

# The Star of Zion

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## WALKING ABOUT ZION.

By Bishop J. S. Caldwell, D. D.

Mr. Editor:

From some things we see and hear nowadays respecting the brotherly feeling between ministers of all ranks and the laymen throughout our Church, one would conclude that these good old days will pass never to return with their sweet fellowship after the rise of the next General Conference.

I have just finished reading an article in the Star of Zion written by the Rev. J. H. McMullen of Sewickley, Pa., in which he deals a stunning blow to the development of brotherhood in our communion. Quoting from one of the paragraphs in the letter, the following statement is made:—"This thing of certain leaders arranging Episcopal Districts in advance of the Episcopal Committee meeting at the General Conference, even to the placing of bishops is wrong in principle and a usurpation of authority. I know two men not yet elected who have been tentatively assigned to arranged districts. Not only legislation in advance, but hand-picked men for districts." He further states, "The Episcopal Committee that will act on any plan handed them is not worth the name, for in so doing they are the tools in the hands of the bishops."

Brother McMullen objects to the influencing of legislation in advance of the General Conference. He is probably right in this, but I would like to ask him what view must be taken of the circular letters he is sending throughout the Church to the various delegates? This letter beautifully sets out the splendid work done by you, and ends up by soliciting their support for your promotion to the bishopric. Is not this an attempt to influence legislation before the convening of the General Conference? Why did you not wait to be sought out by the delegates rather than you seek them. I have no word of condemnation for your course, because self-preservation is the first law of nature. Brother McMullen further avers "that he knows two men not yet elected whom the leaders have made up districts for and assigned them even before any election has been held."

I wish herein to disclaim that anything of the kind has happened to my knowledge during my whole tenure as a bishop in the A. M. E. Zion Church. This statement is misleading to say the least. If the bishops among themselves should agree as to what part of the field they would like to work in, and even make this known to their constituency, how does that differ from those among us who desire certain favorable consideration on the part of the delegation. Who is the most concerned in this matter?  
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## "Zion To Profit In The Election of Oscar W. Adams.

Birmingham, Ala.,  
April 5, 1924.

Dear Dr. Walls:

I want you and the Church to know that I am greatly encouraged over the many complimentary letters and expressions that I am receiving from delegates, friends, laymen and ministers, on my candidacy for the office of Secretary of the Extension Department of our great denomination, and take this method of expressing my thanks and assuring the fathers, ministers, elders and laymen of the church that I appreciate their expressed confidence.

It is my hope that no ministers of our denomination will get the impression that I am making the fight

against ministers, in this race. I am running for the office. It is now being held by a layman and a layman has been entrusted with the office for many years. My information is that they have honored the office and their work has been congenial, helpful, and constructive. I believe that the denomination will leave this office in the hands of a layman and with the idea and with a desire to serve the Church in the best possible capacity in keeping with my ability, I am standing for election.

Among the many expressions coming to me in recent months is a letter from Prof. Robert W. Taylor, a leading educator of this State and a

## Twenty-five Reasons Why Lawyer S. M. Dudley Should Be Elected Church Extension Secretary.

By Augustus W. Gray, Esq.

Zion Church has always had a high sense of justice. She never stoops to selfishness nor besmirches her fair record with unfair discrimination. In every General Conference she has given place to the laity in the distribution of offices and officers. We cannot believe that at the

their interest and future as well as devoted to the highest welfare of the church. In this particular he is truly without contradiction "the John Dancy" of Zion Laymen.

5th. He is the originator of the plan to buy a Metropolitan church in Washington, D. C., and his initial steps led to the purchase of the great John Wesley Church of this city. In the minutes of the annual conference of May 20-25, 1914, held at York, Pa., it is stated that in a speech Mr. Dudley brought to the attention of the conference a church building with a seating capacity of 1500 people, a \$5500 pipe organ all for \$60,000.

5th. Bishop Walters drafted Mr. Dudley from Union Wesley where Dr. E. D. W. Jones is now pastoring, to join John Wesley to lead the forces in buying this finest of all church edifices.

6th. He is a gentleman of clean untarnished record. No voice of scandal has ever been raised against him.

7th. He is no self-seeker.

8th. He is deferential, modest, obliging, and no bishop or pastor has had to rebuke him for forwardness or negligence.

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## COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STANDS FIRM AGAINST DACE DISCRIMINATION IN DORMITORY.

(Special To Star of Zion)

New York, April 4. Columbia University through Dean Hawkes has declined to accede to the request of a Southern white that a colored student, F. W. Wells be ousted from Fernald Hall, one of the dormitories. Immediately upon receipt of news of the attempt to have Wells ousted, Walter White, Assistant Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People called upon the Columbia Dean.

