

The Star of Zion

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

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WALKING ABOUT ZION.

BISHOP J. S. CALDWELL EMPHASIZES EDUCATION AND MISSIONS.

Someone asked a few days ago which was the greatest of the four Departments of our Church, namely, Financial, Educational, Missionary and Benevolent Departments. When you come to think about the question you must conclude that you cannot use the superlative comparison in reference to their greatness at all. These departments were each organized for a distinctive and definite purpose, and each is great in the proportion that it serves well the purpose for which it was brought into existence.

The Financial Department is the oldest; in fact, all the others grew out of it. We are accustomed to think of the Financial Department as being first for the following reasons: The Financial Department ever since the organization of the Church has been the salary-paying Department, although the Department has not been always organized as now, it has been through it that the General Official family all through the years, has received their compensation. It is the sustentation Department, and I think should remain so. We would do well if we would relieve this Department of any and all responsibility of handling funds which might be probably taken over by other Departments.

For a long time the Educational, Missionary and the Benevolent Departments' interest were all handled through the Financial Department, but, as the Church grew, it was apparent that other Departments should be organized to do special work peculiar to them.

The Educational Department is important from many angles, first, because of the emphasis which it places upon the Church's determination and purpose to educate its constituency. "We must educate or die," said Prof. Atkins on one occasion, who was then our Educational Secretary. As we turn our faces toward Indianapolis, a much larger place in our program budget should be given to education, if we as a Church would keep our face toward the rising sun. I agree with the editor of The Star of Zion, who a few weeks ago said editorially, "That we as a Church become exceedingly poor when the subject of increased appropriations are broached in connection with our educational program." We can no longer wink at the fact that larger provision for all our educational institutions, and especially Livingstone College must be made.

The last five years have seen us in the most strenuous effort in our history almost entirely for Church Extension, and unless we turn our attention to education, we will wake up to find our Church beyond our ability to man; for we at this time are far short of enough men to supply the pulpits that we already have. The Church Extension Department was organized as the necessity of a business department was apparent to the leaders of the Church. The Church, as we all know, has a business side that must be looked after and developed. So we have attempted to ignore the business interest of the Church.

I have heard it said by those who ought to know better, "that those who control the business affairs of our various denominations are inefficient when it comes to business." The facts in the case prove, to the contrary. Very rarely you hear of the loss of a Church or a religious institution in any of our denominations. We do hear of banks and other race institutions and enterprises failing, although they are conducted or managed by many who do not give the Church any credit for much business sense. The Church Extension Depart-

ment controls all of our purely connectional property, and dispenses the funds going into the Department for purely Church Extension work.

The Missionary efforts of the A. M. E. Zion Church are quite as old as the organization itself, for we find among the early records that the ministers were required to raise a small amount annually and report the same to their annual conference. As the years passed, the spirit pervaded in a larger degree the whole Church. As a result, a Missionary Department was organized; not just as we have it now, but of sufficient formation to be called a Department.

In 1912, the General Conference convening in Charlotte, N. C., set off the Department of Foreign Missions, with a Foreign Mission Secretary working under a Foreign Mission Board. This was made possible largely because of the splendid financial showing that the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society made at that time. The funds collected

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Delegate To National Republican Convention.



Rev. J. W. Brown, A. M., D. D.

Rev. J. W. Brown, pastor Mother Zion Church selected by Republicans of New York delegate at large to National Convention at Cleveland in June. Dr. Brown is the only man of color in the New York delegation. It is a tribute to the leadership of the great preacher who has made the most distinguished record of Mother Zion's pastors in 127 years of our history.

O'Neill's Play Again.

By William Pickens.

For the Associated Negro Press.

"All God's chillun got wings," but it seems that many of them have not enough penetrating, discriminating sense to live in this wingless human world.

Most of the Negro writers continue to harp on the incidents that this vicious play shows a white woman "in love" with a Negro, marrying him and "kissing his hand." That is not the phase of this play for American Negroes to consider. It is the play's insidious attack upon the common public school and its direct or indirect support of the devilish sentiment to put Negro children out of the public schools, while every other human animal from every other quarter of the world is permitted to stay in.

Colored men, we think, are betrayed into a defense of this play because white men, some white men, are attacking it. And the Negroes have not stopped to consider that the whites attack it from other grounds, different and opposite from the grounds on which sensible Negroes should be opposed to it. No Negro need agree with Arthur Brisbane that the play is vicious because it shows a white, and a poor specimen of white woman at that "kissing the hand of a black man." That's nothing.

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THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION OF LIBERIA.

PRESIDENT C. D. B. KING.

Outstanding Features.

(Special to The Star of Zion.)
Monrovia, Liberia, Jan. 7th, 1924.

1. With unusual brilliancy Phoebus Apollo emerged from the rosy bed of Aurora to dispel the sable shade of the night before and fill the heart of every descendant of Ham with inexpressible joy on that memorable day in Negro History in the "Lone Star" Republic—Liberia on the momentous occasion of the Presidential inauguration. The importance of the occasion is inestimable, both internationally and intranationally. Not only was the heart of every citizen in Liberia filled with the loudest jubilation and the deepest awe, but the expressions of the various representatives of foreign powers present were indicative of the respective interests of the nations of the world in this singular inauguration of a president of Liberia. The occasion was indeed auspicious. For in consideration of the many crucial moments that the Republic has come through, one really finds justifiable grounds for magnificent demonstration of patriotism and loyalty by that surging host of liberty loving people.

2. Prior to the day of inauguration, Monrovia, the historic capital of the nation, was crowded to its capacity with foreign visitors, representatives of the leading nations of the world (The United States, England, France, Holland, Germany, Spain, Belgium, and the Republic of Panama), leading citizens of the Republic and chiefs and natives from the remotest quarters of the hinterland—all looking forward to the dawning of a new administration. In the midst of this feverish preparation, the anxiety of all was greatly accelerated the day before the inauguration when two Men-of-War were observed on the Liberian Seaboard—English and French. The most notable interest attached to the men-of-war was that, they had been dispatched hither by their respective governments with the unalterable order to pay due homage and respect to the Liberian Government, and the second inauguration of His Excellency Charles Dunbar Burgess King, President of Liberia. This movement of two outstanding nations of the world is significant.

3. The display of pomp on the day of the inauguration was elaborate and momentous. The procession that left the Executive Mansion for the sacred and hallowed grounds of the previous inaugurations. The Government's Square, was indeed one of impressive beauty, with its long winding line composed of the Presidential party (In Automobiles), the Diplomatic Corps, the Legislature and other dignitaries of the State, the Frontier Companies, the Militia, etc., and an innumerable host of followers all moving in jubilant stride to the immortal strains of, "All Hail, Liberia Hall." The splendidly designed and decorated plaza was artfully in harmony with the sublimity of the occasion, with its countless banners dancing amid the gentle zephyrs of that January morn. Much credit should be given those who made the occasion presentable and especially to Dr. T. Elwood Davis, the Chief Usher for the Inauguration in his tactful management of that vast concourse of variegated personages.

4. In the midst of this host, at 1:00 P. M., or about 6:00 A. M., Central American time Senator J. G. Richards, the President of the Senate, administered the Oath of Office to the President. Following this the air was suddenly rent by the loud and thunderous peals of the National Anthem, "All Hail Liberia Hall," played by the Frontier Force Band, composed en-

tirely of unlettered natives, under the direction of the reputed band instructor, Mr. Nathaniel Critchlow, although these natives could neither read nor write, yet so keen were they in the manipulation of their respective instruments, as to have compelled unbounded admiration from all present. Ere the last echo of this soul stirring anthem had ceased its resoundings over the hills, the President arose in calm serenity amidst that august assembly, unvelling to even the most casual observer the native dignity of this princely port.

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Oscar W. Adams.

EDITOR OF THE BIRMINGHAM REPORTER.

Endorsed by his Conference and State Delegation for Church Extension Secretary.

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church will no doubt have the most active and legislative meeting of its history when the General Conference begins its work in Indianapolis, Indiana, next May," said Oscar W. Adams, prominent layman and candidate for the office of Secretary of the Church Extension Department. "Our organization has relied upon its own resources for nearly an hundred and twenty years and its holdings and reputation is an expression of the Christian character of the Negro race independent of outside help.

Whatever the race has in property, schools, men and reputation in the A. M. E. Zion Church, it is theirs and came to them through the toiling and sacrifices of Negro people. It is not punctuated with apologies and

WATCHING THE BREAKERS.

PARAGRAPHIC PERSONALS AND COMMENTS.

By W. H. Davenport.

Watching the Breakers expresses the hope that he will be able to be of assistance to the brethren at Indianapolis in the publication of anything that may be of assistance to them. See "Day" first.

If the Western Star of Zion is re-established the Rev. Dr. J. W. Carter has a flying start on the editorship. Dr. Carter has kept the Observer going for a number of years, and is still strong.

Dr. J. R. White, of Mobile, Ala., says he is in the race for Church Extension Secretary until the last ballot is counted.

Drs. W. H. Finley, L. D. Workman, A. G. Alstork, J. C. Laramore, N. D. Crawford and J. H. McMullen, who are chairmen of delegations, as well as Dr. J. R. White, have long been familiar figures in the General Conference, and as members of the Episcopal Committee, will have something to say.

Bishop J. W. Wood is closing up the work of the Seventh Episcopal District with satisfaction. He has grown into the hearts of the brethren and his influence has increased year by year.

Rev. J. E. Rodgers, Burlington, N. J., is, with possibly one exception, the oldest active member of the New Jersey Conference. He is making a very successful presiding elder. Dr.



Oscar W. Adams, Endorsed By Alabama Delegation.

poverty-stricken appeals.

"The race must have an independent organization in America if it hopes to have and maintain the respect and encouragement of the leadership of the nation. This could better be a Christian organization. The A. M. E. Zion denomination is a good expression of such an institution, and being on the scene of the toiling and sacrifices of my own people, I am delighted to be counted on the roll as one of its humble members."

The North Alabama conference of

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J. H. White, student and thinker, is the oldest member of the conference in point of years and service.

The dashing Dr. M. C. Glover, of Montgomery, Ala., has cast his hat into the ring for the General Secretaryship, and promises to be in the race until the last ballot is cast.

Dr. B. G. Shaw is closing the quadrennium in a blaze of glory as connectional evangelist. He has had wonderful success throughout the country and should be happy.

They all don't get their D. D.'s

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