. B. degree, and after graduation he became at once assistant principal of the State Normal at Fayetteville. Here he taught from 1893 to 1900, when he entered Lincoln University, taking the theological course. This was finished in 1903.

The young minister's first charge was at South Bethlehem, Pa., where he stayed two years, finishing a building which he found in course of erection and reducing the debt by a considerable sum. During the year of 1905, Dr. Brown supplied the Price Memorial A. M. E. Zion church at Atlantic City, and in the fall of that same year he was sent to Rochester, N. Y. During an 8-year period, Pastor Brown erected a church edifice costing \$25,000 and paid for it. He bought a church parsonage, and paid for that, and then bought another building to be used as a community house, but which, since he left that pastorate, has been diverted to income-producing purposes instead.

Then in 1913, the late Bishop J. W. Hood, presiding over the annual conference, held that year at Yonkers, transferred Dr. Brown from Rochester to New York City, and the tale of his accomplishment is embraced in the above running account of the growth and development of Mother Zion church.

### Mrs. Brown a True Helpmeet.

Now this story is still incomplete. Dr. Brown is a man of ability, energetic in action, wise in conference, but modest and unassuming with it all. He has accomplished much since entering the ministry in 1903, and it is an open secret that much of what he has accomplished has been made possible by the constant association, advice and care he has received from a helpmeet he won that same year. For his first act, after graduating from Lincoln showed his good sense. He got married—and he married a girl who has proved herself a worthy companion and wife.

Mrs. Martha Hill was born in Alexandria, Va., and attended the schools

of that city. After teaching in the schools of her native county, she went to Philadelphia to live, and young Brown, a student at Lincoln, met her. Immediately after graduating, he succeeded in persuading her to share his lot. And she has done much to make it the desirable and worthwhile accomplishment it has become. Bishop G. L. Blackwell was the officiating minister at their marriage.

Mrs. Brown is active in work for the advancement of the church, and her influence extends out far beyond the confines of the local church. She is at the head of the supply department of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the A. M. E. Zion Connection, having supervision of the task of furnishing food, clothing, and other supplies to the missionaries and their families at labor in the foreign fields of Africa, the West Indies and South America. She is able also to find time for local activities, being president of the Ladies' Progressive club of Mother Zion, a member of the Missionary Society, and a teacher in the Sunday School. She is accomplished and possesses unusual charm and grace of mind. Her personal popularity is very great and much of what Dr. Brown has been able to accomplish is due to the excellent woman who bears his name, shares his burdens and enjoys the fruit of constancy and faithfulness to duty.—The New York Age.

### FACTS UPON FACTS.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY.

By S. A. Chambers, Cannon Ball.

Church property has two values—a market value and a connectional value. The connectional value is two or three times that of the market value. In estimating our property we should place the connectional value on it. We do not have to pay tax on church property. Therefore, we need not fear to put as high a value on it as we please. Say, for instance, a piece of property is worth a thousand dollars on the market, it should be worth three thousand to the connection, and this latter value should be placed on it. We do not have to pay tax and we are not expecting to sell. If we would give our property the connectional value we would be rated at twenty-five or thirty million. Since all churches are striving to make a bubble this is one way that we can make one without doing violence to the truth, or offending our better judgment.

There can be no impropriety in our rating our church property according to what we think it is worth to us. If we want to sell, then, it would only be worth the market price, but as long as we retain it as a place of worship the connectional value should be placed on it.

Suppose we rate our property this year according to this suggestion and see how it foots up.

Knoxville, Tenn.

### NOMINATIONS FOR SPINGARN MEDAL CLOSES JUNE 1, 1923.

Nominations for persons worthy to receive the Spingarn Medal must be in the hands of the secretary of the committee on award, Walter F. White, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York City, on or before June 1, 1923, it was announced today.

The Medal is awarded annually to an American Negro for the highest achievement during the preceding year or years in any honorable field of human endeavor. All nominations of candidates for the Medal must state in detail the achievement for which the Medal is to be awarded, and give as full a biographical account as possible of the nominee.

The committee of award, whose decision is final, is composed of: Bishop John Hurst, chairman; John Hope, president of Morehouse College; Oswald Garrison Villard, Editor of the Nation; Dorothy Canfield Fisher, distinguished novelist; Dr. James H. Dillard, director of the Slater and Jeanes Fund; Theodore Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy; and Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, Editor of The Crisis.

The Medal will be presented at the Kansas City conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, at the evening session of Monday, September 3rd. Ex-Governor Henry J. Allen, of Kansas, will present the medal.

### ILLUMINATIONS.—PARAGRAPHIC COMMENTS.

By Rev. A. C. Cook.

As far back as the writer can remember Zion has never had a more scholarly and brave editor than now. Dr. Walls was a safe pastor, now he is a safe and sane editor, and will make an exemplary bishop.

His editorial "A Napping and A Grabbing," was a masterpiece in behalf of Zion Church.

Bishop Clement in his recent articles gave the church some needed information. That is just what the scholarly bishop can do when he chooses to do so, though we can not see how the future of a man can be fairly forestalled unless we take into consideration his past achievements. What a man has done as pastor or presiding elder is a sort of a prelude to what he may do after he is elevated to the bishopric.

Dr. E. D. W. Jones has formulated a workable program for Zion Church, which if put into operation in 1924, will mean 100 per cent expansion during the next quadrennium. He is giving us his pre-election platform and his after election policies.

He will be consecrated bishop in 1924 unless God takes him home before May.

Dr. B. G. Shaw put St. Louis on Zion's map, and has made the Tercentenary evangelistic campaign a reality. Dr. Shaw will be the cyclonic bishop. Other churches have them.

Dr. C. C. Alleyne shines through the Review, and as pastor of our church at New Rochelle. He too, will be consecrated bishop in 1924. He will be our dignified big brother.

Dr. J. H. McMullen shines wherever he goes. If service and ability count for anything, then Dr. McMullen will be elevated in 1924. Should Dr. M. D. Lee fail to be himself again, which would eliminate him as a candidate for bishop; then South Carolina could wisely unite on Dr. McMullen and command his first year's service as a bishop. What says you, South Carolina?

Dr. W. L. Hamblin, of Alabama fame, comes in for Episcopal consideration for Alabama. Alabama feels the need of close Episcopal supervision. Hamblin is magnetic and his brethren will do their best to elect him in 1924. His friends are legion.

Dr. C. J. Stevenson, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., pastor of Hunter's chapel, looms up as a formidable candidate for secretary of education.

Dr. Stevenson has recently served as an instructor in Stillman Institute, and acting principal of Taylor's High School, both of this city. He is prepared and is deeply interested in education.

A contrast between the work done by Dr. J. W. Martin and his predecessor, augurs the fact that we ought to keep a minister at the head of the department. Stevenson is that man.

Dr. W. H. Davenport continues to watch the breakers. His eyes are on The Star of Zion, should Dr. Walls step up higher. But is willing to cross bats with Dr. H. T. Medford for the editorship of the Review. Dr. Medford now publishes a breezy periodical, the "Zion Methodist," official organ of Logan Temple and Clinton chapel churches, Knoxville, Tenn. Each of these scholarly gospel dispensers has many friends.

Dr. H. R. Jackson, of southwest fame, but now of North Carolina, I am sure, is willing to serve as our next connectional auditor. Dr. Jackson is an experienced teacher, pastor, and presiding elder. Look him over and consider him favorably for this position.

Dr. H. H. Jackson is waiting for 1924 so he can move to Philadelphia to direct the church extension machinery. Has he been elected? No. Will he be? Most Zionites say so. Then why not. We need him now.

Dr. W. O. Carson and W. M. Robinson both of whom are members of the Pee Dee conference, the former presiding elder of the Cheraw district, who is more useful today than ever before in his career as presiding elder; and the late pastor of White Oak circuit and treasurer of the conference, will vie with each other for the secretaryship of the brotherhood and relief department.

Committee reports and resolutions should follow the reports of general officers.

This will not hardly be done in

# The Poet's Corner

Edited By JEAN WILLA HOLMES.

**EDITOR'S FOREWORD:**—We are delighted to present to our readers, this new feature, Mrs. Jean W. Holmes, formerly of California, now of Montgomery, Ala., is well known for her poetry. Her productions have been published by the Guardian, Baltimore American and a number of other western papers and have received the comment of literary critics. They are pronounced as being true to the poetic muse, by the ablest authority. Mrs. Holmes is wife of the Rev. J. B. Holmes, pastor of Old Ship Church, and is a woman of high literary attainment and of abundant and cultivated sentiment. She has been placed in charge of our poet's corner and all that appears there will be either contributed or selected by her. With the first presentation this week, we feel justified in predicting for this column a long life and an increasing popularity.

