

The Star of Zion

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

NUMBER SEVENTEEN

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1924.

VOLUME FORTY-EIGHT

THINKING THINGS THROUGH.

A NEW DAY—THE LIGHT TURNED ON.

By Bishop L. W. Kyles, D. D.

My Apology.

So absorbed have I been in the arduous duties and responsibilities incumbent upon me as the superintendent of the Fourth Episcopal District that I have felt loath to turn aside from those duties to engage in a discussion of this character. Nevertheless for the clarity of my position and to heraten the greata majority to whose convictions I have given expression in my Creed, and to rearticulate the voice of Zion as generally expressed by our most thoughtful men I have descended from the mount of privilege to enlarge upon and restate my views. But I have an inherent aversion to controversies of this kind. Yet I fear my silence might be construed either as cowardice or fear, or contempt for those who have attacked my position. I am innocent of the first and am too polite to be guilty of the second. So I wish to assure my brethren that I have engaged in this discussion with the kindest of feeling, devoid of personal resentment and prejudice, yet I feel I should respond to the beckonings of th morning and the call of the new day.

NEW DAY, NEW TASK, NEW METHOD.

When one has dispassionately and courageously considered the conditions and needs of the Church no good reason can be established for trudging along in the beaten paths and shopworn policies of the past. Why should we bind ourselves inseparably to the thought and the traditions of the leadership of other and totally different days. Thoughtful and progressive men and women are sharing in an irresistible personal desire to know the facts and needs of our Church. They want to survey the old and scrutinize the new with a view of getting their bearings for plans and methods of procedure which the new conditions demand. In the general survey we may discover that some of the old plans and methods born of the genius of men of other days may not fit into the nooks and niches of our day. We may have to discard Saul's armor although it may be a creation of the genius of our fathers and employ an armor designed by the genius of the men of our day. Thoughtful men resent the idea of being herded like cattle. The right of self-determination is the heritage of men in the Church as well as in th state.

SHALL WE MOVE ON, OR SHALL WE REMAIN STATIC?

We are just emerging from the most disordered decade of human history. It was a transitional period. It marked the passing of the old and the birth of a new world. During this period civilization was being re-born and God was walking miraculously in the world. In studying the problems which the new day presents the Church should make the movements of God—discover His footsteps in the affairs of men, employ the most effective methods for the accomplishment of the new tasks and move on. It is the faithless, hopeless individual of Church that remains static during these stirring times—who sees no appeal for larger service in the happenings of our day, and in whose souls the irresistible urge has not been felt. Men of unyielding faith and indomitable hope are apt to see the pointing of the finger of providence and move in the direction indicated. With such mene a new survey of the field and a readjustment of things is a natural and necessary consequence. The disposition to follow "ancestral

leadership" and serve the historic ideals indigenou of our Zionism," is not a fitting memorial to our fathers, many of whom wrought better than they knew. We do not stop the wheels of progress to memorialize our dead. We build monuments to their virtues, we write their heroic deeds in the annals of history and we turn our attention to the ideals of the new day and to the working out of new methods for the new tasks, so that the wheels of progress may move on.

DOES OUR FINANCIAL SYSTEM NEED REVISING.

Does our financial system, which is claimed to be "essentially a Zion Methodist system" need rivising? It is evident from the complaints of those in the service of the Church who depend upon it for sustenance that our financial system needs revising, and more than "perhaps a little." The fact that the orderly flow of the funds into the treasury of the Connection may be obstructed and diverted to purposes for which it was not collected may be assigned as another evidence for the need of a revision. We might just as well face the facts. It might do us good to see the conditions affecting our institutions some times through the eyes of others. We should not be such slaves to our ideas, or so deeply in love with our own opinions as to be impervious to reason or dumb to the suggestions of those who have made and are making success in financial ventures. It would be the most painful and pathetic folly to reject a good thought simply because we are not the first to conceive it. The history of all human progress is the history of the absorption of the best from whatever source it may chance to come whether of savage or brute, of men or angels, of youth or old

(Continued to page 4)

THE SOUTH CAROLINA, NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA DELEGATES MEET.

Wednesday, March 26th at 11 A. M., the delegates of three states to the A. M. E. Zion General Conference met at 11 A. M., at Clinton Chapel, Charlotte, N. C.

The delegates represented Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. These states embrace eleven conferences and the ywere all represented but one. Drs. Matthews, Callis and Shaw came from the Philadelphia and Baltimore sector.

Dr. H. L. Simons was temporary chairman and Dr. Wm. Sutton was elected temporary chairman. The vice-chairmen by states were Dr. Wm. Robinson, South Carolina, and Dr. M. D. Smith, Virginia.

