

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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## REV. WM. BUTLER

By Rev. R. E. Flickinger

Rev. William Butler, pastor of the Presbyterian church, who died of paralysis at 66, on August 5th at Eagletown, Okla., was in his 7th year when freedom was accorded the family of his parents in 1866. He learned to read by a regular attendance at Sabbath school and by private study at home. The Bible and the Shorter Catechism were the books that first occupied his attention in spare moments. As a natural result he became a Christian and united with the church at an early age.

In 1885, at the age of 26, he was ordained an elder in his home church at Eagletown that was visited by its circuit rider once or twice a month. He was appointed Bible reader and leader of the meeting on the alternate Sabbaths.

In 1894 he was enrolled by the Presbytery of Choctaw as a candidate for the ministry. Three years later he was licensed by the Presbytery of Kiamichi and appointed the Stated Supply of Eagletown and

he was a patron and annual visitor of Oak Hill Academy. Advantage was frequently taken of these visits to hold decision meetings. Many young people at these times were glad of the opportunity to manifest their decision to make the Bible their guide and live Christian lives.

The fact that Mr. Butler was able from youth to old age to acceptably serve the people of his home church and community was a rare accomplishment—a remarkable experience as a minister. He is survived by his wife, Maria, who proved a faithful helpmeet.

Rockwell City, Iowa.

## SIDELIGHTS

HERE AND THERE.

There always comes to everyone the season of the year when the call of vacation comes. August seems to be the month for it and wherever one may go the roads are full of cars from "John Henrys" and up or visa versa, whichever estimation may be preferred. We have also caught the fever of vacation and now we are among the old home town folks of boyhood days, shaking hands with old friends and making new ones. The old swimming hole is there where the fellows used to go, but it is deserted now. The younger generation goes joy riding instead. Here and there we come across a "boy" of bygone days and we live over the doings of our youth. Then we talked of our former friends. Many have gone away; more rest in the old cemetery down by the river. 'Tis sad when we come to that phase of our visit, but 'tis so. Like all others who visit the "old home town" of their youth, you have gone through the same experience. But it is a trip worth taking anyway.

We came across an old Biddle boy down in Goldsboro the other day who is making good in his profession. He is physically prosperous and financially, too, judging by his surroundings. We refer to Mr. L. T. Lightner, class of '06, embalmer and mortician. Mr. Lightner is popular in the city and he and Mrs. Lightner have made many friends since going there. His place of business is up-to-date and he is prepared to serve the public from any angle in his line. We often refer to professional men who live up to church affiliations after leaving school. Mr. Lightner, although busy, is intensively active in the religious life of the community. He inquired of his classmates and we informed him as best we knew. Rev. R. L. Moore rested upon his mind a great deal. They were classmates before they came to Biddle. Look him up, Moore!

A few days ago we were in Sanford. We saw our friend and brother, Rev. J. E. McMillan and family. Rev. McMillan is succeeding nicely in his work. His Daily Vacation Bible School closed successfully with a final enrollment of 199. That is the largest enrollment of any that we have heard of. There may be larger enrollments elsewhere. It seems that everywhere this work has been doing well. We heard of one place where the principal of one of our public schools in the Eastern part of the State closed the building on a very successful D. V. B. S. His reason seems to have been over-anxiety for the care of the building. Perhaps he was justified in his actions. We do not know. But the thought which comes to us is—That the public school building belongs to the people, is built by the people's money and for any legitimate use, and that the public ought not to be denied its use. I am sure that the school boards would agree to that, but what is the use when things are sometimes misrepresented by over-zealous principals, who very often are not interested to the smallest degree

in the religious life of the children who come under their control?

Mr. James Hatcher, for many years the organist of Shiloh Presbyterian church of Goldsboro, has rendered first class service. Mr. Hatcher is a born musician. He has enlarged upon this native gift by study and experience. He is ably assisted by his own sons, Messrs. Charlie and Robt. Hatcher. In fact, the whole Hatcher family, which includes several, are musical. Together with these, such faithful and talented people as Prof. J. A. Croom and wife, Dr. E. T. Gordon and others have made the musical side of Shiloh Presbyterian church famous in the Eastern part of North Carolina.

Among some of the workers of the Daily Vacation Bible School, who have been employed as specialists, we note by observation and contact that Mrs. Alma Harris, of Winston-Salem, has done creditable work. The Board made a fine selection in her. Others have done equally as well and this by no means detracts anything from the work which they have done.

Dr. I. H. Russell, the Synodical Evangelist, operating in the Western part of Yadkin Presbytery, and Rev. L. B. West, the pastor-evangelist, also working in some of our fields in the same section of the same Presbytery, have done some able preaching. Both have been enjoyed and both have done good. Rev. West, with his scholarly and eloquent gospel sermons, and Dr. Russell, with his fiery and spiritual gospel sermons, together with his rugged manner of putting things before the people, left behind them much food for thought. Come again, brethren.

Dr. Thomas Long, of Johnson C. Smith University, informs us of the fact that Columbia is interesting as usual with the usual amount of hard work. Dr. Long is one of our able men who shows his versatility in many ways. Johnson C. Smith University and his many friends are proud of his record and wish him continued success.

The Western part of North Carolina had a severe drought from May until August. Gardens have been a novelty in that section this year. We got almost a handful of beans from our garden. We called ourselves lucky because others got none. The Eastern section got rain a plenty and has fine gardens and crops everywhere. Everything looks prosperous. Today (Aug. 18) as we write this, we can look out over a large section and see cotton with no leaves and tobacco stalks with not a leaf of tobacco. This condition has been brought about by a severe hail storm last week. The same conditions exist for a radius of five miles. Conditions seem to be neutralized in the West and East. Thoughtful men are thinking more about the power of God. Unthoughtful men are cursing the elements and the weather man.

It is a fine thing to abridge the evening services these hot August Sunday evenings, but we wonder whether it is a good tonic for our young people to take in your service and be dismissed to go elsewhere. Do not dismiss them with the words from you, "to go elsewhere," for goodness knows, it is hard enough to hold them in the Presbyterian church anyway. That applies to older ones, too. We used to think that Presbyterians were immune from doctrinal diseases and contagious epidemics of sectarianism which usually break out heavily at this season of the year, but they are not. When they break out on a Presbyterian he is incurable, and at once he evolves (?) into something religious evolution has never been

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## THE SABBATH SCHOOL AND CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR CONVENTION OF CATAWBA PRESBYTERY

By Mrs. Hallie Q. Mayberry

The 33rd annual session of the Sabbath School and Christian Endeavor Convention of Catawba Presbytery met with the Trinity Presbyterian church, Marion, N. C., of which Mr. J. R. Dungee is pastor, on August 6-7.

Amid bright sunshine, balmy air and sparkling waters, Marion, nestled hard by the foot hills of surrounding mountains, has more than risen to the exigency of her possibilities in the hospitality and good cheer exhibited in the entertaining of the Sabbath School and Christian Endeavor Convention.

A synopsis of the Convention Program follows:

### Thursday Afternoon—Opening.

Seventy-two Superintendents, delegates and ministers were registered and received the Convention badges. The Convention was called to order by the President, Prof. W. H. Stinson. Prayer was offered by Dr. A. W. Foster. The Convention choir, directed by Mrs. J. M. Pride, rendered inspiring music.

The Bible Study was conducted by Dr. F. T. Logan. Dr. Logan gave a very interesting talk about the importance of studying the Bible. "It is one of the greatest needs of today. Evolution and the Bible will never be harmonized," said Dr. Logan. The children especially should be fed on the Bible, for early impressions are lasting.

The reports of the Sabbath School and Christian Endeavor Societies were next in order. Of the forty-five schools on roll reports were read from forty-one schools. The reports were encouraging and showed considerable increase in spiritual activities and membership.

The President appointed the following committees: Committee on Finance: Messrs. J. J. Young, J. E. Howell, J. N. F. Brown.

Committee on Leave of Absence: Messrs. E. F. White, J. W. Spears, Thos. A. Jenkins and Mrs. M. J. Alexander.

Committee on Resolutions of Thanks: Mr. N. M. Potts, Miss Annie Chresfield, Mr. T. J. Van Landingham, Miss Louise Alexander.

### Thursday Evening.

This session opened with a lively song service conducted by Mrs. J. M. Pride, director of music, and the Convention choir with Mrs. J. R. Dungee, organist. The evening sessions were held in the beautiful and spacious Zion Methodist church.

### Welcome Addresses.

A most cordial welcome was extended us by the pastor, Mr. J. R. Dungee, on behalf of the church. Miss Mary G. Thalley, in her own winning way, welcomed us on behalf of the Christian Endeavor Society. Prof. B. G. Corpening welcomed us in behalf of the Sunday School, and Rev. G. W. Griffin, pastor of the Zion Methodist church, welcomed us in behalf of the sister churches in the city. After listening to these inspiring addresses and seeing the hospitable spirit we felt at home, for truly these good people had our interest at heart.

Response was made by Prof. I. M. Martin, the Sabbath School Missionary of Catawba Presbytery. Mr. Martin, in a most pleasing manner, expressed the Convention's appreciation of these beautiful and generous words of welcome.

Just here, Dr. F. L. Brodie, who organized the Sunday School and church work at Marion, made a few remarks, giving some of the history of the church, and telling of the open-

ness and cordiality of the people.

