

The Star of Zion

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

NUMBER THIRTY-SEVEN.

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1923.

VOLUME FORTY-SEVEN

The New Mother Zion Church a Monument to Zion Methodism in America.

An Urgent Appeal.

By Bishop L. W. Kyles, D. D.

The largest undertaking of any Negro congregation in America, unassisted by white individuals or organizations, is the movement on the part of the Mother A. M. E. Zion church to erect a monument in honor of the services which Zion Methodism has rendered the race and the nation in the city of its birth. The timeliness of such a movement needs no proof and the wisdom of building a church adequate to meet the social and religious needs of our racial group in the metropolitan city of the nation is not debatable.

The plans and specifications provide for the erection of a great modern auditorium on 137th Street, directly in the rear of the edifice on 136th Street, covering a hundred feet frontage at a cost of three hundred thousand dollars. The cost of this auditorium and the expenditure of more than a hundred thousand dollars in the past eight years for the purchase and repair of property represent a financial venture of nearly a half million dollars. The new building on 137th Street will extend back to and connect with the old building on 136th Street, which with the parsonage and Brotherhood House will give us a frontage of 100 feet on each street. When the plant is finished and equipped, it will be largest and most modern church plant owned by Negroes in America.

As colossal as this undertaking may seem to be, present indication warrant the belief that it will be carried forward to completion without any serious handicaps. The movement has behind it the genius of a great pastor and the backing of one most perfect and vigorous church organizations of the race. In addition to the the A. M. E. Zion Church has underwritten the project and pledged a contribution of fifty thousand (\$50,000.00) dollars. It is to this phase of the movement that this article is particularly directed.

That the routine work of the Church might not be affected and the taking care of church extension ob-

ligations already made might not be interfered with by such a large pledge to one congregation, the connection has wisely planned, to raise this fund through the sale of bonds, thus giving itself ample time in which to plan for and raise the amount. The bonds are issued in the denominations of \$100 \$500 and \$1000. The purpose of this plan is to draw upon the financial resources of the church and to bring into use in the extension of our own work some of the money which our members have deposited in the banks throughout the country.

As to the security of these bonds as an investment, I will say first, that they have behind them the pledge of the connection and represent a trust against the real property of the Church Extension and Home Mission Department. Secondly they are certified by the Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, of Winston-Salem, the largest banking institution in the state and one of the largest in the south. This bank pledges to cash the interest coupons attached to the bonds semiannually and to redeem the bonds at maturity. It is a class A investment and is therefore as safe as any investment of the kind can be.

To guarantee the continuance of the work on the church in New York we must put up our pledge of fifty thousand dollars immediately. Up to September 1st we had sold twenty one thousand (\$21,000.00) dollars worth of these bonds and had the money in the bank at Winston-Salem, N. C. While temporary arrangements have been made to take care of the major part of our pledge in New York City, ten thousand dollars worth of the bonds that remain unsold must be sold immediately to complete this pledge and all of the twenty-nine thousand dollars worth of them must be disposed of by the first of December.

The Appeal.

Can this be done? I believe it can! My faith is based on two considerations: (a) that many of our ministers

(Continued to page 5)

Native Africans Join Nationalist Party.

Cape Town, S. A.—Native Africans, meeting at Bloemfestein and calling themselves the African National Congress, passed resolutions declaring that Prime Minister Smuts had lost the confidence of the native population. "and that the time had come when the Bantu should consider the advisability of supporting a Republican form of government.

This declaration is considered of arresting significance by the colonial press and indicates the success of the Nationalist Party among the colored people. Following upon the resolution, the Nationalist leader, General Hertzog, addressed a meeting of colored people at Kimberley. He assured them that the Nationalists would accord them full justice and economic equality.

Sound, Solvent Advice.

Entering upon its forty first year as a peerless pinch hitter of the colored press, the old reliable Cleveland Gazette shows it still retains its battling average by the following bit of concentrated common sense:

"Unless you can use them to an advantage in your business, do not buy lots in other cities and states, nor pianos or automobiles before you own your own home." A sermon, editorial and financial statement combined.

Calvin Coolidge President and not Slemp.

Washington.—Some restiveness and open disapproval have been manifested in certain quarters over the selection by the President of C. Bascom Slemp former Virginia Congressman, to be private secretary. That his designation should be magnified into a cause for racial alarm is hardly justified on its face and should disappear upon reflection.

One month ago the job has disclosed the interesting fact that Calvin Coolidge will be President and not his secretary. His Yankee facility for handling and absorbing details suggests that he will be personally responsible, as far as is humanly possible for the conduct of his administration. It is a matter of meagre concern as to whom his secretary might be. It is largely a personal affair. Harding had as his secretary George B. Christian, a Democrat, but that did not make his administration democratic; and it is not recorded that Mr. Christian scuttled any racial ships or obstructed any racial hopes. On the contrary the colored leaders counted him as a friendly asset, rather than a liability.

A secretary reflects the views and executes the will of his chief, and it would be vain to suppose that President Coolidge, who accepts the presidency as an institution and not as a personality, would be a mere rubber stamp for his secretary's point of view. Such a conclusion is a reflection.

(Continued to page 5)

The Need of a Community Center.

Philadelphia Zion Churches Act.

By Jesse O. Thomas.

In every city in America where there is any considerable number of colored people, there is a great need of providing some means by which the toiling masses may have some form of recreation and social contact in a healthy, wholesome and congenial environment. If there is any group in our community life that suffers from the lack of healthy social contact it is the class represented very largely by those who come to our larger cities and congested centers, in quest of a larger life, especially those who had the fewest opportunities for education and advancement in the community from which they came.

There are few cities, if any, in our whole country where the churches welfare organizations and business enterprises have shown the vision and compatibility to cooperate and foster a centralized recreational program that would offer anything like adequate opportunities for the class of people described, to find social contact with groups of their fellows or with individuals with whom they may be interested under healthful supervision.

Churches have concerned themselves primarily with a program calculated to induce the stranger to become a participating member of their flock. Business men have for the most part been limited in their concern to have a stranger insured in their companies, invest in their securities, spend his money in purchasing their merchandise or deposit money in their bank etc. Providing for the leisure hours of the stranger has not usually entered their program. A few days ago A. M. E. Zion churches of the city of Philadelphia had printed 2,000 or more four page leaflets that might be regarded as a church directory in Philadelphia. Outside of this leaflet in large print were the following inscriptions: Spiritual Life Saving Stations of the A. M. E. Zion Church in the City of Philadelphia and Vicinity. On the second inside page was the following: "To the General Public: We, the members of the A. M. E. Zion Ministerial Union of the City of Philadelphia, realizing that our people are coming to the city in large numbers and leaving splendid church

(Continued from page 5)

Help To Relieve Japan.

The Southern Division of the American Red Cross today issued instructions to all local chapters in the South to be prepared to receive and transmit to Division Headquarters donations received for the relief of Japanese earthquake sufferers, following an appeal issued by President Coolidge asking for public contributions for relief to be handled by the Red Cross.

It is interesting to note that in donating \$100,000 to the relief fund, yesterday, the National American Red Cross is paying a debt of gratitude to Japan of long standing, for immediate relief upon receipt of word of the San Francisco earthquake in 1906 the Japanese Red Cross contributed \$100,000 for relief and rendered conspicuous service in minimizing human suffering.

The quarterly conference of Field Representatives in session this week at Atlanta expressed sympathy for the Japanese sufferers this morning.

(Continued to page 8)

Sweat Of His Brow.

Laboriously pushing a heavily loaded truck in one of the Government departments at Washington, a colored employee confided that he was "perspiring for a higher job."

Herman Perry's Remark on Trend in Banking World Receives Great Praise.

Friends Say Suggestion He Has Made Will Have Far-Reaching Results.

Atlanta, Ga.—Recognition of the great wisdom of the remark made by Herman Perry, head of the group of important financial institutions operated by Colored people, to the effect that he thought the adoption of the suggested new policy in the banking world to require persons seeking credit to protect their applications by carrying sufficient insurance to cover their entire indebtedness, in case of death meant more to the Colored people of the United States than to any other particular group, is it is this group which is just beginning to become users of credit in a large way, was acknowledged by Dr. Emmett J. Scott, who served as Secretary of the National Negro Business League for twenty odd years in a letter just received from him by Mr. Perry.