Dr. S. J. Howie, of the Blue Ridge and Rev. D. C. Crosby, South Carolina, were elcted secretaries. Twelve general officers were present. The following issues were endorsed:

1. That there be twelve Episcopal Districts:
2. That an Episcopal District shall not be changed by the death of a bishop, it remain fixed, and that the conferences, left without supervision by the death of the bishop shall be filled by the Episcopal Committee.
3. That the church be divided into contiguous districts and that the arranging of these districts be left left with the District Committee. That the adjoining states where there is no Zion work be added to the district to the end that the Church may cover the whole of America.
4. That the Episcopal Committee be held intact and function throughout the quadrennium.
5. That five bishops be elected at the forthcoming General Conference.
6. That the budget of the general Church be Two hundred Twenty-Thousand dollars.
7. That the General Fund be one

(Continued to page 5)

A FINANCIAL PLAN.

FOR THE A. M. E. ZION CONNECTION.

By Rev. S. W. Weller..

Some prefatory remarks before the outlining of this plan may be in order.

(a) As early as and even previous to the last session of the Connectional Council this plan had been drafted. A few of our general officers and influential pastors saw it and passed very favorably upon it. At Cincinnati there was quite a little "stir" about a Financial Plan for our Zion. Ahem! Thereafter "centralization" became the magic word. The writer presents this plan with the fervent hope that it may help to solve the problem.

(b) Dissatisfaction has been voiced again and again with our present system; some sought of a workable plan is sought which will come near satisfying all concerned.

(c) The plan at present in use and any other must necessarily partake of an experimental character.

(d) It is generally estimated that the minimum income needed to run our Connection without any attendant heart-aches and headaches is the moderate sum of \$220,000.

(e) This plan suggests that the estimate on an income of \$262,000 to be gotten from the following sources:

(f) A paying membership of 150,000. That is a very conservative number; we are supposed to have any where between 300,000 and 400,000 members.

150,000 paying dollar money	\$150,000
75 per cent of that amount	112,500
benevolences	112,500
Total income	\$262,000

Disbursements.

12 Bishops' salary, \$4,000 (no travelling allowance)....	20,000
10 Bishops' widows \$300....	3,000
6 Estate claimants \$500....	3,000
For Education....	70,000
For Church Extension....	40,000
For Home Missions....	15,000
For Foreign Missions....	12,000
For Relief....	15,000
For Sunday School Dept....	3,000
For Christian Endeavor....	3,000
For Publication House....	7,000
Emergency fund....	17,500
Total disbursements....	\$256,500
Total income....	\$262,000
Total Disbursements....	\$256,500
Balance.....	5,500

II. How to Get the Money.

This plan offers a centralized Financial department controlling and distributing all Connectional Finances as follows:—

(1) There shall be a Financial Board comprising the Financial Secretary, one bishop, the General Secretary, one business layman (not holding any general office), one business laywoman (not holding any general office) and two business ministers.

(2) The chairman of the Board shall be an A. M. E. Zion minister in good standing. He shall be elected annually. He shall not be a general officer.

(3) The Financial Secretary shall hold the office of Secretary-Treasurer.

(4) The Recording Secretary shall be elected annually with a salary of not more than \$100 per annum. He shall be paid quarterly and his travelling expenses to and from the meetings allowed him.

(5) Any Bishop or general officer may attend the meetings of the Board, but only in an advisory capacity if he be not a member of the Board. He shall not claim compensation for travelling expenses, neither shall the Board voluntarily consider any such expenses..

(6) There shall be an emergency Board comprising the Bishops of the Connection.

(7) The General Conference of

1924 shall elect the members of the Financial Board as outlined by this plan. Hereafter, the Board shall elect annually, at their last quarterly meeting, its members for the ensuing year; provided, however, that when the last meeting of the year falls near the meeting of the General Conference ensuing, that General Conference shall elect the members of the Board for the ensuing year. The Bishops. The Bishops shall take bishops shall take their place on the Board in rotation beginning with the senior bishop. Each bishop shall serve one year..

(8) The Board shall meet quarterly during the months of June, September, December and March, due notice of the meeting to be sent to all members by the General Secretary.

(9) The Board shall meet in one of the following cities: Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D. C., Charlotte, St. Louis and Chicago.

(10) Members of the Board shall be re-imburshed their traveling expenses before adjournment, but only to and from point for which they can justly claim re-imbursement.

(11) The City of New York shall hereafter be financial headquarters for the Connection.

