

The Star of Zion

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

NUMBER EIGHT

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1924.

VOLUME FORTY-EIGHT

ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL CHURCH HAS BIG CONVENTIONS.

DR. CORROTHERS KEEPS BUSY.

Newark, N. J., Feb. 7.—The Independent Negro Voters' Association of America has issued a call for the national convention through its president, Dr. Sylvester L. Corrothers, which will convene at Roosevelt Memorial Zion Temple, 324-6 Washington Street, beginning February 12. Delegates from practically every state in the Union will be at this meeting. Subjects to be taken up and prominently discussed will consist of "The Housing Condition As It Affects the Negro in the North," "Migration and Its Benefits to the Southern Negro Coming North," National Political Situation As It Affects the Negro." These subjects will be discussed by some of the leading men of the race and prominent white men as well. Governor Alfred E. Smith of New York has been invited and has expressed his willingness to attend, as well as Governor George S. Silzer of New Jersey, Hon. Charles P. Gillen, commissioner of parks and public property; Hon. William J. Brennan, director of public safety; Mayor Briedenbach, Dr. George E. Cannon of Jersey City, who is a candidate for delegate-at-large to the national convention, and many other notables.

A Courier reporter interviewing the president as to the political significance of the meeting was informed that the purpose of the Independent Voters' Association was to support men and measures regardless of party affiliations. He also stated that the local body of independent voters was solidly behind the candidacy of Dr. George E. Cannon as delegate at large and Dr. W. G. Alexander as alternate. There has been a rumor going around that men high up in politics from other parts of the country are coming to the convention with one purpose in view; that is to line up behind the national leadership of Dr. S. L. Corrothers, who has fostered an independent movement among the voters of the state and the union for a number of years, and who, it is alleged, is responsible for whatever political recognition the Negro in the state of New Jersey has received so far. A number of political appointments in the city and state can be traced to the political influence of Dr. Corrothers. It is claimed that no other Negro in politics today can gather around them the big men of the other race as Corrothers can. Special stress has been put on the splendid work he has done in putting over the Roosevelt Temple proposition, a thing that was doomed a failure by his critics when the project was begun. Corrothers organized a citizens committee consisting of the biggest white men politically in New Jersey, regardless of party affiliations and this alone has enabled him to meet all financial obligations pertaining to the work. He is considered by many to be the foremost and most fearless political leader in the northeast and is practically a sure fact that after this convention Corrothers will be acclaimed National leader of Negro voters everywhere.

Services at the Roosevelt Memorial Zion Temple were very inspiring Sunday. The Rev. Dr. Sylvester L. Corrothers, pastor of our church, had for his subject, "The old and new time religion; which have you?" It was ably and elegantly discussed by the Doctor and much comment has been heard in regard to the sermon in the street. The temple is growing more and more popular in the estimation of the public because of the great program of community work that is being carried on there. Each day large numbers of unemployed men find their way to the temple

where hot meals are served them free of all charge and where the Social Service Bureau secures employment for them. When this work was begun it was financed wholly by Dr. Corrothers and a few other members of the temple congregation, but now since seemingly it is a permanent undertaking, which has attracted the attention of the general public, contributions from different sources have begun to come in thus relieving those that started the work of some of the expense. At this community center there is no discrimination. Food and clothing has been given both white and black. Each day from ten to fifteen down and out whites find their way to the temple where they may get the same treatment as the colored.

NO NEGRO PROBLEM.

By I. Garland Penn.

Boston, Mass., Feb.—(For The Associated Negro Press) On the anniversary of Lincoln's birthday the school of religious education and social service of Boston University, as well as the students of the university heard Dr. I. Garland Penn, Cincinnati, Ohio, corresponding secretary of the Board of Education for Negroes, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, deliver an address, "Lincoln and the Negro" and "The Fruits of Fifty-six Years in the Education of the Negro."

Concerning "Lincoln and the Negro" Dr. Penn said in part: "Mr. Lincoln showed great statesmanship in putting more emphasis upon saving the Union rather than freeing the slave since the emancipation of the slave was to be a result of the saving of the Union. There could be no union with slavery.

"Lynchings," said he, "and the violation of any of the amendments to the Constitution constitute a great national disgrace now recognized by the best of citizens of the North and South. It is not so much a question of who is lynched, or who violates the law, whether it be an individual or a section of the country: The big question is shall America be disgraced with disregard for constitutional law? We might well emanate the example of Mr. Lincoln and put the emphasis upon Americanism and respect for law, which would take care of subsidiary questions.