**President's Annual Address.**

Mrs. J. M. Pride, the President of the Christian Endeavor, gave a most enlightening address on the work of the Christian Endeavor Society, telling of the beginning and growth of the Society. "This Society means service for Christ and the Church," said Mrs. Pride. "It is one of the agencies that have done much to train young people in Christian service." She urged the young people to make the Bible their Book of rules.

Prof. W. H. Stinson, President of the Sabbath School Convention, in his interesting and thoughtful address, outlined many steps essential and necessary for the intellectual and spiritual growth of the Sabbath School. He said: "People as a whole do not possess the same enthusiasm. They do not study the Sunday School and church as they once studied them. The work of the Sabbath School is not systematized so as to put everybody to work. So many of our Christian men and women are not trained to do the work placed in their hands. There should be Teacher-Training classes in every Sunday School for the young people. The ministers should accept responsibilities, supervise the Sabbath School and conduct these classes, thereby helping to train the people. The Sabbath School Missionaries should conduct Sunday School Institutes not only to teach the Word of God, but to teach the system of the Sunday School, for if a person is trained to do a thing, he will want to do it."

**Friday Afternoon**

This session was called to order by the Christian Endeavor President, Mrs. J. M. Pride, and constituted with prayer by Prof. W. H. Stinson.

Order No. 7. The Woodland church was decided upon as the next place of meeting.

Order No. 9.—Election of delegate to the School of Methods and Synodical Convention. Miss Mary G. Thalley, of the Trinity church, Marion, was unanimously elected. Mr. N. M. Potts was chosen alternate.

**Discussion, "Sabbath School Organization and Management,"** was discussed by Mr. W. R. Mayberry and Mr. I. M. Martin. Mr. Mayberry gave an eloquent talk on this phase of the work. He said that the S. S. occupies and wields an influence in the church we should be proud of. In developing the Sunday School we should arrange and organize the various departments of the Sunday School beginning with the Cradle Roll. The Superintendent should organize and outline the work of the Sunday School according to the plan of the Sunday School Board, giving everybody some work to do. Decision Day, Rally Day and other special days should be observed in the Sunday School and every School should hold Workers' Conferences.

**Friday Morning**

Song and prayer service were conducted by Prof. I. M. Martin, the Sabbath School Missionary. An enthusiastic and eager spirit was manifested by officers, leaders and delegates during all the sessions.

Bible Study was conducted by Dr. J. J. Wilson. He read as the Scripture lesson Eph. 3: 13-35. The lesson was divided into two main divisions, viz: 1. Christ's love for the Church. 2. The Church gathered from the hedges and highways by the wondrous appeal of God's Word. This lesson was especially interesting and instructive.

Rev. J. C. Story, pastor of the Presbyterian church (white), of Marion, was introduced to the Convention and accorded a seat as corresponding member of the Convention. Rev. Story gave an interesting address telling of the work and growth of his church in the city. He made special mention of the Young People's work. He said they should be trained for service, for the future leadership rests in the younger generation.

Regular Order No. 5, the election of officers, was next in order. All the officers for the year ending August, 1925, were elected to serve another year. They are as follows: President, Prof. W. H. Stinson; First Vice-President, Dr. A. W. Foster; Second Vice-President, Mr. N. M. Potts; Secretary, Dr. L. J. Melton, (permanent); Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Hallie Q. Mayberry; Treasurer, Dr. G. S. Leeper; Statistician, Rev. H. Wilson. Dr. F. T. Logan in an earnest and impressive speech inducted these persons into office.

The next feature of the program was the Departmental Conferences with Rev. H. Wilson and Mrs. J. M. Pride, leaders. Both meetings were conducted together so that all of the workers could get the advantage of all the discussions. Questions and problems that are common to all departments of the Sun-

day School were discussed. Training is the keynote and object of these Conferences and they are proving to be very helpful features of the Convention. Some of the discussions were: "How Would You Get Pupils to Come to the Sabbath School on Time?" This discussion was led by Mr. W. R. Mayberry. 2. "How Would You Get Pupils to Study the Sunday School Lesson at Home?" led by Prof. W. H. Stinson. 3. "How to Interest Pupils in Missions and General Benevolence," led by Rev. L. B. West. 4. "Point Out a Good Way to Keep Sunday School Records," led by Dr. A. W. Foster. 6. "What Program Would You Recommend for the Opening and Closing of the Sabbath School?" This discussion was led by Miss Annie Chresfield. 7. "How Would You Deal With an Unruly Boy or Girl?" led by Mr. I. M. Martin. 8. "What Should the Superintendent Do While the School is Studying the Lesson?" led by Mrs. J. M. Pride. She also conducted a lively discussion on the Primary Work of the S. S. and the Christian Endeavor and Missionary Societies. She touched upon all the various departments of the Sunday School and the ages of the pupils that should be in these departments.

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