(12) All monies raised for the Connection whether by conference assessments, special collections or through donations shall be forwarded immediately to the Financial Secretary's office. The Secretary shall immediately forward receipts for these items to the proper persons.

(13) Require all departmental secretaries except the Financial secretary to travel more extensively than before visiting churches and communities for the purpose of informing the people of the work of their respective departments. All money

(Continued to page 5)

EXTRACTS FROM INTRODUCTORY LECTURE.

By Prof. J. S. N. Tross.

Ladies and gentlemen: You are here in training to initiate a new world order, to be spokesmen of that order, and to be its sentinels also. By a new social order I mean a new democracy, the kingdom that is to come, if you please. But to be great citizens of this new order you shall have to understand its genius—its soul. This for you will not be a difficult task if you can realize that the laws which men make, which they embrace or reject are within themselves. The first requisite of the new order, therefore, is that men shall first understand themselves. Your slogan must be Socratic—Know thyself. With this accomplished, you shall be ready to discern, describe, analyse, evaluate, appropriate and assimilate common notions, opinions and beliefs. What I am saying is this: That your social education must enable you to discover the reservoirs of human experience and prepare you to rach far into its depths to find the elements that are to make paradisaical the earth upon which we live. It shall be your task to formulate the ideals of this new order of which I speak, and to make them articulate in the lives of men. You may be compelled at times to retrace your steps, you may be compelled to mark time, or to stand still in your efforts to treat the elusive elements with which you deal in the laboratory of human experience, but evolution itself is of such a nature. There cannot be constant progression without occasional retrogression.

In social science as in religion there will always be an element of mystery for there is nothing as mysterious as human experience, and yet there is nothing as real—it is the only reality we know.

The world must be remade by you;

(Continued to page 5)

REVOLUTIONIZING ZION.

Letter No. 12.

By R. Alxander Carroll.

The man in the trenches is after all, the man upon whom the responsibility rests, and the Church rises or falls in proportion to his success or failures; all achievements center in and around his activities, together with the laymen there lies the summum bonum of the material life of the Church, and the medium through which its spiritual life flows. In the pastor (Trenchman) is the force of the great wheel around which all ether wheels revolve, for through him, Missions, are formed, congregations are built up, men are saved, and great Churches are erected. Through him the fires of life are kindled, communities are renovated and kept in spiritual, moral and ethical touch with the inner and outer world and given an opportunity to know the will of God. It is his voice that is heard above the clam and clatter of the City at times when the hilarities of life are gripping men as if there were no God, or life beyond the grave; and assists them in changing their lives and made worthy citizens for earth and heaven, and yet in the final analysis he is the man provided for in the made for the Ministry at general Conferences.

Some consideration was given at the last General Conference, from what it should be. The Superannuated Minister who had served more than 10 years and less than 15, receiving the amount of \$150 per year; more than 15 years and less than 20, one hundred dollars; more than 20 years and less than 25, one hundred (\$140) and forty dollars; 25 years or more, three hundred (\$300) dollars; and with reference to their widows, whatever they can get. "One half of the amount coming into the hands of the Corresponding Secretary shall be allowed for widows and orphans and shall be prorated to them in the months of July and December". Paragraph 404, which is equivalent to "Whatever they can get." For I have known some worthy widows to receive as much as six dollars (\$6.00) per year.

1st. I would suggest that the entire amount be changed, increased to One hundred and fifty (\$150) dollars; Two hundred and (\$250) fifty dollars; four hundred (\$400) dollars, and six hundred (\$600) dollars respectively that he might think of something worthy.

Bishop Caldwell, our Senior Bishop in connection with the Philadelphia and Baltimore Conference set an example when he pensioned Dr. Curry in his declining age on six hundred dollars. If one Conference can do that, what about the heart of the Connection when it baets in Indianapolis?

There are some men who are thoughtful enough to secure homes before they enter the Ministry, which I advise all men to do if they can, and if they cannot, then go at it with faith and stick to it. In order that there might be some certainty of the men on the Mission fields receiving something tangible, for worthy men should be sent to Mission Fields, and given support by the Church in order that good work can be done.

I suggest that the Home Missionary Department be given a chance to develop this side of their work, and that 25 per cent of the money brought in by the Conference workers be especially provided for that purpose, and either placed in the hands of the Conference Treasury to be taken out only by the Conference direction, or sent to the Brotherhood Secretary with that stipulation.

It is lamentable to think of the Widows of Ministers receiving Six (\$6.00) dollars per year, and then with an accompanied card asking to solicit other funds to reimburse the

(Continued to page 5)