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## SHAKING THE PLUM TREE.

THE GREAT GENERAL CONFERENCE AND THE EXCELLENCY OF THE FINANCIAL PLAN.

By Bishop E. D. W. Jones.

Our recent Quadrennial session and the excellent Financial Plan which is working as the General Conference commanded, give me the urge to shake again.

All glory and praise to Bishop L. W. Kyles, chairman of the Financial Board, and to Dr. W. H. Goler, Financial Secretary for carrying out to the letter the plan just as it had adopted by the General Conference.

No one wants a change because all are so glad that we have been redeemed from the embarrassments of the old system. Everybody is getting paid their share from what is sent in and those of us not used to more than we need are happy and prosperous.

Dr. S. D. Davis entertained the General Conference as it has never been entertained before in all the history of our Methodism. It was the very best up to this hour. He did all in his power to make it pleasant for the delegates and visitors. He proved conclusively that Zion Church has pastors who, when permitted to exercise their privileges, can come up to whatever is required. He was not bothered with meddling. He proved himself equal to the task. He is an honor to any denomination and will ever live in the hearts of his brethren for his kindness to them and interest in their welfare.

Bishop P. A. Wallace comes in for a share of this praise and commendation. He took his hands entirely off the details of the General Conference and allowed his pastor whom he had sent there to cope with that situation, to locally manage the whole business of the great assembly. The pastor assigned homes, collected for the same, printed badges, sold them and put the money in his own pocket which was right and the right of every pastor at annual conference as well as to attend to all these local arrangements. The annual conference nor its presiding officer has anything to do with what a pastor earns legitimately at its sessions. Money is collected from the people for the support of the annual conference and the financial committee of the same should allow without question the pastor funds to pay the expenses of that conference and he should not be begrudged the little money he may make by wise management.

He can never earn too much. Bishop Wallace carried himself so well in this particular that Indiana plead for his return. The men are not going to be sincere any more in asking even for a Bishop's return who think and acts as if no one was capable of handling affairs but himself.

The General Conference was notable for the manly functioning of all committees. The men knew what they wanted and the fearlessly expressed themselves. Especially was this true of the Episcopal Committee who spurned the interference of any and all groups who sought to dictate their duties. They made districts and assigned Bishops and their action was final. That was as it should be and all know that it will forever be, thank heaven.

The men have been liberated from all fear and none must mistake respect for the office of a bishop for fear of the man. Zion men will never again squirm under the proddings of authority. A Bishop has only to be himself and not assume powers, and Zion men will always honor and respect him. At last the men know their rights and know when to assert them. Four years is a short time to wait to show that they are not cowards but real men; but we have all learned that enactments at a Zion General Conference mean obedience and that the men will have their day against tyranny.

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## Bishops and Gen'l. Officers First Connectional Council of the New Era of Zion Methodism Buffalo, N. Y., August 13-17.

The last session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church which closed recently in Indianapolis, Indiana, was perhaps the most epochal and eventful in the history of the denomination. External as well as internal interest is largely centered in the character and equipment of the elected episcopates as in those already occupying the office. The Star, therefore, takes pleasure in presenting to its readers a brief pen picture of the present Board of Bishops that they might arrive at a fair conclusion as to the personality, training, traits of character of the men which the 27th Quadrennial session of the General Conference offers to

N. C., and received his first training in the common schools of Granville County. He entered the ministry early and is among the first graduates of Livingstone College. Before his election to the bishopric at Philadelphia in 1908 he had pastored many of our largest churches, had been manager of our Publishing House, Dean of Theology at Livingstone College, twelve years editor of the Sunday School literature, Corresponding Secretary of the Home Mission and Church Extension Department, editor of the Missionary Seer. He learned the art of sermon building in the Boston University School of Theology and is one of the

financier. He also has traveled extensively in Europe. He led the progressives in the last General Conference.

Bishop William Lemuel Lee, D. D., was born in Mississippi and studied there, receiving the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Livingstone College. Sometimes blunt in speech, yet he is rugged in character, sincere and honest in convictions. He is a close student of our holy religion and is fundamentally wedded to the doctrine and truth of Jesus as set forth in our common Methodism. He came up from the trenches and is one of the most original men on the bench. He too has pastored some of our largest churches and was emi-



THE BOARD OF BISHOPS.

(Reading from right to left)

Bishops Caldwell, Blackwell, Kyles, Lee, Wood, Wallace, Shaw, Clement, Alleyne, Walls, Martin, Jones.

the world as the exponents and interpreters of her denominational impulses in this a very critical period of our national existence. It may be said that about all of our bishops are fundamentalists in religion.

Bishop Josiah Samuel Caldwell, A. M., D. D., (Livingstone College), was born in Cabarrus County, N. C., near Concord in 1861. He entered Livingstone College in 1883 where he was soon recognized as a spiritual leader of men. The eloquent enthusiasm of the school room prayer meeting marked his ministry very early in his career and he was not long in distinguishing himself as one of the great pastors and financiers of the Church. He is of the peculiar evangelistic type. His singing is melting and subduing. He wastes no words. As a preacher he is concise, eloquent and powerful. As an organizer he is strong. As a financier for twenty four years he has led the hosts. He is firm, intrepid, and is gifted with astonishing tuition. The traditions of the Church are dear to him. He held the position of Financial Secretary and was elected to the bishopric in 1904 at St. Louis, Mo. He is the senior bishop. His travels in Europe were a source of inspiration to him.

Bishop George Lincoln Blackwell, A. M., D. D., LL. D., (Livingstone College, Boston University School of Theology) was born in Henderson,

ablest and most scholarly preachers in our Zion. During the sixteen years of his Episcopal experience, he has been a strong friend to many, big brother, disciplinarian of moderate, but accurate type. He has made creditable contributions to our Zion literature, and fills well his exalted position. His lectures on his travels abroad are very illuminating.

Bishop Linwood Westinghouse Kyles, A. M., D. D., (Hampton, Va., Institute, Lincoln University,) was born in Virginia forty-eight years ago. This dashing genius has been a surprise and revelation to all who know him. He has pastored some of our largest churches and was the first to bring the Quarterly Review into national notice. He was pastor at Big Zion church, Mobile, Ala., and Corresponding Secretary of the Ministerial Relief and Brotherhood when elevated to the bishopric in 1916 at Louisville, Ky. This fundamentalist with an open mind is thoroughly imbued with the spirit of self-determination. A skillful and consummate organizer and a strong leader of men, he has brought to the bishopric a strong body, a strong mind and a heart loyal to Methodist standards. He is resourceful and methodical. He is possessed of vision and the physical and mental strength to translate that vision into concrete action. He is a business man of large affairs and a successful

nently successful. He believes in a living wage for all pastors and stressed it in his conferences. He detests hypocrisy.

He is appreciably responsive to friendly attitudes and is large enough to apologize for an unintentional injury or wrong done to the humblest man. Since his elevation to the bishopric in 1916 at Louisville, Ky., his work has covered parts of Louisiana, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Western New York and New England. He is the largest man on the bench.

Bishop George Clinton Clement, A. M., D. D., the flaming herald of the "Blue Grass Region," was born in the rocky fastnesses of North Carolina 52 years ago. He was educated at Livingstone College, and is a member of one of the most famous classes of that institution. He was a keen and incisive debater there, and his keenness and incisiveness follow him to this day. He is an able, piercing, logical gospel preacher. He loves the gospel. He loves to preach. He holds infinite possibilities for himself and his Church. He is an author whose books find acceptance beyond the confines of our restricted area. His travels abroad have enlarged his vision and given vigor to his intellect. Bishop Clement has given to the Church a fine

## THE \$25,000 DRIVE FOR MISSIONS.

By Bishop G. L. Blackwell.

The late Bishop Alexander Walters of sacred memory, said to the mission Board in 1910, that the Mission Board of the A. M. E. Zion Church could not enter the sisterhood of Boards of Missions as we were not raising enough mission money to warrant it; that we could not enter until we had raised at least \$10,000 a year. How cordial and felicitous would have been his greeting had he been at the late General Conference and heard the reports of Dr. Matthews, the foreign missionary secretary, and Mrs. Smith, the treasurer of the W. H. and F. M. Society, when they announced \$75,000 for the quadrennium, just fifteen years later. And incidentally, may I say, how the late Annie W. Blackwell would have smiled to know that the slogan originated at Knoxville for \$50,000 for the quadrennium, about which she wrote and spoke so optimistically before her demise, had been realized with about \$25,000 to the good.

Encouraged by the astounding success and inspired at the assigning of a Bishop to African territory, the leading missionary workers almost spontaneously decided to put on a special TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR DRIVE to meet the emergencies of our new program for foreign missions, and the General Conference gave its approbation at once.

The details of the Drive were left for the Foreign Mission Board and the Executive officers of the W. H. and F. M. Society to work out. They have accomplished the task and the Drive is launched. Mrs. A. L. Anderson, the corresponding Secretary, is now broadcasting the pamphlet throughout the Church among the women. Dr. Matthews is bringing to bear with his trenchant pen a mighty emphasis on the plan in the columns of the Seer. The committee on the John Bryan Small medal is speeding up the manufacture of them; the Y Secretary, Miss Richardson and the Buds' superintendent, Mrs. Clinton, are leaving no stone unturned to stir up their district officers and local societies. Not a few of the vice-presidents are also getting busy. Bishop O. O. Alleyne has made several profitable visits and is open for engagements. Revs. R. E. and H. E. Peters visits and is open for engagements. Rev. and Mrs. Peters sustained injuries in an automobile wreck while making visits in New England, and Mrs. Peters had to go to the hospital. The accident has punctured their activities for the time being.

The Drive is scheduled to close October 16th, and so I want to urge that every minister throughout the Church get busy. It is hoped that every presiding elder will bring the importance of the Drive before each quarterly conference. I need not suggest that each of my colleagues will speed up his forces that they may act at once. Let each district officer apportion the amount suggested for her district to the churches and let the pastor and the local officers know at once the amount apportioned for the local church. Please do this at once. The Drive is on. Once, twice, three times: Let's go. A pull, a long pull, a strong pull, a united pull, and a pull all together, let us roll up the Twenty-Five Thousand (\$25,000) Dollars.

President Foreign Mission Board.  
Philadelphia, Pa.

set of educated children, one of his sons, Rufus, being a teacher in the Theological Department of Livingstone College. He was editor of The Star for twelve years and for a brief period manager of the Publication House. He was elected bishop in 1916 at Louisville, Ky.

Bishop John Wesley Wood, D. D., (Livingstone College) the suave pulpiteer of the West, was born in Georgia near where the lines of two