"There also grew out of Mr. Lincoln's leadership the emancipation of the slave which made possible the transfer of Negroes from liabilities to assets. At emancipation there was

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METHODS OF CHURCH WORK.

RESERVATIONS FOR SPECIAL EFFORTS FOR SOUL SAVING.

By James P. Foote.

In my judgment it is a fine thing when it can be done to have one room set apart in the church parsonage so that persons seeking spiritual advice might come and get instructions from the minister. Just one room to be exclusively used for the advancement of the Kingdom. Like a lawyer or physician, have certain hours for persons seeking information.

In my plans for my church work I set apart two months in a year (March and November) for protracted meetings with a view to the ingathering of souls. That means that no recitals, concerts or entertainment of any kind under the auspices of any board or club shall be held during that period. It has proven that such efforts are rewarded richly by our Master.

Revivals or protracted meetings

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AN OBSERVER'S VIEW.

BISHOP CLEMENT'S DISTRICT LEADS IN CHURCH BUILDING.

Rev. H. T. Medford.

Bishop Geo. C. Clement can not only be styled as an apostle of education in Zion. His Episcopal District under his administration has seen the foundation and development of the Johnson High School in Mississippi, and the building of the modern and commodious Boys' Dormitory at Aikin College, Madisonville, Ky. At each of these schools unprecedented sums of money have been raised by rallies in the conferences and from the community constituency through his leadership.

Bishop Clement's pioneer and missionary spirit shows up the finest advantage as he leads his large influence and Episcopal support in church buying and building. Not to mention the magnificent accomplishments at Cleveland, Ohio, and Chattanooga, Tenn. at earlier dates, within the past year he has been called upon to dedicate nine newly constructed churches on his district at the following points: Columbus and Massillon, Ohio, New Kensington, and Coraopolis, Pa.; Drakesboro, Rockport and Nortonville, Ky.; Fountain City, Tenn., and Pope, Miss. Every conference over which he presides desires the honor and help of his sane and progressive leadership through another quadrennium, irrespective of where any re-arrangement may leave the conference. If he is moved from the district not a few of his pastors and presiding elders express a determination to follow, and serve with him in new fields.

Young Candidates.

It is noticeable now, that about eight tenths of the aspirants for Episcopal responsibility are what we usually class as "young men" in the Church. Seeing so many of them aspiring to the bishopric, one is led to ask, what will be the results if several of them are elected? Here we can only forecast the future by the past. A retrospect over the past of the A. M. E. Zion Church will show she has never suffered by election of young aggressive men; some would hold that the opposite is true in several cases.

Limited space and knowledge forbid our going into an extended review as to the age at which several of our bishops were elected. I hear them speak of the youthfulness of the lamented J. J. Clinton when chosen. They say that Alexander Walters and Geo. Wiley Clinton came to that station when very young. I remember in 1912, four years prior to his election, when Geo. C. Clement was running, the Board of Bishops were called upon to decide if a man in his fortieth year was eligible. The Clintons, and Walters were churchmen, race advocates, and epoch makers of national fame and influence, and Bishop Clement is rapidly traveling where these "saints have trod." Many said at Louisville that L. W. Kyies was being elected too young in years, and too limited in experience, but after only eight years, nobody says that now.

We are not overlooking the fine work accomplished and that is being accomplished by bishops elected at a more mature age, but only the matter of those whose youthfulness was questioned is in consideration now. It seems a great injustice to both the individual and the denomination to work in sons in organizing, church building, preaching and soul saving until health gives away, or until they have passed the acme of usefulness; until they have come to that age when mankind looks backward, rather than forward, until they are no longer progressive and aggressive, and then throw upon their well worn

minds and declining shoulders, the chief and (if rightly filled) the hardest responsibility in the Church, and then speak unkindly of them, or their memory if they do not, under such adverse circumstances, lead the Church to as great heights as the man who was elected in "Manhood's middle day."

In the final analysis, an individual should be elected to office in Church and State, not so much for what they have done in the past, as for what they are capable of doing in the future. As good and great as has been the past, it is their future that the Church, the race, and age needs, not their past.

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PASSING OBSERVATIONS.

REMINISCENCES—GENERAL CONFERENCE MEASURES—MISSIONARY FIELD—CANDIDACY.

By Rev. S. W. Weller.

