

Africo-American Presbyterian

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."—John viii, 32

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GLEANINGS FROM THE HAMPTON MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

By Rev. L. B. West.

The twelfth annual meeting of the Ministers' Conference of Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va., opened on Monday evening, June 22, at 8 o'clock, and closed Friday afternoon, June 26th, at 4 o'clock. The sessions were held in the beautiful and spacious Memorial church of the Institute. The Rev. M. E. Davis, of Portsmouth, Va., President of the Conference, was the presiding officer. The Rev. L. Fenninger, of Hampton Institute, is the Executive Secretary.

The opening sermon was preached by Rev. E. L. Baskerville, of Charleston, S. C. His text was "Be thou faithful unto death," etc. Rev. 3:10. He made an earnest plea for faithfulness in the pulpit, in the home and in society in spreading the kingdom of God.

Twelve years ago the attendance was 23. This year the registration showed 320 in attendance from 15 different states. Delegates registered from as far North as Massachusetts and as far South as Alabama and Florida. Fourteen different denominations were represented, the Baptists having the largest number, 152. Methodists came next with 114.

The following lecturers were listed to speak:

Dr. James Hardy Dillard, President of the Jeanes and Slater Funds, Charlottesville, Va.

Rev. Major T. J. Howard, D. D., Professor in Rural Church Work in Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Ga.

Rev. P. O'Connell, D. D., Professor of History in Morgan College, Baltimore, Md.

Rev. David E. Over, D. D., Pastor of Union Baptist church, Baltimore, Md.

Rev. Harry L. Reed, D. D., Professor of New Testament in Auburn Theological Seminary, Auburn, N. Y.

Rev. Arthur L. Swift, Jr., Director of Field Work in Union Theological Seminary, New York, N. Y.

Dr. Carl C. Taylor, Dean of the Graduate College, North Carolina State College, Raleigh, N. C.

Rev. Robert R. Wicks, D. D., Pastor of the Second Congregational church, Holyoke, Mass.

The lecturers appeared as listed with the exception of Rev. Howard, who was hindered on account of sickness.

The Rev. A. S. Hoard, of Portsmouth, Va., substituting one morning in place of Rev. M. T. J. Howard, delivered an able and comprehensive address on "The Problem of the Country Church."

Clarke Hall was the ministers' headquarters. In this building there was a very splendid exhibit, touching every phase of church life. There were also several books and periodicals on religion and church work. This exhibit was in charge of Miss Humbles.

Five lectures a day were delivered—three in the morning and two in the afternoon. At night, popular meetings were held in the auditorium of Ogden Hall. The teachers and farmers attended these meetings. The speakers at the popular meetings were: President Gregg, of Hampton Inst.; Dr. J. H. Dillard, President of the Jeanes and Slater Funds; Dr. P. O. O'Connell, Professor of History in Morgan College, and Dr. Carl C. Taylor, Dean of the Graduate College, North Carolina State College. The first named speakers addressed themselves directly to the farmers, teachers and preachers, emphasizing the unique position which these three callings hold in the development of civilization, and appealed to all to do their very best in their calling. Dr. Taylor gave an exhaustive

treatment of "Spiritual Forces in Rural Life."

Dr. David E. Over gave four lectures on the Book of Ephesians. He has a vigorous style, and his addresses were very thought-provoking. His general theme was, "The Message of Ephesians." The outline follows:

1. The Church in the Mind of God.
2. The Church as God's Heritage.
3. The Revealed Mystery.
4. The Unity of the Church.

"The Life and Teaching of Jesus was very ably handled by Dr. Harry L. Reed, of Auburn Theological Seminary. He traced the background of the life of Jesus. He showed the authenticity of the records of his life. He spoke of the story and spoken message of the Life of Jesus.

Rev. Arthur L. Swift, in a calm and eloquent manner, set forth the importance of play in the religious and moral life of the child. He called attention to the abuse of play.

Rev. Fenninger described Rev. Robert R. Wicks as one of the strongest ministers in New England today. Rev. Wicks deserves that commendation. While all the lecturers won the admiration of the Conference, Rev. Wicks got into the heart-strings of the men in a peculiar way. His lectures were strong and vigorous. He championed the cause of the young generation in a series of lectures that will linger long in the hearts of the men who heard him. The theme was "Making Religion Real to the Younger Generation."

It was discussed under the following heads: 1. Christ's Cure for Selfishness. 2. Finding God. 3. Common Sense of Prayer.

The Executive Secretary, Rev. L. Fenninger, is to be highly commended for his genius in arranging for the Conference, and his painstaking efforts for the details and comfort of every member of the Conference. He is the very embodiment of goodwill and fellowship. Nobody escapes his genial spirit. The Conference expressed its thanks for his earnest efforts, and appointed a committee to wait on Mrs. Fenninger with their appreciation of her worth in co-operating with Mr. Fenninger.

In a joint meeting of rural pastors and farmers, the most burning question was the necessity of ministers living on their fields among the people and helping them in their problems. The farmers led the discussion. The ministers expressed a willingness to live among the people if the people will give adequate support.

An elaborate reception of summer school teachers, preachers and farmers was held on the lawn in front of Virginia Hall. Cake and cream were served.

The members of the Conference got a lot of inspiration out of the dining room where first-class meals were served at 25 cents each.

The Conference Song was the Negro National Anthem. It was sung daily.

One of the interesting features of the Conference was the group discussions of the ministers as they strolled across the campus or sat in the shade of the trees.

NOTICE.

All persons who are expecting to attend the Central District Sunday School Convention, which will convene August 6th, 1925, please notify

REV. J. H. CLEMENT,
282 Rockford St.,
Mt. Airy, N. C.

FATE OF THE PRAYER MEETING

The following bit of satire appeared in a recent number of the "Holland (Mich.) Sentinel," being quoted from a church bulletin.

Part I.

The funeral service of the late Mrs. Prayer Meeting will be held in the Social Rooms of this church on next Wednesday at 7:30. Our dear old friend is dead.

Some would embalm her and keep her to look upon occasionally with regret. But corpses should not so remain. Therefore we bury her.

Some of us may look upon her face for the last time, many of us for the first time. The deceased has been feeble for quite a while, but recently her decline has been rapid. Her death therefore was not unexpected by those near. The pulse could scarcely be detected when seen by a few some days ago. The cause of her death is said to be heart failure, due to lowered vitality and neglect.

The official board members are asked to act as pallbearers if they can spare the hour's time. Her few remaining friends will be present as mourners, and members of the congregation will attend out of sympathy. It is requested that flowers be omitted, as the pastor considers it hardly fitting after such lengthened inattention to bestow these tender expressions of regard. A choir will sing appropriate numbers, and by request Bradbury's "Sweet Hour of Prayer." Several friends may speak briefly of her virtues if they are not too glad she is gone.

Part II.

When a funeral is not a funeral it is a happy occasion.

A few days ago it was announced that Mrs. Prayer Meeting would be buried at the First M. E. church Wednesday evening. Interested friends had gathered for the occasion. A choir sang such hymns as "Spend One Hour with Jesus," "Tis the Blessed Hour of Prayer," and "Sweet Hour of Prayer," as memory songs of other days. The pastor offered a prayer, read an appropriate Scripture lesson, and spoke of the virtues of the long-time friend.

When the funeral was about ended and it looked as though all would be over, some of the friends present began to speak of how much the departed had meant to them, how some had not realized that she was passing away, how they simply could not give her up, and some with tears in their eyes wished she might live again.

As is frequently the case with funerals, more were at the funeral than had seen the deceased at a given time for many a day. More concern was shown in her behalf than she had been accustomed to enjoy in life. Quite a number had called up the pastor or spoken to him Sunday expressing their sorrow at her departure, and saying if she could only live again they would do their part to see that she was not neglected.

Mrs. Prayer Meeting is a good old soul, and very easily affected by long hearts or by indifferent ones. And this was too much for her and amid the smiles and songs and prayers of her friends she arose from the grave and lives once more.

It is expected that many glad hearts will greet again this risen friend next Wednesday evening.

Whatever your job or business may be, bring it out into the light. Give it an airing. Keep it sweet and wholesome. That is the surest way to achieve economic health.—Type Metal Magazine.

N. A. A. C. P. 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Opens in Denver, Colo.

With 125 delegates from 28 states in attendance and an audience of 1200 crowding the Zion Baptist church, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People opened its Sixteenth Annual Conference, with an address of welcome from Mayor Benjamin F. Stapleton, letters of greeting from President Coolidge, Senator Lawrence C. Phillips of Colorado, Moorfield Storey, President of the N. A. A. C. P., J. E. Spingarn, Mary White Ovington and many other organizations and individuals. Charles Edward Russell, noted author and publicist, one of the founders of the N. A. A. C. P., delivered the keynote address.

Message from Moorfield Storey, P. M., President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Ex-President of the American Bar Association, to the Sixteenth Annual Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People:

June 24, 1925.

"My friends of the National Association:

I regret that I cannot be present with you at this gathering. In itself it is conclusive evidence of the progress which your cause is making. Contrast this vast assemblage of delegates from all parts of the country and the speakers who have come to address it with the few men who attended the birth of this Association and the obscurity in which its work was begun.

The reason for our growth is not to seek. We are right. We are seeking no favors, no special privileges. We ask only the things which the Constitution and laws of the United States accord to every American citizen, and we cannot fail. Fix in your memories the immortal words of Shakespeare:

"Thrice is he armed who has his quarrel just
And he but naked though locked up in steel
Whose conscience with injustice is corrupted."

We cry for justice in the courts, at the polls, and wherever it is now denied. We ask only for "a square deal," a fair chance with our fellow-citizens. It is not possible that such a demand can long be refused.

No party convention in purity of purpose and in highness of aim can compare with this body. No manufacturers are here demanding a high tariff which will enable them to tax their neighbors. No Ku Klux Klan is working for its criminal purposes. No office seeking gang is fighting for spoils. Here is nothing but "good and fair." Have faith! Give us the sinews of war and your cordial and united support, and the supporters of injustice and tyranny cannot stand against the cause of truth which is ours."

(Signed)
MOORFIELD STOREY.

"HONESTY THE BEST POLICY."

Just how long it is going to take for some persons to become convinced that it is useless to exhibit dishonesty in all dealings is a question that rests on our minds at times, especially when acts of dishonesty come to light, showing the tendency of certain men entrusted with the affairs of other people, to deliberately appropriate to their own use the money which comes in their hands. Just this week the affairs of one of our insurance companies are being disturbed due to the dishonest methods of the man placed in charge of the company's affairs here and if the facts as given out by the company's auditor are true, and we have no reason to doubt the same, the extreme penalty which the law prescribes for

such should be imposed upon the guilty manager.

In this connection, it is an outstanding fact that the failure of a majority of the business concerns founded and operated by Negroes is due to dishonest tactics and unreliability of the men and women employed to operate the same. We are loathe to flaunt such charges as concern the race to the world, but the complaint of every Negro business man or woman invariably refers to the untrustworthiness of the average young Negro man, woman, boy or girl. It doesn't seem to be different with those who have spent years under training in schools and colleges, there is just that lack of dependability and that don't care attitude which these thoughtless individuals exhibit that goes far in offering more discouragement to the management of concerns than any competition which similar concerns operated by other races could possibly offer.

The struggle which the average Negro business man experiences in keeping the business going is of little concern. The tendency of the ingrates seem to be to have a good time, draw money for the rendering of thoroughly inefficient service and let the boss get by the best way he can. The only time these individuals can exhibit an air of promptness is when they appear at the pay window on pay day to take down their salary and in ten minutes after the attitude is one of indifference for another such time.

Negro business concerns are going to continue to fail just so long as it is necessary to employ these dishonest, indifferent young Negroes to assist them.—The East Tennessee News.

NOTES FROM WALLINGFORD CHURCH, CHARLESTON, S. C.

On Sunday, June 28, our pastor, Dr. W. T. Frazier, preached very interesting sermons. In the morning his subject was "A Dependable Witness," Isaiah 43: 10.

At night the subject was "Drifting and its Consequences," Hebrew 2:1.

Despite the inclement weather the collection for the day amounted to about \$28.

The death angel visited our church during the month of June and took from our midst Elder Joseph Miller, one of our most faithful and loyal members. Brother Miller had been in failing health for some time. He was faithful to the end. He has gone before the High Tribunal to receive his reward.

On June 14th the Sunday School had its Children's Day exercise. It was largely attended. They collected \$6.00 for missions.

June 29th a grand musical program was given by the young ladies and gentlemen of the Sunday school, assisted by some of the best talent of other denominations in our city. Despite the unfavorable condition of the weather, there were quite a number present. A silver offering was asked. The proceeds amounted to about \$9.00.

All of the clubs seem to be wide awake and on the go, each trying to do its very best towards getting new carpet for the church.

Our pastor will leave Monday after the first Sunday in August with his family for Asheville, N. C., for his vacation. The members are glad to have him go, for he deserves the rest. Our pulpit will be supplied by the different ministers of the city while he is away.

H. MITCHELL.

Don't follow the crowd in its stupidities. The advantage gained by being sensible may be slight, but success, remember, is usually won by very narrow margins.—Type Metal Magazine.

C. S. C. & S. M. NOTES

(From the Office of the Dean.)

Each day brings us closer and closer to August 24th, the opening date of the Catawba Synodical Convention and School of Methods. If you haven't registered, we advise you to do so very early if you want to be sure of your choice of rooms.

The committee in selecting the platform and popular speakers this year took into consideration several things. First, there was an effort to divide them as near as possible equally between the Presbyteries; second, an endeavor was made to select men who represent both the larger and smaller churches of the Synod; third, it was the consensus of opinion of the committee that a woman should appear as one of the popular speakers; fourth, in accordance with a recent custom an outstanding layman of the Synod was selected for the program; and fifth, in accordance with a new policy adopted this year the committee thought it wise to select one for the program from our group who has achieved national fame in this time.

With these thoughts in mind the delegates may expect from the platform and popular speakers a variety of addresses and lectures that one rarely ever witnesses in such a gathering.

Rev. J. G. Murray, of Mooresville, Yadkin Presbytery, has been selected to conduct the morning prayers in the dining room. Rev. Mr. Murray has given a good portion of his time to pastoring in rural communities in the vicinity of Statesville and has had a rich experience in his field of labor.

The Rev. H. Wilson, of Concord, Catawba Presbytery, will discuss "The Teaching Function of the Church." Mr. Wilson is noted in the Synod for his genius for organization and careful planning. Those who have visited Westminster under his pastorate have been deeply impressed with the progress this church has made in recent years.

From Southern Virginia we have Rev. A. Kendrick, of South Boston, who will discuss, "The Bible as it Applies to Modern Life." Those who know Rev. Kendrick will readily concede that he is eminently capable of treating this very important topic that is receiving so much consideration in this "Modernistic" age.

Dr. J. H. Hayswood is representing Cape Fear Presbytery. Dr. Hayswood serves the largest church in that Presbytery and two other churches are also served by him. He is also President of Redstone Academy, a very flourishing Secondary School of Lumberton, N. C., and has been recently appointed by the Governor of the State as one of the trustees of the Morrison Training School; yet with all of these activities Dr. Hayswood is deeply interested in the S. S. program of the Church, and readily gives his support to the forward-looking movements. His subject will be, "How Christianity Changes the Individual Life."

Do you need a tonic for: 1. That discouraged Teacher; 2. For that half-dead class; 3. For that run-down Sunday School? Well, it can be obtained at the 1925 meeting of the Catawba Synodical Convention and School of Methods, Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, N. C., Aug. 24-30.

NOTICE.

Sabbath School Convention of Fairfield Presbytery will convene with Westminster church, Alcolu, S. C., July 29-Aug. 2, 1925.

All persons expecting to attend will notify Mr. E. J. Taylor, Alcolu, S. C., R. F. D. 2, Box 83.

E. W. ALLEN,
Pastor.