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

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF SMITH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Rev. W. L. Metz, D. D.,

President Johnson C. Smith University Alumni Association.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Permit me to congratulate you upon the opportunity for service your selection as President of the Alumni Association presents. The Association honors itself in thus honoring you, and I feel sure you will welcome suggestions that will enlarge the sphere of usefulness of your office as they relate to the advancement of the honor of our Alma Mater.

With this thought in view, may I suggest that you prepare weekly an article for publication in the Africo-American Presbyterian, with the permission of the Editor, under the general heading, Alumni Column. Having first ascertained through correspondence or otherwise what success an alumnus has achieved, it would be very pleasing to him as well as an inspiration to others to have you publish the facts with his cut, perhaps, in the "Alumni Column."

No alumnus would care to publish his own achievements since graduation, but, on the other hand, none would be offended if "Uncle Billy" did so. The purpose of this suggestion is to arouse a deeper interest and love for the University among its former graduates primarily; then, if some other alumnus, who has grown out of touch with the Alumni and the University, and who, perhaps, may be having a hard time of it, sees what a brother whom he had long ago lost track of, is doing, he may thereby be encouraged to press forward to success.

Another suggestion: Will you not prepare a roster of the alumni with their present addresses, so far as they may be obtained. When this roster is reasonably complete, a statement in the "Alumni Column" that you have such a list and an invitation to fellow Alumni to make use of it whenever they wish would place valuable data at the disposal of all.

For instance: one has business calling him, say, to Denver, Colo. He is fully prepared to take care of himself financially, but he knows no one in that city. If he could write to you and obtain the address of a J. C. S. U. man in that city, a wire to him would procure lodging for the first night, then after that he could shift for himself. No man lives to himself, and even though the brother so addressed was quartered in one room he would know far better than a stranger where suitable accommodations could be had.

In this connection may I state that I am in Atlantic City as I write this? I have just left Mr. Richard S. Allen, class of 1914, after being shown by him through the well-appointed \$250,000 Memorial Dome given to the colored veterans of all wars by the city. There they have beds where any veteran may obtain lodging for not more than two nights, if a stranger in the city. That is service of the most practical kind.

Mr. Allen has taken to Atlantic City politics like a duck to water and holds the confidential position of Secretary to the Mayor, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Memorial Home. He has represented the Mayor this summer in welcoming a number of colored organizations to the city and recently received a \$300 raise in his salary.

I mention these facts to show you to what use the "Alumni Column" could be put, even though only a "stick full" or so of "copy" be given to each alumnus. Every member of the class of 1914 will rejoice to know of Mr. Allen's success and that in this position he has been able to help a number of other men of our race.

Further: if an alumnus was a candidate for a certain position and could place before the appointing power a strong letter coming from the presiding officer of our Alumni Asso. on official stationery, showing that organization as a unit was behind him, a letter setting forth his qualifications as a college graduate, it could not fail to have the effect. Why was it, in addition to the man's splendid qualifications, that Rev. W. L. Metz was elected to the New York pastorate? It was because the Alumni of his Alma Mater took a decided stand. There have been other places including Washington, D. C., where positive results followed similar action.

If the Association generally followed such a course, the individual would be benefited, the Alumni Association strengthened, and renewed interest in our Alma Mater would result.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN E. SMITH,
Class of 1897.

HOME-COMING AT NEW MARKET, TENN.

We had our 5th annual Home-Coming at St. Luke's church, New Market, Tenn., Aug. 9, 1925. The following program was carried out with some minor variations:

9:30, Sunday school, conducted by W. T. Evans, Dandridge, Tenn.

11 A. M., Instrumental solo, Miss Bessie Mayle.
Doxology, Congregation.
Prayer, Elder W. E. Tate, Knoxville, Tenn.

Responsive Scripture reading, Rev. E. B. Clarkson, Morristown, Tenn.