Dean Hawkes told Mr. White that he had informed the white troublemaker he could leave the dormitory if he wanted to, that his room could very easily be rented as there was a long waiting list.

"One man in the Hall," said Dean Hawkes, "a trouble-making disagreeable fellow tried to stir up feeling against a colored man who had been given a room in Fernald Hall. When he came to me about the matter, I told him that colored men had stayed in that Hall before and that in the future, as in the past, there would be no discrimination of any sort allowed. I told that as long as a man behaved himself, there would be no objection to any man, whatever his race, being given quarters at Columbia, and I further informed this man that if he or any other did not want to stay in the Hall he could move, as we have a waiting list with hundreds of names on it and could easily fill the rooms of those who moved."

"When I told him this he made the remark, 'Well, I will give you some publicity and see how you like that.' He then got newspaper reporters and gave them the material on which the stories in today's newspapers were based. I say again that any person or persons who do not want to stay in Fernald Hall can move and may the Lord bless them."

According to the account in the New York World of the protest against Mr. Wells, residing in Fernald Hall, the objectors were led by J. B. Rucker, of Norfolk, Va., and L. H. Hill, who comes from near Atlanta, Ga., both of them southern whites.

On Thursday morning, April 3, following a Ku Klux Klan demonstration on the Columbia University campus, the N. A. A. C. P. wrote Mr. Wells urging him to stand firm and offering assistance if it should be needed.

## GENERAL CONFERENCE HOROSCOPE.

By Bishop G. L. Blackwell.

Departments—Financial System. Our departments of church are all conducted by a fine set of men from my viewpoint. I do not see that there is need for any radical changes in them, but of course, we might improve on them perhaps a little. We can scarcely make a radical change in any of our major departments without interfering seriously with our financial system. Our financial system is not perfect, neither will any radical changes be perfect. There is one thing in which we should take pride and that is our present financial system is essentially a ZION METHODIST SYSTEM. It has been developed within our Church by those who have made the Church what it is, and our ancestral leadership should carry weight with it. I am not a reactionary neither am I a radical; I am a progressive Zionite; I stand ready to vie and cooperate with the most progressive of our men, but I am anxious to serve the historic ideals indigenous to our ZIONISM.

I am proud of the growth of our Church and the development of her departments. I have had a hand in helping her grow and have featured in the syndication of her departments in an official way for forty-three years. Would it be wise to remove the landmark of the fathers and thus destroy that which accentuates the identity of Zion's own FINANCIAL SYSTEM? Is it not better that we lead in a system of our own rather than to mimic what others have tried and are now revising? Our Zion has fertile soil. She can improve her own system and make it produce the desired results without importing foreign elements incompatible with the training and established custom of a quarter of a century. By this I do not mean that we should remain in a rut. Certainly we need to revise and improve our present system, but not to change its constituent parts, but evolve out of it the features necessary to give us an improved plan commensurate with our present needs and portending possibilities.

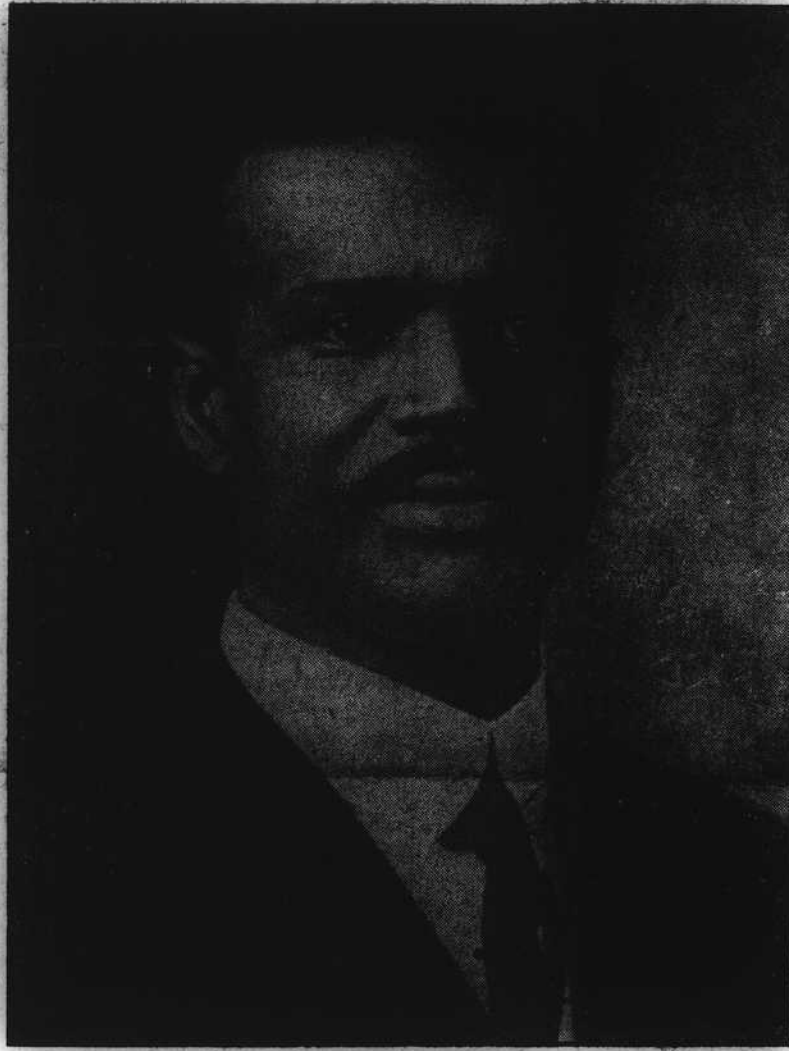
Growth of our Financial System.

