

The Star of Zion.

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AFTER THE TERCENTENARY, WHAT?

Rev. C. S. Whitted, Secretary of The Ministerial Brotherhood.

The Tercentenary is about over. What next? You may ask, has the Tercentenary Rally been a blessing to the Church? My answer is yes. It is true that the money did not get into the hands of the four departments, as was agreed upon. The money was used by the Church Extension Department, that is the larger part, we are told. We do not know just how much.

Bishop G. L. Blackwell's plan should have been carried out with one exception. The amount collected was to be reported to the bishop of the Conference, and the Bishop report it to the Treasurer at the Commencement of Livingstone College, at the Connectional Council meeting in August of each year, and at the Board of Bishops Meeting each year. He should have said, Report the amount raised to the Bishops and send the amount to the Treasury.

Before I go farther let me say, some men think strange if you disagree with them when in office. Allow me to say office never exalted a man. You have heard people say, such a man was born great. Birth never made any one great. Position never made any one great. Character does that. How subtle the temptation to seek preeminence through office. I admit it is a nice thing to be an officer in Zion Church, but above everything else be a man with a heart large enough for the Eastern and Western Continent; and then leave room for God to set up His kingdom therein.

Little men are touchy about their dignity, real great men are not concerned. They go about doing their best for the cause of right. Any great man can render lowly service, but no little man can render high service. Real men, men of God, men who love the Church, can stoop and do their duty without losing the unseen halo.

We have laws to govern our Church and those in authority should not break them. Before government can be dispensed with, men must be infallible in understanding as well as immaculate in purpose. Whether government shall be a blessing or a curse or both by turns, or both with subtractions and mitigations depend much on the provision of the civil constitution. It dictates how much power public officers shall sway. In the absolute monarchy where the will of the sovereign is law, and where the most cruel mandates are in question, tyranny cannot always occupy the throne. It will now and then leave an interregnum to be filled by a gentler spirit unto whose God the oppressed may breathe the air of freedom.

Our office is to preserve, not to create. Sacred by the work of our hands. I will disagree with anyone if I think he or she is wrong. Let him be high or low in the council of the Church. When right comes to the scaffold, wrong is ready to congratulate itself on the triumph, but there is certain to be another chapter written in characters of gold, which puts a different color upon the matters.

One of the favorite sayings of Mr. Ingersoll was, "The Church must go." And so far as the statement goes it is true. One of the largest things about the Church is its dynamic quality. It must go and keep going, else it is not a church. Our church has made rapid progress in the last eight or ten years of its history. Not so much as it should have, yet it has done well. But we must do a greater work for the cause of humanity. Every man should feel and know that he is part of this great Church. Very few things in this world have

a fixed value. The trivial becomes important and the important becomes trivial, by the mere shifting of circumstances. When the Church awakes to the fact that its mission is that of saving souls, she will know more about God, and about the duty to her fellowmen.

Let us go back to the Tercentenary Rally.

We started out to raise \$1,000,000. We could have raised the said amount but we had too many changes, too many bosses and too many to receive the money. Men sometimes resort to the spectacular because it is easier to get people to look at that which is unusual and startling, than to appeal to them by logic and exhortation.

In these five years I have received for the Relief Department \$2,750. Many thanks for the said amount, but please tell me what has been done with the one fourth due the said Department with the exception of the \$2,750.00.

What's Next? We must raise a larger amount for all of the Departments of the Church, and report the entire amount semi-annually. Not the Board of Bishops reporting one to another, but report to the ministers and laymen of the Church, so each and all will know the progress that the Church is making.

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WHO KNOWS?

By Rev. D. H. Sansom.

To venture out upon the Church sea at this time, is no little undertaking, and to attempt it now, one must have equilibrium and precaution. These are needed to steer well amidst the convoy of vessels; not that we would crash amidship into another's hulk, but rather that, the waters are so being stirred that the billows would engulf our barque.

At this point of our church life, those who speak should have a message. Those attempting to advise should need to have had a vision. Not a message coming out of an hallucination or the kin, but that which is the outcome of knowledge, experience and the capacity to discern the great fundamentals of human culture.

From the various wings of our Zion is constantly heard, "The making of Chief Pastors is not the most important at the ensuing General Conference." This upon its surface may be accepted, but it is a matter of much concern. A matter which will have reaction unto the lowest place in our system. There is involved, in the quality of men to be elevated, the success or hindrance to be met in the next quadrennium.

The constant parading of candidates in the columns of our periodicals does not elect neither does it close the door in the fact of any. Where the election takes place and where the door is closed, is within the heart of hearts, of each person eligible to suffrage. It is in this secluded place where each man is measured, weighed and given rating according to the capacity of the per-

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SANHEDRIN ARRANGEMENTS COMPLETED.

Chicago, Jan. — (By The Associated Negro Press.) The Chicago Committee arranging for the Sanhedrin session has completed arrangements for the local entertainment of the delegates.

The sessions will be held in the Wabash Avenue Y. M. C. A., according to adjusted arrangements. Committee rooms have been provided there and in nearby locations for the various group conferences. There will be a reception Monday evening February 11th at the Hotel Vincennes,

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STOP-LOOK-LISTEN!

By Rev. T. J. Moppins.

As time moves on, the forthcoming General Conference, the highest law-making body in Zion Methodism, draweth nigh. Those of us who have been honored by our respective annual conferences to represent the interest of the whole people in this great conclave, should stop and think, think seriously for their welfare and encouragement.

Our recent gathering at Winston-Salem, N. C., gave to some of us the opportunity of gagging the mind of the leaders of thought and the spirit which guides men. After vying with each other in thought and suggestion, some left with a smile of satisfaction, while others of a more serious vein viewed with deep apprehension certain selfish activities, if persisted in and carried to its final analysis, will leave us in no better shape than before the rise of the General Conference.

In the approach of the solution of any problem, whether in Church or State, we will always have two schools of thought operating under popular terms, viz.—conservative, and progressive. Under these headings it looks as if we shall meet at Indianapolis in May to work out an adjusted programme for future development. When we consider how much is involved we see no room for light thinking, indifferent action nor complacent acceptations. Some things to be considered should be thought out and thoroughly digested are, we cast our voice or vote.

The great need for closer Episcopal supervision is apparent to all thinking minds who keep up with the movement of the A. M. E. Zion Church; and this involves the question of districting and a real residential influence. It requires no prophet to forecast the future of our Church in certain sections of this country should the forthcoming General Conference fail to provide for closer Episcopal supervision. Some how we seem to view the field as made for the bishop rather than the bishop is provided for the field; and so you hear more about the individual need and desire, and less and less about the needs of the field.

I, for one, believe we should redistrict the Church, making the conferences over which a bishop presides, more contiguous and assign the bishops. I see no reason why a bishop should feel discriminated against because his conferences are somewhat smaller than his colleague's, especially when the salary and other provisions are made equal by the general law. There are greater reasons for sending our strongest bishops to the weaker field than that which sends our strongest preachers to weak missions; for the salary as an element, always presents itself when a man of great responsibility is asked to go to a small parish; while in the case of a bishop his salary is fixed and guaranteed, and it is equal to the rest.

I am afraid this question of how much I am getting, has literally smothered out the consciousness of how much I am giving? Any man amongst us should count himself highly favored of God, to be called to service in such a capacity, and never feel, that, in himself, he is worthy of God's best.

Zion Methodism must do more than mark time in the great west and southwest; the General Conference should settle for all times whether we shall use this great area as mere proving ground for our new guns, or go on with a programme laid out, and one or two strong bishops out here on the Pacific Coast, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. Unless we change our programme in relation to these areas intolerable condi-

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tions will definitely change our station as a great Church out here.

The great State of Alabama demands that we locate an Episcopal residence in her borders. Our interests are too great to be trifled with in that state. I happen to know something of our needs in Alabama. I know the state. I was born in her. I am familiar with the growing state of affairs and do not hesitate to say, that, I hope the entire delegation from Alabama will come to Indianapolis with their minds made up to stand like a stone wall for the solidarity of their resources under one directing head, and not permit their influence to be divided, thereby killing the interest of the Connection and Alabama's own interest in detail.

We should consolidate one or more of our conferences, re-unite the South-east with Central Alabama, divide Cahaba between North Alabama and Central, give us five good conferences in the state with Pensacola district attached to South Alabama conference, set a thorough-going bishop right down in the midst of them, with such laymen as Drs. Belsaw, Peters, Morris and others of Mobile; Adams, Washington, Woods and others of Birmingham; Aaron Brown and others of Pensacola; Tullayne, Newstell and many others of

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EARLY LIFE OF ROLAND HAYES.