Scripture Lesson, Rev. J. W. Smith, Knoxville, Tenn.
Prayer, Mr. Henry Walker, Morristown, Tenn.

Vocal Duett, Misses Bessie Mayle and Pauline Donnell.
Sermon, Rev. John H. Byers, Johnson City, Tenn.

Prayer, Rev. L. Spiro, New Market, Tenn.

Vocal Solo, Miss Eutie Roper, Okmulgee, Okla.

Offering.
Remarks.
Benediction.

Noon, Old Fashion Basket dinner.

At 3 P. M., an address by Mr. J. A. Roper, Okmulgee, Okla.

The day was ideal for such a gathering. In the morning the clouds overspread the heavens, and thereby protected from the scorching heat of the sun those who had gathered for the occasion. And by eleven o'clock several hundred persons had gathered on the church grounds to meet old friends and acquaintances some of whom had come with a view to hearing the speakers of the day in their sermons and addresses, not only to break to them the bread of eternal life, but also to give wholesome and practical counsel for daily tasks and duties. And may I add just here that it is the opinion of more than the writer that these varying motives prompting the crowds coming here were amply satisfied by the speakers.

At 11 o'clock A. M., the Rev. John H. Byers, D. D., Principal of Langston High School, Johnson City, Tenn., delivered to the congregation assembled a sermon that will long be remembered not only for the earnestness, power and eloquence with which it was delivered, but also for the profound thoughts to which he gave utterance. The subject of the discourse was: "Who is He?" based upon the text, Matt. 21:10. Dr. Byers answered the many critics of the Christ of today who would disparage His divine personality and immaculate character by showing what this mighty Saviour has done for in-

dividuals and the world in the past; what He is doing now; and what He promises to do in the future.

In the afternoon we had a very earnest and practical address given by Mr. J. A. Roper, of Okmulgee, Oklahoma. Mr. Roper is a former citizen of Jefferson County, Tennessee, where he was born and lived until he was in his early twenties. Then he went to Arkansas and lived for several years. Thence he moved to Indian Territory, where he lived and prospered among the Indians. And he was in those parts when Indian Territory became the State of Oklahoma. Mr. Roper had only returned to the place of his birth once in forty-five years. During his long stay away he has accumulated a neat fortune. From reliable sources it is learned that he owns real estate valued at upwards of fifty thousand dollars. So advice coming from one who has made a real success in life is worthy of being considered.

Also in the afternoon a sermon was preached by the Rev. J. W. Smith, pastor of the East Vine Avenue Presbyterian church, Knoxville, Tenn. His text was I Tim. 6:12. The theme was "Lay Hold on Eternal Life." The message that Rev. Smith delivered was short, but it had the evangelistic ring. And at the close of the sermon one person came and joined the church on profession of faith.

The financial success for the day is worthy of note, for \$138.92 was taken in during the day.

There were many other visitors of more than local prominence present, but want of space forbids our naming them. The music for the day was fine.

Special mention is made of the solo that was sung by Miss Utie Roper, with Miss Bessie Mayle at the piano.

Thus passed into history one of the best Home Comings St. Luke Church has been privileged to have.

W. C. H.

CAPE FEAR PRESBYTERY THIRD DISTRICT S. S. AND C. E. CONVENTION.

The twenty-seventh annual session of the Sabbath School and Christian Endeavor Conventions was held in the Second Presbyterian church, Elizabethtown, Rev. T. G. Williamson, pastor, August 13-16, 1925. The session was opened August 13 at 8:30 P. M., with a sermon by the Rev. B. H. Brown, of Pembroke, from Acts 26:16, who urged the hearers to "Stand for Jesus."

After the sermon the Convention was called to order by Rev. Mr. Brown, the retiring President, and the registration of delegates and ministers was had, which showed almost a full representation from every field.

The election of officers was then had. Mr. David A. Leach, of Maxton, was chosen President; Rev. R. C. Scriven, Maxton, Vice-President; Miss Atlanta Bryan, