

Africo-American Presbyterian

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE" John VIII, 32

VOL. XLVII. CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1925. NO. 16.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS

Delivered at the Recent Meeting of the Presbytery of Southern Virginia at Great Creek Church, Bracey, Va.

By Mrs. M. B. Marks.

The Presbytery and Presbyterial of Southern Virginia, and Dear Friends:

The pleasure of addressing you at Great Creek Presbyterian church, Bracey, Va., on this occasion is a most peculiar one, a dream realized, a longed-for pleasure. Sweet memory reverts twenty-five years hence last December. Having been recommended by Dr. G. C. Campbell and Mrs. Campbell and Prof. F. M. Martin, and commissioned by the Board of Missions for Freedmen and sent out by Dr. W. E. Partee, the pastor, and the session of the First Presbyterian church, Richmond, Va., and appointed by Rev. W. H. Shepperson, pastor in charge, your humble servant came out here in the mission field. My first commission which I hold as a sacred relic, dates back to December 14th, 1899. This heart of mine will ever cherish undying gratitude to the great Presbyterial Church, the Board and this honorable body for all that they have meant to my life and work. May God richly bless and seal you for His own.

Forbear, please, and glance, if you will, back to 1894, when kind Providence placed your humble servant under the influence of the Presbyterial Church where through Dr. J. E. Rawlins, his beloved companion, and Dr. P. B. Ramsey, Sr., dentist, I was led to accept Christ. While the Lord was saving others, He saved me, too. Had Dr. Rawlins done no other good than to cause my soul to be saved, his coming here from the West Indies was well worth the while. Through them I entered Ingleside Seminary, Burkeville, Va., in '95, and under the instruction of Dr. and Mrs. G. C. Campbell and their Christian body of teachers, was the recipient of the first honor in a class of thirteen in the spring of '99 and began work here in December of that year. During these twenty-five years and nearly a third, I have striven in an humble way to do the Master's bidding. A great part of the time with domestic duties and those of the church and school, the work has been three and four-fold. Many times, seven days in the week have found your humble servant at this post, in service for either the church or the school. And, for the last seven years and for two months before Christmas each year, your humble servant has walked six miles each day to school and back. During these twenty-five years, misfortunes have come thick and fast until my lot is as Naomi's, but I rejoice, that God and heaven are still my own. I feel that He has added years to my life, in that I see this day and have reached the goal of twenty-five years in His service on the mission field.

While we have no great things to boast of, yet, we feel that our humble efforts are not wholly vain. School was taught in the church building for 10 years. The blueing-painted stand in the pulpit has given place to a better grade of furniture. The clock is serving its time. Repairs have been made. The building being spacious and cold, a much needed school room was built. The highest enrollment at any time has been 68. Enrollment for the present term, 52. It is to be regretted that only 16 have gone off to high school. Numbers have united in holy matrimony, thus holding high the moral standard. The school is almost wholly made up of by-product. We have personal knowledge of from fifteen to twenty, who responded to their country's call and went overseas. While Bible and Catechism are daily taught, we regret that only four have memorized and recited perfectly the Westminster Shorter Catechism and received Bibles. Two have been helped for the ministry. The principal teacher for nine years in the public school of Bracey, Va., was prepared for High

School in Great Creek. In our own Y. P. S. C. E. and other meetings sixty-eight have taken their stand for Christ. The school's converts are leading workers in three neighboring churches. She has given a number of officers to her own church and Sabbath School. Your humble servant has reached out beyond the immediate community and assisted a number of others in getting a higher education. What was seemingly a dream is now a realization. When Rev. W. H. Shepperson was consulted as to the wisdom of getting a bell, he answered, yes. I would be glad for the Presbytery of Southern Virginia to be governed by the ringing of that bell.

The wearer's costume on this occasion bespeaks the fact that in February of 1901 she was led to the altar and united in holy matrimony to Mr. Benjamin W. Marks. Rev. W. H. Shepperson officiated. Though not a Christian then, God used your humble servant in helping Mr. Marks and his four children to come to Christ.

Having worked happily during the ministration of Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Shepperson, I continued during same of Rev. and Mrs. S. F. Young, Rev. and Mrs. T. H. Lackland and Dr. and Mrs. T. H. Amos until in September of 1924, most reluctantly bidding farewell to the last named we very gladly hailed Dr. and Mrs. James

As a church, we have been trying to do our bit. There are those who have striven to maintain her existence here, namely, Ellis, Shaw, Paschall, Butcher, Hendrick, Algoood, Boyd, George, Marks and others whom space does not permit to mention. Alas! Some have fallen into the sleep of the blessed. "Oh! What are they doing in heaven today? What are they doing there now?" When Dr. A. A. Hecox visited us in 1923 he remarked that the belfry looked like a lighthouse. It is so singular that our church should present temporarily what we endeavor to make her spiritually, a Gospel Lighthouse. God grant that she may shine more and more until the perfect day, until she shall make glad that bright city above, where the Lamb Himself is the Light thereof.

Besides the aforementioned, it has been our pleasure to entertain the following: Prof. F. M. Martin, the Sabbath School Institute and Convention, Dr. W. E. Carr, Rev. Yancey, Drs. Wilson and Russell, the evangelists, Revs. Glasgow, Montouth, T. H. Lackland, W. H. Shepperson, Rev. Laine, Prof. I. M. Martin, Rev. and Mrs. Kendrick and numbers from our sister denominations. We have also made special donations to our pastor, sent some mission boxes and donated to our unfortunate sister church which was destroyed by fire. The climax is that we now have the pleasure of entertaining the Presbytery of Southern Virginia.

Dear friends, you have many times helped and encouraged us by your presence. Our white friends, too, have helped us both directly and indirectly. May God forever bless you.

Members of School and Sabbath School, Jesus says, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not." May you be jewels for His kingdom. Sisters of the Woman's Missionary Society, may it be said of each of us, "She hath done what she could."

Brethren and sisters in Christ, well might we say, "Hitherto the Lord hath helped us." God has lent us a greater light, in that we now have with us the Presbytery of Southern Virginia. May we be awakened to a greater sense of duty, grow more loyal, do more for the uplifting of fallen humanity and the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom and toll on until the Lord of the harvest says, "Enough done." Then may it be the happy

lot of each to stam Jordan's swollen tide, bearing many sheaves to lay as trophies at Jesus' feet.

Mr. Moderator, may this be the beginning of the many times that this noble, Christian body will hold session in Great Creek Church.

Mrs. President, may the near future bear rich fruitage, as a result of your meeting here.

Mother Wright, may this organization, which you have fostered in its infancy, followed and watched its development to the present be a bright, oh, bright star in your crown. We cherish sacred memories of those saints, Mrs. Ruth J. Carr, Mrs. Hettie Harris, Mrs. Susan Green and others, who have labored and crossed over to Jordan's other shore.

Mother Campbell, time, distance and absence do not in the least abate our gratitude. May jewels, yes, many, adorn your crown.

The Presbytery and Presbyterial of Southern Virginia, may we venture out upon His word, who declares, "For as the rain cometh down and the snow from heaven and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth and maketh it to bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goeth out from my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing wherunto I send it."

In His name and the power of His might, may we go forth to conquer, that this work of our God may go onward and upward until the whole creation shall cease to groan and the creature shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption and everything that has been defiled by the trail of the serpent shall be purified, and the Presbyterial Church, yea the Church universal, shall be ushered forth into His presence at His blessed command:

"Be lifted up, ye everlasting doors, Ye gates, fly open wide; Here comes the purchase of my blood, Make ready, receive my Bride."

TO THE CONSTITUENTS OF CATAWBA PRESBYTERY.

By Rev. F. C. Shirley.

This is to announce to the churches of Catawba Synod that on April the 1st the nature of my work was changed. I have been relieved of the pioneer work in connection with the Mission Sunday Schools and in the future will devote my entire time to the phases of work as outlined below:

1. Development of S. S. Efficiency.

This includes the classification of schools, the grading of schools, organization of Teacher Training Classes, Home Departments, Cradle Rolls, and other features of Method that go to make an up-to-date Sunday school. In the near future questionnaires will be sent out gathering information on the present status of each school. The facts of these questionnaires will be filed and will enable me to have first hand information as to the standing of all the schools in the Synod.

2. Leadership Training Institutes.

During the fall and winter season my major project will be the conducting of Leadership Training Institutes. Beginning in October a certain length of time will be given to each Presbytery in the Synod for Institute work. During this time it will be our aim to reach as many meetings. The schedule for these Institutes will be made out during the summer. Due notice will be given as to the time allotted to each Presbytery.

3. Presbyterial and District S. S. Conventions.

My relationship to the Presbyterial and District Sunday School Conventions will be an advisory relationship. I will be glad to meet with the Program Committees of these Conventions to offer any suggestion I can in building up your pro-

grams and help in planning ways and means whereby our District Conventions may be more interesting and beneficial to the delegates that attend them.

4. Synodical Convention and School of Methods.

My duties in connection with the Synodical Convention and School of Methods will be the same as they have been in the past.

The School of Methods has passed through the experimental stage and has become an established reality, and yet each year we should try to improve it so that through it we may serve better the patrons who attend from year to year. With the cooperation of the pastors and leaders on the field we desire to make this our banner year, not only from the standpoint of attendance, but also from the quality of the class room and platform work.

The meeting will be held at the beautiful Johnson C. Smith University again this year, and the registration book will be opened on May 1st. When it opens we are looking for a large number of early registrations. Already we have had inquiries from many leaders asking, "What about the School of Methods this year? How soon can we register our delegates?" Our patrons at Wilson, Aberdeen, Sanford, Durham, Salisbury, Statesville, Concord, High Point, Martinsville, Roanoke, and many other places are planning to attend in larger numbers than ever before.

5. Daily Vacation Bible Schools.

This project will be a special feature of my work during the summer vacation. We have set our goal for fifty of these schools within the bounds of the Catawba Synod for the vacation season of 1925. We have recently sent out letters to several pastors and superintendents soliciting their interest in the Daily Vacation Bible School Movement. I am pleased to state that a number have answered the communication signifying their intention of holding Daily Vacation Bible Schools in their respective communities this coming summer. It would greatly help me in planning my work if all churches that plan to hold Daily Vacation Bible Schools will let me know as early as possible. I would like to have a complete list of the churches by May 1st.

We would like to state that the Daily Vacation Bible School is very necessary to help give the children in our communities the adequate number of hours of religious instruction. It is an agency that supplements the work done in the Sunday school and should receive a larger consideration than it has received in the past.

6. Sunday School Vacation Bands.

In our Secondary Boarding Schools we are endeavoring to organize the students into Sunday School Vacation Bands. Membership in the bands is voluntary. These volunteers pledge themselves to do some special form of Sunday School work during the summer vacation and report what they have done through the proper channels. The reports are tabulated at the end of the vacation season and a general statement made as to the accomplishment of all the Bands for the summer. These students have been very enthusiastic about this work and last summer made a splendid showing. This year we are anticipating a volunteer army of 500 students in these Bands in Catawba Synod.

The six phases of work as indicated above will claim the major part of my time under the new arrangement, and I am taking up the new task with the same interest that I have always gone about the duties that have been assigned to me. I take this opportunity to ask the co-operation of the ministers and Sunday school workers in Catawba Synod to the end that the new relationship may prove to be helpful to all who are concerned. I am your servant and desire to be used in promoting the cause that is so essential and that

needs to be stressed more vigorously—the cause of the "Spiritual Nurture" of the youth in our communities.

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING.

The General Council, Dr. Macartney, presiding, met in Washington, D. C. March 17-19, inclusive.

Because of his journey to South America, Dr. Robert E. Speer resigned from the membership of the Council, and Dr. Arthur J. Brown was elected and seated as the representative of the Board of Foreign Missions on the General Council.

In the interests of economy, the Council voted to hold only four meetings each year, two of which will be at the time of the General Assembly, and therefore will not require any additional traveling expenses. The other two meetings are to be held on the second Wednesday of December and the third Wednesday in March. It is believed that this limitation of the number of meetings will take care of the business of the Church without any loss of efficiency.

The General Council voted to continue its study of the Constitution of the Church and the Standing Rules relating to the Judicial Commission, with the end in view of increasing efficiency of the Judicial Commission.

The budget of the office of the General Assembly, as approved by the General Council, indicated a saving of \$5,000 over the current year for the work now under the direction of the Stated Clerk.

Dr. Mudge reported that sufficient funds had not yet been secured for the proposed bust of Jonathan Edwards in the Hall of Fame, and a committee, consisting of Mr. J. Williston Smith, chairman, Messrs. George C. Barber, Ralph W. Harbison and Albert A. Reed, was appointed to assist in the furtherance of the project.

After hearing the report of the Presbyterial National Capital Commission, and representatives of the Presbytery of Washington City, permission was given to the commission to embody in writing the essence of the facts and purposes presented to the Council, for insertion in the General Assembly's Blue Book.

The following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved: That the General Council, having heard the report of progress by the Presbyterial National Capital Commission, expresses its pleasure that definite plans are being formulated for the extension of the interests of our Church in the nation's capital. The Council desires to encourage the continuance of the Commission's study, but defers positive action until the complete plans of the Commission and the Presbytery of Washington City are presented."

The National Capital Commission is at present centering its interest in the development of the churches already in Washington and the occupying of fields not now occupied with Presbyterian churches.

In the interests of economy, the Council adopted the following, among other resolutions:

"That treasurers be elected by the Boards of National Missions and Foreign Missions, without delay."

"That committee meetings be studied with the aim of reducing their number and of confining their use to the most important matters."

"That definite classifications of receipts and expenditures be prepared by the four Boards."

The General Council paid its respects to President Coolidge at the White House, and was given a most cordial reception. Dr. Mudge introduced the members to the President. The Moderator, Dr. Macartney, made a happy little speech, in the course of which he brought a smile to the President's face by saying, "We are all Calvinists."

It being learned that the Vice-Moderator, Hon. William Jennings Bryan, was observing his sixty-fifth birthday anniversary on March 19, the General Council voted an expression of its felicitations and hearty appreciation

of the service which he is rendering to the Church and to the cause of Jesus Christ, both by his character and by his ministry as a churchman.

Dr. William S. Marquis presented his resignation from the staff of the General Council after forty-one years of official promotional work of the Presbyterian Church, to become effective June 30, 1925. A special committee consisting of Dr. William Chalmers Covert, Miss Lucy H. Dawson, and Rev. James G. Bailey, was appointed to consider Dr. Marquis' resignation and to make appropriate recommendations at the next meeting of the General Council. The Presbyterial.

FAIRFIELD PRESBYTERY.

This court of the Church convened in stated spring session with Trinity Presbyterian church, Mayesville, S. C., on the 25th of March last. A very inspiring and helpful introductory sermon was delivered by the retiring moderator, the Rev. J. W. Manoney, of Rock Hill, S. C. Dr. I. D. Davis was unanimously chosen to succeed him as moderator, and Rev. Dr. A. U. Frier, son and Rev. M. J. Jackson were made temporary clerks.

The roll was made out and it showed that 20 ministers and 21 elders were present. The addresses of cordial welcome to the town and community were extended by Rev. S. D. Grier, pastor of the Presbyterian church, U. S., of Mayesville, Presbytery of Harmony; Rev. A. F. Riggins, M. E. church, South A. and Rev. H. E. Emanuel, M. E. church, N. E. East Conference, Mayesville. All of the addresses were delivered in well chosen words, evidencing a welcome that could not be misunderstood, as it was without strings or artifices.

To these addresses the Hon. R. H. Richardson, of Wedgefield, happily and fittingly replied, on behalf of the Presbytery. We can always depend on Elder Richardson to represent us well on such an occasion. The above mentioned brethren, including Rev. J. E. Jackson, an Evangelist, of McClelland Presbytery, were accorded the privileges of corresponding members.

The committee of arrangements recommended evangelistic services for Thursday night which was carried out. Rev. J. D. E. Jackson preached the sermon with telling effects. He was assisted in the service by Drs. T. H. Ayers, C. J. Baker and I. D. Davis.

Rev. A. B. McCoy, D. D., of Knox Presbytery, was made a corresponding member.

Rev. P. W. Toney was granted a letter of dismissal to unite with the Presbytery of Yadkin, and Rev. D. Talmage Murray was received by a similar letter from Yadkin to unite with this Presbytery.

Mr. F. D. Nance, of the Theological School of Johnson C. Smith University, was licensed to preach the gospel, and Mr. U. L. Brewer, a student of the same University, was taken under the care of Presbytery to prepare for the ministry.

Rev. H. L. McCrorey, D. D., LL. D., President of Johnson C. Smith University, and of Catawba Presbytery, was made a corresponding member, and addressed Presbytery, imparting much wholesome and appreciated information relative to the University and its work. Both Drs. A. B. McCoy and C. J. Baker also addressed Presbytery very acceptably, furnishing valuable information about their respective fields of operation.

Revs. A. A. Jones and I. F. Pogue were elected as principal and alternate clerical commissioners to the next General Assembly, and Elders Wm. Montgomery and D. T. Jones, as principal and alternate lay commissioners, respectively.

Free conversation on the state of religion within the bounds of Presbytery revealed the fact that strenuous and untiring effort was put forth during the year to maintain and extend the borders of the Master's kingdom by our beloved church, and

(Continued on Page 4)