

# THE STAR OF ZION

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## WALKING ABOUT ZION.

Bishop J. S. Caldwell.

Mr. Editor:

For the past few weeks I have been moving around over the country a little, giving some assistance to our Brethren who are engaged in church building.

Rev. B. M. B. Butler, pastor of Stoner Chapel A. M. E. Zion church, Louisville, Kentucky, invited me to attend the opening of the new church there Sunday, September 7th. The church is a beautiful veneered structure with all of the appointments that go to make up a comfortable church building. Rev. Butler has done a very remarkable piece of work in the construction of this edifice; in fact, Brother Butler is a church-builder, having repaired and built at least four A. M. E. Zion churches during the past twelve or fifteen years.

Dr. C. C. Steward, pastor of Broadway Temple, has erected a beautiful annex to the great Broadway Temple complete in all of its arrangements.

Louisville is very much alive so far as the work of our churches is concerned. Bishop G. C. Clement who has his residence in that city, has purchased and is about to move into a beautiful home on one of the best thoroughfares in the city; the home is a thing of beauty.

Dr. J. W. Brown, pastor of Mother Zion church, New York City, is in the midst of the greatest prosperity that the mother church has had perhaps during its history. The new \$300,000.00 church is going up daily. Work began on its erection in May last, and unless hindered by some unforeseen circumstance the building will be enclosed in the early winter. This is to be as good, if not the best well-equipped church, for our people in the great city of New York. The corner-stone is to be laid Sunday, October 5th. Elaborate preparations are being made for this occasion with the view of raising a large sum of money to help in fostering the work. Our bishops, general officers, and friends generally are asked to be present in this eventful occasion. Up to this time \$105,000.00 has been expended upon the church's erection, most of which has been raised through the efforts of the local congregation. Sometime like \$1,000.00 every week is laid upon the table by the anxious membership to insure the continuation of the work.

Philadelphia, Pa.

## THE RECENT CONNECTIONAL COUNCIL.

By Rev. R. A. Morrissey, D. D.

Just as the recent General Conference at Indianapolis, Ind., marked a new epoch making period in Zion so did the Connectional Council, held a few weeks ago in Buffalo, N. Y.

Composed of a group of representatives, men and women of the Church with enlarged visions and thoughts with determined effort for the welfare of the Church—the Council met in the new and beautiful church erected through the untiring and persistent efforts of Dr. H. W. Durham and his loyal members, who entertained the Council in such a manner that it was a continual source of pleasure and enjoyment from beginning to end. Altho' Dr. Durham has been serving in his present pastorate in the city of Buffalo, more than 8 years, he is still growing in popularity and in influence among both races.

For the first time in the history of Zion Methodism, 12 Bishops of the Church were members of the Council. For the first time in the history of the Church one Bishop was present at such a meeting whose work has been assigned by our Denomination exclusively to Africa for the advancement of our Missionary work in that

Foreign field.

Bishops Shaw, Jones, Walls, Martin and Alleyne, the five new Bishops elected at the recent General Conference, along with our Senior Bishops, Caldwell, Blackwell, Kyles, Lee, Clement, Wood and Wallace were strikingly interested and active in the proceedings to further the progress of Zion along all lines; thus showing that their chief ambition to be bishops was not simply to wear the honor of the office, but to render efficient service to the very fullest extent of their capabilities. Our board of Bishops constitutes a big hearted, friendly group, cooperating with pastors and laity for the welfare of Zion and the upbuilding of the kingdom of Christ.

Our brilliant new Editor of the Star of Zion, Dr. W. H. Davenport, altho having entered upon the duties and responsibilities of the position but a short time rendered an excellent report which called forth live discussion from the Council. He made a strong plea for increasing the subscriptions to the Star of Zion as a crying need for the greater success that should meet with a hearty response throughout the Church, resulting in thousands of new subscribers to the Star—our chief organ of Church publicity.

Because of the operation of the Budget System, according to the enactments of the recent General Conference, the report of Dr. W. H. Goler, Financial Secretary, attracted more attention than any other. It was waited for with anxiety on the part of all. His report showed that altho' the Budget System had only been in operation, but a little more than two months, all the Bishops had been paid their salaries due them in full. A thing that has never happened before in Zion so soon after the close of a General Conference. This shows conclusively that when the Budget has had time to be fully put in operation in all the Annual Conferences of the Church when all of our pastors report monthly it will be a decided success from every angle.

It will spell good-bye to "Back Salaries", good-bye to misunderstanding and bitter criticisms and unfriendliness with regards to handling money forever in Zion. Certainly now all can see both the wisdom and advisability of its adoption at the General Conference as well as the greater vision of Bishop L. W. Kyles who was its uncompromising author, and champion of its cause.

Our Sunday School and Christian Endeavor Departments under Dr. J. Francis Lee, Prof. James W. Eichelberger and Prof. Aaron Brown have taken on new life and are going forward at a rapid pace. These men are doing an outstanding work for the religious education of our young people of the Church and the race,—the value of which cannot be estimated. Thus the recent General Conference did a wise thing in providing more ample support for their Departments.

Members of Connectional Boards present at the Council met promptly and took definite actions for the progress of Financial, Educational, Missionary and Church Extension interests of the Church instead of being a set of mere onlookers, as has sometimes been the case in the past. This was another progressive step of the Council that will make itself felt for good throughout Zion.

On returning to our present field of labor Thompkins Chapel Metropolitan A. M. E. Zion church, we found awaiting us an intensely loyal cooperating officials and membership who have lined up under our leadership to raise \$5000.00 on the indebtedness of the church the 3rd Sunday in September. They have received us with open arms of welcome as their new pastor and we have every assurance of marked success here for God and Zion in kingdom building, in this city of more than one hundred thousand inhabitants where Zion is the lead among colored churches.

Chattanooga, Tenn.

## CRUSADING FOR AFRICAN REDEMPTION.

By Bishop Cameron C. Alleyne.

Robert Moffat, Mary Slessor, Francis Coillard, Father Cartwright, Bishop John Bryan Small—crusaders all for the redemption of Africa.

Cartwright and Small were pathfinders for our Zion. They left the beaten track and followed the trail of Missionary endeavor in the neglected continent of our forefathers. In the thoughts of the day and the dreams of the night they saw men of Africa and heard them say, "Come Over and help us." Whereupon they were not disobedient to what must have been a heavenly vision. They were lonely travellers but they followed the gleam.

Their spirits undoubtedly hovered over the General Conference while we debated things Africa. In other days Cartwright pleaded eloquently for a more aggressive policy in the matter of redeeming Africa. Small stood forth like the voice of one crying in the wilderness for "Bleeding Africa."

Red Owl was a Chief of the Sioux tribe during Bishop Whipple's early days among the Indians. When dying he said to his young men, "the story which the white man has brought to us is true. I have it in my heart. When I am dead I want you to put a Cross on my grave so that the Indians may see what was in Red Owl's heart."

Bishop Small's dying words were indicative of what was in his heart. "My African work; My African work:"



BISHOP L. W. KYLES  
Third Episcopal District.

Don't let my African work fail!" Pathos, I can hear it ringing like the peal of a funeral dirge through those words. O the pathos of the passing of a man whose heart dreams are uninterpreted; whose best ideals have not been worked out, whose life's work is unfinished. He must entrust that work to others. And Small with failing powers left the commission to the Church, "Don't let my African work fail!"

Walters and Clement as Bishops; Blackwell and Wood as Secretaries of Missions, the late Annie Blackwell as leader of the Woman's Legions answered, "It shall not fail!" And they set about to strengthen the things that remained.

In our present day endeavors we are treading where the immortals trod. Everywhere there is a feeling that we have come upon a new day in our Missionary work. God grant that we take full advantage of the opportunities of this new day. Opportunity always brings corresponding responsibilities. Some one has said, "The opportunity of a life-time lasts only during the life-time of the opportunity." Nature visits dire punishment upon us for misuse—a failure to use our endowments and opportunities. The Master instructs that we take from him who gained nothing on his assets and give to him who had. We do well to ponder in our hearts whether we are meeting the challenge of Africa in a way commensurate with our opportunity. Perhaps we have done well. But could we not have done better?

Battles are not won on the field but at Headquarters. Much depends

on the careful planning of the campaign. In the late war the Allies faced disaster on occasions because of the inadequate output of munitions. The fighters are helpless if not well supplied. Even so our Missionaries are rendered impotent if not adequately supplied.

While some go down in the trenches, others must keep the home fires burning. I am calling attention to three conditions which will hamper, if not destroy, our work:

1. Disunion. The secret of the success of the Apostolic Church was their one-mindedness. "They were all of one accord." Union cannot be had if the lines of our lives are horizontal, beginning and ending in ourselves. There must be self-forgetfulness, self-suppression, self-abnegation. We must adopt the motto of the self-forgetful General Armstrong. It was inscribed over his office at Hampton Institute "Not for self, but for all." The business of our adversary, who goeth about like a roaring lion, is to scatter. Disunion is disaster, division calls for revision. And it is a sign of fundamental disease when suspicion, selfishness and sordid self-seeking disrupt and disorganize a people. A visitor to an asylum said to the keeper, "are you not afraid that the inmates will unite and harm you." "No," he said, "for crazy people never unite on anything." If we are going to redeem Africa then what is needed is "a steady pull, and a pull all together."

2. A penurious policy. Let us be careful that we are not penny wise and dollar foolish. Paul says, "what soldier ever serveth at his own charges?" He that ploweth ought to plow in hope, and he that thresheth to thresh in hope of partaking." The missionary is no exception. He is so situated that the Church must maintain him and support the work which he is sent to do. I heard a minister of the A. M. E. Church say in one of our District Conferences the other day, "we sent Bishop Sampson Brooks to West Africa with a school in his pocket." The natives will ask our representatives, "what is in thy hand? Let us enable them to answer "we have in our hands that which you so much need for development and growth."

3. A failure to rightly appraise Experience. Bulwer Lytton once said, "if I were asked what is the sublime thing in all the world I would say experience." In cogitating the problems of the African field I have formed the opinion that one of our greatest assets is Experience. For lack of it we have made many blunders. That is but natural. Experience is needed. We are dealing with new situations, new conditions, new folk. Therefore I believe that as far as possible no station should be manned by inexperienced persons. They should associate those who have been sometime on the field, absorbing the lessons for which they have paid in the school of experience. Theories are well enough but experience is the best teacher. Many well-meaning missionaries have faltered and failed for want of experience.

New York City.

## HAS YOUR RELIGION ANY POWER?

By Rufus M. Jones.

There have been many ways of regarding religion, and different persons today think of it differently. It is very common to speak of it as something which one "gets" of "accepts." "He go religion," the neighbors say, or "he has always kept his religion through every trial." It is not uncommon to think of it as a statement of belief or faith which a person holds. "I accept the doctrine of the Trinity, of the atonement, and of eternal life, and eternal punishment, therefore I have religion;" thus many a person explains his religion. To such a one it consists largely of correct definitions.

## THE SILENT HOUR.

Elder E. George Biddie.

"Be Silent All Flesh Before Jehovah." Zech. 2:3. Said Joseph Parker, commenting on this verse, "The literal word translated silent, is Hush, the duty of the earth is to be silent when Jehovah speaks." People's Bible, vol. 17, p. 392. It is a sad day for the Christian Church when excessive thinking on material things drives out mysticism—for real worth-while things are spiritually discerned,—even undue emphasis on doctrine will eventually deprive the soul of true spirituality. Even in heaven there is silence at times. (Rev. 8:1.) A very enlightening article in The Congregationalist of Aug. 28th, by John Wright Buckham, on The Rise of Present-Day Cults and Movements, in which he cites, and heartily endorses Dr. Gaius Glenn Atkins' recent Book on Modern Religious Cults and Movements; this fine book should be read by all our pastors and leaders.

We should learn the lesson of self-suppression,—the mystery of silence; greatest things are done in silence; one has asked, "Who has ever heard the opening and shutting of the doors of the morning?" We need the blessed experience and exhilarating tonic of SILENCE;—just sitting still in absolute speechlessness,—may we not say thoughtlessness—not even thinking; just LISTENING to what God is saying. "Be STILL, and KNOW that I AM GOD." Then let Him lead us besides still waters. Let us covet David's experience when he said, "My meditation is sweet and I will be glad in the Lord." "O golden silence, bid our soul be still." We not only should have a "Quiet Hour," and set times to be alone with God in private devotion, but we should have the blessed experience of LISTENING to God even in the midst of the storm and stress of the activities of life; while all nature, and everybody else may be noisy and bustling we should, and may be quiet. Some are so noisy even in prayer and devotion that if God should speak they would not hear Him, unless He spoke in thunder and earthquake, then they would be too frightened to receive much benefit. Christ invites us to rest and quietness says the Holy Scriptures, "The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness QUIETNESS and assurance forever."

"Then my soul in SILENCE wait;  
Faint not O faltering feet;  
Press onward to the blest estate  
In righteousness complete."

We miss much that is at our door by being so very busy; said Jesus, "Mary hath chosen the better part." After Paul had given due honor and credit to those who spake with "tongues," in his matchless argument in the twelfth chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians, he tells us that there is "a more excellent way" than even speaking with tongues. Mary pointing to the Saviour, said "Whatsoever He saith to YOU, do it." If we would hear His message to us individually we must be quiet.

We must be QUIET in the presence of God; as Mr. Wesley sings, "Attend the whispers of His grace, and hear Him inly speak." Moses was twice alone on the mount with God, and for forty days and nights, each time listened, to see and hear what God wrote on the tables of the Law. It was in the silence of the Egyptian jail where Joseph got his commission as Prime Minister of Egypt. It was in the midnight Prayer and Praise Meeting in Babylon when and where Daniel received power to interpret the king's dream. It was in the Quiet Hour that Joseph was made acquainted with the mystery of the Immaculate Conception. It was amid the silence and darkness of three days in Damascus that Christ revealed to Saul his life work as "Apostle to the Gentiles." And it was in the silence of The Lord's Day when The Son of God revealed to John an

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