A recital of the phenomenal growth of our financial system for the past forty years may be illuminating to the minds of the General Conference delegates. The amount of Gen. fund raised in 1880 was about \$5,000 for the whole Church. By 1900 it had increased to \$18,000; by 1904 it had gone to \$27,000; in 1908 it was \$39,000; in 1912 it was \$45,000; in 1916 it rose to \$75,000; in 1920 it had gone up to \$97,000; and it is now \$108,000. Is not this marvelous growth in an essentially ZION FINANCIAL SYSTEM? And yet it is thought by some that the system is antiquated. You will observe that the system has yielded the greatest increase during the twenty years we have had the regular departments. The departments from the time they were inaugurated in a regular way (1904) have had similar growth in a system essentially ZION, with the single exception, namely, during the time the money was centralized in the hands of one man.

Central Clearing House.

We have already tried the centralization of the funds making the financial secretary's office the clearing house, and it was a flat failure. It would be more of a failure now since each of the benevolent departments is functioning in a first class way. When the plan was being operated quite a deal of money due other departments never did reach them, not because of the unfaithfulness of the secretary, but because it was necessary.

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S. M. DUDLEY, Esq.  
Candidate for Secretary of Church Extension.

member of Zion. Because of the illuminations made and the frank utterance of Mr. Taylor of our fitness for the office, I feel that our Church should have his interpretation.

Here is Mr. Taylor's letter:  
Sipsey, Ala.  
March 29, 1924.

Mr. O. W. Adams, Editor,  
Birmingham Reporter,  
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear friend Adams:

I congratulate you upon your candidacy for Secretary of Extension Department A. M. E. Zion Church, and I congratulate that great Connection upon having so efficient a son as yourself to seek to serve in that position.

If I have been correctly informed, the duties of the Secretary of the Extension Department, in part, are to look into the value of church property, to advise upon location and kind of churches to be built, and to assist in raising funds with which to build those churches.

Because of your business experience in building up one of the greatest race journals in this country, because of your success as a private real estate operator, and because of your wide acquaintance among men of wealth and influence, you are admirably fitted to perform the duties of such office.

In addition to these business qualities, you are known as a fearless writer, and a gifted orator. Each of these accomplishments is a wonderful asset to any cause; and those who know you believe that, if elected, you would use them with telling effect for the cause of God and Zion.

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forthcoming General Conference she will reverse her proud history and cast the laymen aside for a position that has always been held by laymen at least for the past two decades, even if some of its foremost ministers are candidates for the laymen's traditional position.

The laymen of Zion Church irrespective of section, for this man does not need to circumscribe himself by geographical lines to prove his worth and win the suffrage of his brethren, present Lawyer S. M. Dudley for the Secretary of the Church Extension Department of the A. M. E. Zion Church. We are herein prepared to give twenty-five reasons why Mr. Dudley is so well fitted for the office and measures up to the requirements of the same by a sturdy Christian manhood that should be the glorious possession of every man.

1st. He is a Christian, deep-dyed in the fundamentals of Zion Methodism.

2nd. He is a layman. Early in life he connected himself with State St. Church, Mobile, Ala., that renown and famous society of religionists whose Cathedral-like Temple has stood for over a half century as one of the towering watch shafts of our Zion, noted for its moral teachings, its influential citizenship and its high spiritual zeal and example.

3rd. He is loyal and this means much in these days of flickering and flitting here and there from one church to another seeking social preferences and emoluments.

4th. He is a friend to the ministry. Every pastor he has ever had loves him because he was true to