

THE STAR OF ZION

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

VOLUME FORTY-EIGHT

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1924.

NUMBER FORTY-EIGHT

MODERNIZING THE BIBLE.

"A new translation of the Old Testament in modern English will be published soon. It is the work of Dr. Moffatt, of Glasgow, who has translated it from the original entirely unaltered."

We suppose there is no reason why this should not be done, but we can hardly contemplate it without a shudder. The conscientious reproduction of the Revised Version is bad enough, but a modern—which is virtually to say a colloquial—rendition seems a hideous travesty. Whatever be the etymological inaccuracies of the Westminster scholars, they gave to the English speaking world in the King James edition a version of surpassing beauty.

With all the vaulted fidelity of the Revised Version, there is practically nothing in it that is new. It substitutes, in certain cases, words which express the Greek more precisely; its annotations are copious and generally excellent. But the distortion of speech, the bungling of sentence, the dangling of verb, all for the sake of a shade more of excitement, and hair-raising.

The scholastics of the seventeenth century knew what they were about. They had access to Hebrew, Latin and Greek no less easily than their successors two hundred years later. When they chose a word, they did so deliberately, after much rejection. Not in a single case did they depart from the meaning of the classic text. They did give to their translation something of the majestic style which had been handed down through the centuries. The result was that when they had finished their task, they had preserved in their version both the spirit and the beauty of the authors.

If any one doubts that this atmosphere is essential, let him consider just how easily he can get down a dose of twentieth century colloquialism. Let us try the second chapter of Saint Matthew.

"At the birth of Jesus, which occurred in Bethlehem Judaea during the reign of King Herod, a number of philosophers from the East arrived in Jerusalem. They immediately inquired, 'where can we find the person that was born, we have heard, King of the Jews? We saw the star which indicated the event in the East, and consequently have come here to salute him.'"

"When word of all this reached King Herod he was perplexed and not a little angry, and a large portion of the citizens felt the same way. However, he sent for the chief ecclesiastics and those who were versed in Church history and demanded to know where it had been predicted that the 'Christ' should be born."

"They informed him that it was supposed to be in Bethlehem, in the province of Judaea, and to support their statement they quoted the prophet," etc.

(Continued to page 8)

DUBOIS WOULD NOT BE FISK PRESIDENT.

New York, N. Y., Dec.—(By The Associated Negro Press.)—In a written communication to a representative of the Associated Negro Press, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, editor of the Crisis, explains that there is no personal animus against Dr. Fayette Avery McKenzie responsible for what he has had to say in the last few months about Fisk University, and that to say that he fights the present administration at the school because he wants to be president himself is "too ridiculous to consider."

"I wouldn't accept it under any possible circumstances," he writes.

The charge is now being made that seven students majoring in English at Fisk are being required to write 5000 word theses on the subject "Reasons Why Dr. McKenzie Should Be Retained at Fisk University." It is explained that none of these students desire to write on that subject, believing that their theses will

be used as propaganda in support of Dr. McKenzie whom they do not favor. On the other hand, they understand that if they do not write them strong and convincingly, they can not graduate.

REPORT SHOWS HOWARD PROGRESS.

Washington, D. C., Dec.—(By The Associated Negro Press.)—Howard University passed the 2,000 mark in her student registration with a total enrollment for the year of 2,164, representing 37 States and 13 foreign countries, according to the annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924, made to the Secretary of the Interior. Two hundred and seventy-two young men and women received their bachelor degrees, one his master's degree, and upon 6 were conferred honorary degrees by the Board of Trustees.

The great need of the School of Medicine is an additional fund to provide for new buildings and equipment. Under present conditions it is impossible to train classes of over 50, and this is a source of regret to the faculty and is an injustice to those students who devote two or more years of their lives to college work as a preparation for the study of medicine, only to be refused admission because of lack of room.

Beginning next year the School of Law will establish post-graduate work followed by the degree of LL. M.

The most outstanding success of the year is the fact that more and more are universities of the North and West giving full recognition to the work of the School of Liberal Arts and giving its graduates the same standing as graduates from the universities of the North and West. Howard University is the only Negro institution recognized by the State of North Carolina as having the proper requirements for graduate work.

CALLS AFRICA WHITE MAN'S COUNTRY.

(By The Associated Negro Press.) South Africa, land of Promise, haunting, mysterious and strangely compelling is emerging from the shrouding mists which have enveloped the Dark Continent for countless centuries, to take its place in the vanguard of the world's progress. This is the message of A. H. Tatlow, white, of the South African State Railway, who arrived in this city Wednesday, and who called the Dark Continent "their country."

"Africa ever has been the enigma of continents," he declared. "Although the first to appear in the history of mankind, it has been the last to be known and explored. Vast, strange and incredibly rich, it remains a lonely and distracting figure among the countries of the world demanding the interest of many by virtue of its fascinating exoticism and brooding aloofness."

While there is stark, primal quality in the Heart of Darkness which may at first repel, he said, there arises even in the midst of that repulsion a vivid curiosity which soon expands into a reluctantly admitted consciousness of some undefined, deep and inexplicable charm.

Despite the fact that 58 per cent of the world's gold supply comes from this portion of the earth, and 95 per cent of all the diamonds, agriculture is the chief industry. Corn, (or maize as it is called there) is grown in large quantities and much of it is exported to Europe. Wool, cotton, sugar, large amounts of fruits, ostrich feathers, mohair, hides and skins constitute the remainder of the constantly growing volume of exports. There is also an inexhaustible coal supply.

Travel is cheap and comfortable in South Africa, where the railways are State-owned. Three cents a mile is the average rate, which includes Pullman accommodations.

Mr. Tatlow invites visitors to his

FORWARD STRIDE IN EDUCATION.

The action of the educational leaders in North Carolina, in passing a resolution urging the State Board of Education and the General Assembly to create a standard four-year college to be maintained by the State is significant and far-reaching. Carrying with it the weight of endorsement of State Superintendent of Education, A. T. Allen and Prof. N. C. Newbold, division director of Negro education the resolution at once assumes more than ordinary importance and is given a stimulus far beyond anything sustained by a merely formal request. The Negroes of North Carolina received a high compliment from Director Newbold, who said:

"The Negro people of North Carolina are exceptional. They have advanced beyond the Negroes of other cities in character, standards of living and education, and are now prepared to meet the same educational requirements as their white neighbors. North Carolina has faith in its Negro people. It spends millions for their education, and it believes there should be one standard for teachers, not two."

That is the most revolutionary and progressive utterance on the race question that ever came from a Southern white man. "North Carolina has faith in its Negro people!" When all Southern States reach the place where they have faith in the Negro people, we will have reached a common ground upon which all the intricate problems flowing from the living together of two races may be settled, or adjusted with justice to both. Education is the chief solution. —Norfolk Journal and Guide.

A FARMER AND HIS EGGS.

The recent meeting of the promoters of the National Negro Finance Corporation, held at Durham, N. C., scored a large measure of success, not only in the amount of subscriptions paid in, but in the degree of confidence demonstrated in the movement. Nineteen thousand dollars was subscribed and paid in at this meeting toward the cash capital required for the undertaking. As has been stated in previous articles, the purpose of this corporation, which is an outgrowth of the National Negro Business League, is to finance racial business enterprises, and thus encourage such ventures in a substantial way.

The character of the confidence that has been inspired in the organization, largely because it includes in its promoters such individuals as Dr. Moton and Mr. Spaulding of the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company, may be judged by an incident that occurred at this meeting. An old farmer named Mr. Beverly, who owns one of the largest farms in North Carolina, was present and told of his having invested ten thousand dollars in a cotton gin run by white men. He was approached later, and made another investment of the same amount in the same concern. Upon being asked for a third subscription, he refused. He explained his refusal by saying: "Don't like to put all my eggs under one hen where I can't look in." He then subscribed ten thousand dollars to the working capital of the finance corporation.

This illustrated the widespread confidence felt in the new organization and its promoters. It is understood by these investors that the primal purpose of the organization is not to make money, although the subscribers will undoubtedly receive a return on their investment, but the main idea is to render service to the business men of the race and to help them to start and establish permanent business enterprises.

country" in order, he says, that they may carry back with them "our" invitation to others to come and visit "us," together with a knowledge and appreciation of "our country."

These enterprises are expected not only to benefit the promoters of them by affording them a profit, but to prove of general benefit to the communities in which they are established. They will furnish employment to members of the race and supply material wants as they are developed.

The Age has no hesitation in endorsing this movement started by the National Negro Finance Corporation and we have no doubt but that it will meet with the success that it deserves.—New York Age.

HOW I SELL THE ADVOCATE.

By Rev. Clarence O. Kimball, D. D.

Having been reared in a home where the church papers were a part of the household furniture, I entered upon my ministry with a nominal belief in their importance, but in the course of my work I received a second blessing in the form of a mighty

Golden Rule Sunday
December 7th
1924

Matthew VII - 12 -
even so to them.

Faith, Hope and Charity, now the greatest of these is Charity.

COOLIDGE AND MELLON TAKE HOLD OF JIM CROW.

Washington, D. C., Dec.—(By The Associated Negro Press.)—As soon as it became known that on Armistice Day the names of Negro and white employees of the office of the registrar of the treasury who had given their lives in the war were to be memorialized on separate, Jim Crow tablets, James E. Walker, post of the American Legion, West A. Hamilton, commander, proceeded to get in touch with President Coolidge concerning the matter.

The President was reminded that "this drawing of the color line in death constitutes an insult to the four hundred thousand loyal American soldiers of our racial group who served our country during the world war."

President Coolidge immediately took the matter in hand with the result that Secretary Mellon saw that the proposed attempt at discrimination was nipped in the bud.

In a letter to the American Legion post Secretary Mellon writes: "The employees (of the registrar's office) have arranged for the substituting of a framed scroll upon which will be inscribed in alphabetical arrangement, the names of the five deceased employees, both white and colored, who served in the world war."

METHUSELAH WAS ONLY EIGHTY.

Berkley, Calif., Dec.—(By The Associated Negro Press.)—According to Prof. R. T. Crawford, of the astronomy department of the University of California, years in the old days were measured in terms of cycles, probably lunar cycles, which average about a month in length and after all, the 969 years attributed to Methuselah may have amounted to only about 80 of our years.

conviction, born of observation and experience, that readers of the official organs are usually the best supporters of all the enterprises of the church. Knowledge of what the whole Church is doing saves one from specialization in interests. My methods have grown up with my ministry. So far as I am able to analyze them, they seem to center in two ideas; namely, creating an atmosphere of appreciation of the church paper and my own personal effort in extending its circulation and influence.

As to the first, its success depends mainly upon its content. I read the paper myself, first of all, so as to be familiar with its contents and policies and to be able to deal with the comments, criticisms, and objections of subscribers. Such information as can

(Continued to page 8)

GIVES HAMPTON-TUSKEGEE \$250,000.

New York, N. Y., (Dec.—(By The Associated Negro Press.)—Announcement has just been made by Clarence H. Kelsey, an official of the Hampton-Tuskegee Endowment Fund committee, of a gift of \$250,000 to the fund for the two schools by a New York Banker who asked that his name be withheld.

"This \$250,000 donation," explains Mr. Kelsey, "is symptomatic of the increasing interest men of large affairs are taking in Negro education. Bankers, business and professional men and other leaders in public and industrial life have come to a realization that the Negro problem can be solved only through education. The type of education fostered by Hampton and Tuskegee makes a special appeal to these men. The two schools train Negro young men and women to be real producers and at the same time to be leaders and teachers of their race."

The General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation recently pledged \$1,000,000 to Hampton and Tuskegee on the condition that the trustees of the two institutions raise