### TO THE HILLS.

Oh, glorious hills, that calmly rise  
And kiss the bosom of the skies,  
Oh, hills, enwrapped in robes of green.  
And decked with flowers of radiant sheen,  
Resplendent hills, I love thee!

Thou, lovely clad and scented sweet,  
With citadels about thy feet,  
With placid lakes and budding trees—  
Thy grandeur lifts thee out of these,  
And thou art high, exalted!

Ye hills, that soar beyond the cloud  
And make your Mother—Nature proud,  
Are ye not they that skipped like rams,

1924. But watch out for the proposal to be put in operation with the General Conference of 1928.

Our benevolences should be lumped together into an assessment and instead of so many different departments and a surplus of general officers, let us do some blending. The V. C. E., Brotherhood and Relief Departments could be placed in one man's hands. The Brotherhood man is more of a receiver than a field man. We need our men on the field to educate our people.

All money for education, general special and Livingstone College endowment money, should be paid over to the secretary of education and disbursed by the board of finance or education.

The missionary secretary should handle all missionary money, home and foreign.

The bishops should never be relieved of financial oversight. We need their counsel and advice.

Let the bishops go to the General Conference with a similar spirit to that which they want the pastors to go to the annual conference. Let the Episcopal committee make the assignments and not the board of bishops. Many of us return to our places against our own desires and best interest apparently. Still we go in order not to be considered disloyal.

Texas has as much right to be placed in the hands of the senior bishop as New York or New England. Our bishops should know the church, and to know it they should go around it. We should not look upon the far southwestern fields as being the places to break men into the bishopric. If we need any men out there it should be the most experienced men on the bench. A weak pastor cannot make a weak church a strong one. Neither can an inexperienced bishop do from the start what an experienced one can do. The young bishop must be tutored into his office and by the time he gets everything well in hands a quadrennium has passed.

Therefore, eight years for a bishop on our episcopal district, six years for a presiding elder on one district and five years for a pastor on one charge.

If we should accept some of the things that are hurled at Zion as conclusive proof of her weakness and failure, then Zion Church would be convicted without a jury trial. These false picture painters should stop for a while and meditate.

That frisked away like frightened lambs  
Till man exclaimed: "What ailed thee?"

Thou hast thy place in mortal dream,  
Uplifted, beautiful, serene;  
Beholding thee against the skies,  
With haste I mount my thoughts and rise,  
And soar through realms celestial.

I lift mine eyes unto the Hills  
Whence cometh help for all earth's ills—

The Hills of Truth, the Hills of God,  
Devoid of shape in stone or sod,  
But in the heavens eternal.

### MOTHER.

Out of the bosom of star-decked sky,  
Out of the mist of mountains high,  
Out of the arms of graceful trees,  
Gliding to earth on the gentle breeze,  
Was it thus you came?

Down from the crest of flowered hills,  
Skipping the foam of flowing rills,  
Out of the wonderful songs of bird,  
Out of the merriest laughter heard  
Did you come to me?

Out of the beauty of every bloom,  
Out of the warmth of the sun at noon,  
Out of the lustre of jewels rare,  
Out of the sweetness of nectared air  
Came you unto me?

Out of a pure and holy place,  
Sheltered by infinite love and grace,  
Land where the perfect, alone, have trod—

Out of the throbs of the heart of God  
Straight to me you came!

All of the churches have made mistakes, but their motives were good. There are men in the other churches who think Zion has one of the most perfect systems in vogue. Some in our ranks think otherwise. We usually find fault without presenting a remedy.

Pastors with socialistic tendencies will train their congregations to think as they do. Like priest, like people. If Zion Church is to stand, and she is, she must place her safest men in these strategic places.

(More anon.)

Clio, S. C.

### NOTES FROM THE WEST.

(Continued from page 6)

pupils are transferred to and from the school in ten auto trucks. The drivers of these trucks are paid \$140 per month.

The coming of Prof. Rowe, a Hampton trained man, to take charge of the manual training department, has added much to the school, as well as the church, town and surroundings. He is one of the best trained and learned men of the race, a devoted Christian and a good churchman.

### Ruth 1:20.

In these two characters we have a pretty fair representation of the people of today. The world today is made up of two classes of people—those who choose wisely and those who choose unwisely.

There are many Orpahs to day; there are people who are well wishers of the church, give their means to help support the church and seek the company of the people of God, but they never leave the world.

Some, like Orpah, make the right start, but turn back.

May God Almighty help us all to make the right choice in this life, and the life to come.—"Let us pray."

Luther, Okla.

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham.