



YOUTH'S CORNER

General Conference.

As I stand with my ear toward the ground trying to hear the news of the future, I ask the watchman who is standing on the wall with the crank of time in his hand, how long? The answer comes back that with less time than two months the wheel of time will roll us up to another General Conference. The Master is asking "Whom shall we send and who will go for us?" Drs. Jones, Walls, Madison, Alleyne, Shaw, Callis and a great number of others have already cried out "Lord, here am I send me." The gospel must be preached in all the world. Then what about Africa? I think that I have heard one cry, "Here am I, send me," and he is our most worthy Missionary Secretary, Dr. W. W. Matthews. Let us crown this prelate as Bishop, and send him to Africa and Zion will take on new life in that heathen land.

Brethren, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. (Philippians 4:8.)
Dinwiddie, Va.

DR. E. W. SMITH, CANDIDATE FOR MANAGER, RECOMMENDED BY CHURCHMEN AND CITIZENS.

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that I have been personally acquainted with Rev. E. W. Smith, from his early childhood and it gives me pleasure to bear testimony to his excellent Christian character and fidelity to every trust committed to him. I know of no man who has done more for his race than he. He is interested in all that pertains to the uplift of his people and to accomplish this, to my certain knowledge, he has made great sacrifices both of time and money. No colored man has done more to help me as County Superintendent, to build up a creditable school system among the colored people of our County. I am always ready to endorse Rev. E. W. Smith, for I believe him to be honest and straight.

(Seal) F. T. Wooten,
County Superintendent.

I fully concur in the above, This August 1st, 1921.
(Seal) J. L. Memory,
Clerk Superior Court,
Columbus County.

Official Board of Saint Mark A. M. E. Zion Church,
Whiteville, N. C.

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that Rev. E. W. Smith is a citizen of Columbus county, Whiteville, N. C. He served us as pastor for a period of five years, during which time he erected a beau-

FAMILY ALTAR

five named gentlemen above constitute as strong a group of brain and practical leaders as the church could select. And still we have a large number standing Episcopal timber, anxious to be hewn down and carried to the mill. Such men as Drs. J. W. Brown, B. W. Swain, S. L. Corrochers, H. J. Callis, J. W. Martin, Wm. Sutton, W. L. Hamblin, F. M. Jacobs, W. W. Slade, and others.

For the editorship of The Star, Dr. W. H. Davenport should be elected. He is one of the acknowledged master penmen of the Church and race. He should be unanimously elected. More anon.

New Bern, N. C.

A VISION OF HEAVEN.

By Rev. N. T. Hunter.

That heaven is real there can be no doubt. That others beside St. Paul have been allowed a view of Paradise is evident from the testimony of the most reliable witnesses, such as Dr. Tennent, of New Jersey, Dr. Cake and many others. One of the most interesting and touching incidents of this character is related by Rev. B. Finley in his "Autobiography." It occurred in 1842 when he was presiding elder of the Lebanon district Ohio conference.

He tells us that "I was winding up the labors of a very toilsome year. I had scarcely finished my work till I was most violently attacked with bilious fever, and it was with great difficulty I reached my home." He sank rapidly. The best medical skill failed to arrest the disease, and life was utterly despaired of. "On the seventh night," he says, "in a state of entire insensibility to all around me, when the last ray of hope had departed, and my weeping family and friends were standing around my couch waiting to see me breathe my last, it seemed to me that a heavenly visitant entered my room. It came to my side, and in the softest and most silvery tones, which fell like rich music on my ear, it said: 'I have come to conduct you to another state and place of existence. In an instant I seemed to rise, and gently borne by my angel guide, I floated out upon the ambient air. Soon earth was lost in the distance, and around us on every side were worlds of light and glory. On, on, away, away, from world to luminous worlds afar, we sped with the velocity of thought. At length we reached the gates of paradise, and oh the transporting scenes that fell upon my vision, as the emerald portals, wide and high, rolled back upon their golden hinges. Then in its fullest extent, did I realize the invocation of the poet: 'Burst, ye emerald gates, and bring, To my raptured vision, All the ecstatic joys that spring Round the bright Elysian.'

"Language, however, is inadequate to describe what then, unveiled eyes, I saw. The vision is indelibly pictured on my heart. Before me spread out in beauty was a broad sheet of water, clear as crystal. Not a single ripple on its surface, and its purity and clearness indescribable.

While I stood gazing with joy and rapture at the scene, I saw Rev. P. R. Pittman, presiding elder of the Wilmoat district, Rev. W. J. Black, pastor at Crossett, Ark., Rev. Dr. J. W. Carter, pastor at Dermott, Ark., Rev. A. Newman, pastor at Wilmar, Ark., and N. T. Hunter, presiding elder of the Montrose district. All of these brethren were elected ministerial delegates to the General Conference from the Arkansas Conference.

Auroda, Ark.

IN MEMORIAM.

In loving remembrance of our Baby Boy, William Hamblin Hunter, who went away one year ago, April 2, 1923.

You have gone from us forever, Longer here you might not stay, You have reached a fairer region, Far away,—Far away.

The parents,
R. T. and Gladys-Hamblin Hunter,
Lincolnton, N. C.

REVERENCE Planted in Childhood will Bear Fruit in Manhood in BETTER LIVES HAPPIER HOMES NOBLER CITIZENS

THE PIVOTAL HOUR.

By Rev. E. F. Rollins.

As we approach the forthcoming General Conference which convenes in Indianapolis in May, we become more and more concerned about the welfare of our Zion. The problems to be solved are many and weighty, and there is none more important than the election of the best fitted men for that high and holy office.

First: We all realize that the Church is approaching a crisis, and the pivotal hour is at hand. The supreme idea in the mind of all the delegates, both lay and clerical, should be the election of the men best suited to serve in that capacity, rather than those who are mainly anxious for the bishopric. The conservative judgment should prevail in making such a choice rather than the partisan whim of self-seeking candidates.

Second: The first prerequisite of a leader in the Church of Christ, is that of a well developed spirit of brotherly love. A bishop that loves the brethren after the General Conference as well as before the election, is what we want. And we are going up there to get them. A big brother-bishop instead of a cattle driving boss is our ideal.

The Number Needed.

The fact of the necessity of Christian leadership has been recognized in all preceding ages. Nothing great in Church or state has ever been accomplished without a great leader. Therefore an adequate number commensurate with the demands of our Zion must be elected. At the last General Conference at Knoxville, Tenn., our Board of Bishops recommended the election of three men to meet the demands of the Church. Only two, however were elected and since that time four of the venerable fathers have died. Since that time our beloved Methodism has suffered a serious set back because of a lack of adequate supervision from a numerical point of view.

Our present Board of Bishops, men of vision, courage and a progressive idealism, of whom we all are proud, is the equal, if not superior to any of the high prelates in the history of our Zion.

Because of the economic stringency of the times and the thinning of the ranks by death, they are both underpaid and overworked.

As I see it, to merely fill the vacancies caused by death, would require the election of four bishops. And if we have made any progress at all, and if we hope to make any in the immediate future, we certainly need to elect five. Even then, we will only be up to the number recommended in the last General Conference.

In my personal conviction, the Church needs that unique type of manhood as we find in the interesting personality of Dr. E. D. W. Jones. Our fairminded men must admit that Ed. Jones can fill a place in Zion very difficult for others to fill.

As a writer, a scholar, a thinker, and a pulpiteer, who in our Zion, in our race or any other race for that matter, can excel "Willie" Walls.

The age limit should be no barrier to any one so capable of rendering efficient service on the Episcopal bench. Dr. Walls, however, is safe within the law.

Others who would grace the bench of Bishops are: Drs. W. C. Brown, of Brooklyn, Y. Y., C. C. Alleyne, and E. L. Madison. To my mind the



REV. E. W. SMITH, D. D., P. E. Candidate for Manager A. M. E. Zion Publishing House, General Conference, 1924. Address: Vineland, N. C.

DR. ELEY'S BIRTHDAY RECEPTION.

A very enjoyable birthday surprise was tendered Dr. William H. Eley, pastor St. Peter's A. M. E. Zion church, Bayonne, N. J., on Monday evening, March 10th by the following ladies of the church—Miss Mabel Winchester in charge, assisted by the Misses Edna Johnson, Ardenur Smith, Carrie Martin, Ida Lane, Mesdames Carrie Johnson, Sara Winchester and Flossie Thomas.