One of the World's Greatest Singers.

New York, N. Y., Jan. — (By the Associated Negro Press.) Roland Hayes, whose brief American concert tour has been accepted generally as the musical sensation of the present season, probably would still have been a moulder in a southern stove factory if he and his mother had had their way, according to A. Arthur Calhoun, who discovered the famous tenor's voice and started the Negro lad on a career which has already included a command recital in Buckingham Palace, engagements as soloist with the Boston and Detroit Symphony Orchestras and unanimous recognition from the foremost music critics of America and Europe.

Mr. Hayes will give his first and only recital in Brooklyn in the Opera house of the Academy of Music on Saturday evening, January 19, and a farewell concert in Carnegie Hall on Tuesday afternoon January 5. He will sail the following day for his fourth European tour. His programs for the two local concerts include some of the most famous songs of English, French, Italian and German composers, as well as one section entirely devoted to the Negro spirituals. Perusal of the foreign press notices shows that the European critics are about equally divided between astonishment at his mastery of the European tongues and musical traditions and enthusiasm over the folk songs of the American Negro.

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MUSICAL PHILADELPHIA. Noted Musicians Visit City.

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. — (By The Associated Negro Press.) The outstanding features of the week were the appearance of Harry Burleigh, baritone-composer, Marion Anderson, contralto, before the Matinee Musical Club. Miss Anderson gave two numbers. Mr. Burleigh, as has been stated, could not sing because of a throat affliction, but gave his hearers an interesting talk about the music of Negro composers. He paid glowing tributes to S. Coleridge-Taylor, to Roland Hayes, and said of Miss Anderson that the race might well be proud of her and said that her truly remarkable voice was like that

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EFFICIENCY AND NOT PARTIALITY.

SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL CONFERENCE.

By Rev. R. L. Briscoe.

While the entire Church is looking forward to the most important conference in Zion's history, there are many important things to be considered, and should receive serious and prayerful attention. We are aware of the fact that the A. M. E. Zion Church is a great Church, made up of great men—men of whom the Church should be proud. What the Church is today is what the men of God have made it. Such as those who have gone before us, and our present men of stern qualities.

My main thought that I want to convey to the Church through this letter is "Efficiency" and not—Partiality.

Partiality.

I feel the sooner we abandon the spirit of partiality, when it comes to the making of the Church, and turn our attention to efficiency, the Church will grow stronger and better. Efficiency is what we need.

1. We realize that efficiency means one possessing the ability to accomplish any task necessary for the advancement of the cause he represents, whether church, state or country. Persons must be prepared for the task, no matter where or what institution he received his training. There are men who are candidates for various offices in the Zion Church, who represent Livingstone, Shaw, Wilberforce, Lincoln or Howard Universities. They are efficient men. The time has come when men should not confine themselves to the narrow channels of denominationalism when it comes to efficiency or education, save doctrine and polity.

I am not in favor of a statement which appeared in an article of last week's issue under the heading of "The Still Small Voice," that the man elected to the office of educational secretary should be a man who has spent some time at Livingstone College, that he would be more interested in our denominational schools, than men from other institutions of learning. I think that Zion is too modern to confine herself to such a narrow view. No Church can advance if she crops her wings and will simply fly in her own circle of learning. I would advise that all young men in the A. M. E. Zion Church who are seeking to enter the ministry should, if possible enter Livingstone College. But should a man who has received his training years ago, and is now in the field of activity already, be barred advancing simply because he is not a Livingstone man? I would answer, no. Efficiency is what the Church needs and not partiality. And again we note that there were and are men of the A. M. E. Zion Church who have done much for the maintenance of this grand old Church of ours who were and are not Livingstone men. Yet they have been and are today men of the hour, and are keeping abreast with the times. For instance: Dr. J. C. Price, the father and Prince of Livingstone College, gave us that great institution, yet he received his training elsewhere. Dr. W. H. Goler, successor to Dr. Price, as President of Livingstone College, the late Bishop Alexander Walters, Bishop George W. Clinton, Bishop L. W. Kyle and Bishop P. A. Wallace, who completed their education at Lincoln University and other institutions have done much for Zion because of their efficiency. Now it is true that the C. M. E. Church and the A. M. E. Church are advancing by leaps and bounds. So is Zion. She is not a whit behind other churches.

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