In the letter to Mr. Perry, Dr. Scott said: "There certainly is great wisdom in the remark you are credited, in the news article appearing in a large number of colored newspapers, with having made in a meeting of your Executive Committee which has to do with the control of affairs of the great group of business enterprises headed by you.

"I congratulate you upon having given expression to this important trend in the banking world. Such a suggestion coming from you will have far reaching results in the economic life of the colored people of the United States. Having been for a number of years Secretary of the National Negro Business League, and having been connected with a number of business enterprises, as well as having come in contact with a large number of men

(Continued to page 6)

The Third Pan-African Congress.

The third Pan African Congress will meet in London, England and Lisbon, Portugal next November. This announcement was made today by Dr. Dubois, Acting Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Pan-African Association. The Pan-African Association is the permanent body formed in Paris in 1921 for the purpose of promoting a Pan-African Congress every two years and for other objects. The President is M. Gratien Candace, the colored deputy in the French Parliament representing the Island of Gaudeloupe. M. Candace has been in print lately because of his success in forcing the French government to take a stand on American Negro prejudice.

The Secretary of the Association is M. Isaac Beton, a young teacher in the French Public Schools. M. Beton has been much discouraged at the present lack of response to his effort to rally the Negro race throughout the world to the support of the Pan-African Congress. The Congress was originally announced for Lisbon in mid September, but it seemed impossible to arrange a meeting so early and Dr. DuBois and his Executive Committee have therefore called a November meeting. It is hoped that a number of American Negroes, especially representatives of large organizations will make the trip to London and to Lisbon. They will get a chance to see the real Europe in winter and not simply at vacation time. There will be an opportunity to visit the beautiful winter resorts of Southern France and Africa lies only an hour's sail from Portugal. Persons interested are invited to correspond immediately with Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois.

Revolutionizing Zion. Letter Number I.

By R. A. Carroll.

The above caption may appear a strange one at such a time as this and from such a source, but we feel it our duty to say what we think, as one of the makers of this great Church, for without pastors there is no Zion, and as pastors, it is our duty to speak out when we think it necessary and bring about just such revolutions as the times demand, even as did our fathers when they felt that they were the nether stone, and maintaining rights that no one seemed to respect.

There is a great deal being said these days about the bishopric and the General Conference as if there were nothing in the Church but a tirade of bishops, and that the Church was made up of bishops alone. It is true there will be an election of bishops, and something must be said about them which I shall do in subsequent letters, but for the present and as the spirit dictates, we shall speak of other things which, to our mind is the imperative issue, and then come up to those things gradually which are being sought by men fit or unfit, just or unjust, profitable or unprofitable, Church or no Church.

The approaching General Conference is one in which more interest is centered than in any General Conference since the days of Rush. Not because men have not hitherto legislated, but because some of the legislating need changing, it has grown obsolete and the men who are the burden bearers, the Church makers are watching the trend of business and asking on the side, "Where do we come in as representatives of this great cause?"

True, every man is a great man in his particular sphere, but no man is greater than he actually is, even though he may be let alone and permitted to carry out his own design, there is a limitation to his rights. They always end where the other fellow's begin.

It is said that the man who attempts to righten things, finds his

(Continued to page 5)

Florida Mob Thugs.

(Washington Post)

Another man lynched in Florida; and a dog with the victim was lynched the law of the state, the supreme government, the decency of citizenship. It is a fearful price that mob participants pay for their indulgence in brutishness. They may wreak their vengeance on their victim, but in so doing they forfeit their claims to respect of their fellows, work evil to their state and give notice that they do not care to be regarded as civilized. Their fellow citizens owe it to themselves, the State and the nation to put a stop to the habit of lynching. Florida can have a decent reputation if its decent citizens will get busy with mob thugs.

Noted Colored Rector Was Page With Slemp.

New York.—The Rev. George T. Bragg, Jr., rector of the leading colored Episcopal church in Baltimore, was page in the Virginia legislature with C. Bascom Slemp, former congressman from Virginia and recently appointed secretary to the President. "The elder Slemp was at that time a member of the house," writes Dr. Bragg in the New York Age, "and he was a magnificent man. Bascom was as fine a boy as one would wish to meet. It does not follow that a white Republican who does not agree with us in everything is necessarily a Negro hater. Let us be fair and give Mr. Slemp a trial. He may prove a better friend than expected."