A short, but very interesting musical and literary program was rendered, at the conclusion of which the pastor, in a few appropriate remarks, expressed his sincere appreciation for the very agreeable surprise and for the numerous tokens of love and esteem in the form of a purse from the various auxiliaries of the church, and personal friends as well, including a very beautiful bouquet of carnations, representing in number the age of the pastor.

At the conclusion of the program the many members and friends present retired to the basement of the church with the pastor and his family to enjoy a delightful collation, which included a very beautiful birthday cake.

Bayonne, N. J.

tiful brick church which reflects credit upon this town, and County as well as the whole Zion connection. It gives us pleasure to bear testimony to his excellent character as a race builder and his fidelity to every trust committed to him. Rev. Smith also served as postmaster of Vineland, N. C., four years. Twenty years a member of the school board, proving himself to be honest in every respect. As a man of business we know of no man surpassing him. He is fully qualified to fill whatever may be committed to him. As a pastor during a period of five years he has done for us what no other pastor has done or could do. We say this without any reflection on the part of any of the good men who have served us.

Signed by the official Board of St. Mark A. M. E. Zion Church:

D. J. Pierce, E. M. Baldwin, J. P. Maultsby, R. H. Howard, A. L. Pridgen, F. H. George, Prof. C. McPhaul.

He has also been endorsed by the following influential citizens:

A. W. Baldwin, Register of Deeds, Columbus County; E. F. Powell, President Bank of Columbus; H. L. Lyon, Member of Congress from 6th District, North Carolina.

Velmot makes your hair beautiful. Get a box to-day at 10c stores and drug stores.

A NOTE OF PRAISE AND GRATITUDE.

Miss Beatrice M. Jones, The Young Evangelist.

"Thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

After spending several days in the death chamber in the Rutherfordton, N. C. hospital, I am going on my way rejoicing, praising God for His goodness to me. The more I think of my wounds, the more I realize that nothing is too hard for Jesus.

I thank the Blue Ridge conference for their kindness and prayers. I have experienced that prayer means everything, and was all that brought relief to me. The effectual, fervent prayers of the righteous availeth much.

I cannot say that I deeply regret my affliction, for I am sure it was a blessing to many as well as to myself. I was only called to be alone with Jesus; while others were summoned to the duty of prayer.

"God works in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform; He plants his footsteps in the sea, And rides upon the storm."

Louisville, Ky.

MIRRORS OF ZION.—AN ORATORICAL CONTEST.

By Rev. A. Ellison.

We always hold the 12th of February in high regard, because it is the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, the great Emancipator. It was through the proclamation issued by Lincoln, Jan. 1, 1865 that made it possible for us as a race to have an oratorical contest, or any other educational program that we would like to have. Prof. W. E. Woodyard, principal of Dinwiddie High School, who always keeps apace with the time, and Prof. Mosell, the science teacher, who is a graduate of Livingstone College, thought it wise to put on an oratorical contest on the 12th of February, the birthday of one of America's greatest Presidents.

Those who participated were members of the Junior, Sophomore and Freshman classes, respectively. Each class was well represented. The speakers were as follows: Mr. Willie Blunt, and Mr. Augustus Lacy, of the Junior class; Mr. Chas. Williamson, and Miss Elizabeth Deel of the Sophomore class; Mr. Arthur Williamson, and Miss Gladys Cunningham, of the Freshman class. There was a first and second prize for the winners. The first prize was a gold medal, and the second prize was \$2.50. Mr. Augustus Lacy, a member of the Junior class, won the first prize. Mr. Willie Blunt, a member of the same class, won the second prize. All of the speakers made a wonderful display on the stage, each one holding his equilibrium, and destined to make great men and women.

Those who served as judges for the contest were: Dr. C. L. Alexander, vice President of the board of trustees of Dinwiddie School, and Mr. Charles Nelson, teacher at Dewitt, Va. The judges rendered a very fair decision, having to judge from the four technical points: pronunciation, memory, stage bearing and repetition.

Dr. Alexander is in the race for the Church Extension. He has a splendid program for this department. While looking over the Mirrors of Zion we find that Alexander is still shining.