The able editor of the Star, also popular candidate for the bishopric, Dr. W. J. Walls, and Dr. W. H. Davenport, leading aspirant for editorial honors have been good enough to make full and free reference in these columns to the fact that I am a candidate for the office of Foreign Missionary Secretary. Recently a number of my friends have written to me some for assurance others for re-assurance, in regard to this matter.

First of all I would like to state that our only reason for not putting in an appearance at the fall conferences, as was our desire, was the fact that a proper substitute could not be found at the time to fill my place in my charge.

We were busy raising all of our conference claims, for one thing, and at the Mid-year conference to be held here the first Wednesday in February we hope to meet our Tercentenary obligations in full. (Score another for Bridgeport, Conn.)

Now, to my friends scattered all over the connection, from sun-kissed California to rock-bound Maine, and from mighty Michigan to green-clad Florida; to our grand old Church in general and to the General Conference powers that be, in particular, may I say again that I have cast my hat in the ring and that your earnest consideration is solicited.

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VIEWING THE CANDIDATES.

THE OFFICES.

By Rev. G. W. Maize.

The Hendersonville District is a part of the Blue Ridge conference. It is made up of thirty-five churches and missions and seventeen pastors. Most of them are real lovers of our Zion, and are striving against odds to carry the banner to the highest peak.

Notwithstanding the exodus of our people from this section of the mountains, the few remaining are faithful and cheerful givers.

We lost by fire the fine church built at Rutherfordton last year by those faithful members and friends led by the Rev. E. F. Strong.

It will doubtless be rebuilt in the very near future.

Our friends are appealed to, to assist us in the undertaking.

Send the donation to Rev. E. M. Strong, or Mr. W. C. Bryant, Rutherfordton, N. C. The brethren are now preparing for the convocation as per the Bishop's schedule.

Each of the district officers is putting new life into their department,

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FLASHES FROM WEST KENTUCKY.

"LET US."

By Rev. P. C. Wilburn.

As we approach the General Conference we can hear from north, south, east and west, "all in well." I like to see the interest manifested. It shows marked improvement. We need more interest, more vision, more energy. I have studied the thing with intense interest. I see there is much talk about the justification of war. I think it well, and while being played, please "let us" realize our law that is to put more stress on doing of these things. As we go through this law-making body, "let us" say, "Let us" try to get the time. Since Zion is operated by the law, let us all have a word. It is our privilege. "Let us" stop, halt, halt! and stop our government with high spirits and minds long enough to pray that God lead us. Without prayer we have failed already. Let us make sure we are going to do as we truthfully think best, for the Kingdom of God, not ourselves.

Legislating.

I presume everybody has been carefully provided for except the worn out ministers, widows and orphans, and struggling poor preachers, who often times when opportunities prevail, have to do something else to supplement their meager salaries.

Our foreign work needs better supervision to some extent, we all will admit, and hope that will be looked after. We must provide some definite way of caring for our missionaries. It is too far from America to be haphazard business.

Zion must provide for a great educational program. Her educational basis must be strengthened and it is going to take money! money! money! to do it. They must be modernly equipped to keep abreast with the times.

If Zion would live we must give our rural churches more consideration. Say what you will or may, they are strongholds to this great church of ours. "Let us" stop our procession-headed to Indianapolis long enough to think for whence we go, and for God's sake leave the old hatchet at home you supposed to have buried, but left the handle sticking out. "Let us" stop long enough to get together on men and measures. Let the proper men be advocated or at least those who possess the ability and the proper men for elevation.

It is understood that there will be four men elevated to episcopal honors. We are not together as we should be, this near the General Conference.

Bishop J. S. Caldwell, our senior Bishop, has a great vision of getting together. The matters must be lawfully and rightfully thrashed out, if we are to do any good. Railroad, steam rolling will not put over our program, neither concocted plans will, but lawfully and rightly they will work through the conference sometimes, but when facing the field we all see how they work.

Let us profit by our mistakes. "Let us" elect men not because they have, but because they can and will. We need to look ahead and not behind. Men often fail to repeat themselves. We do not elevate men to build churches and put on big rallies, yet it is well to some extent to speak of their labors, and notice it for what they have been able to do. "Let us" not elevate men to the bishopric as rewards for service; no! thrice no. We must elevate men who are prepared and able from every angle to supervise and steer the old ship of Zion upon stormy seas, for there lies above us icebergs and satanic submarines.

(9 23rd of November)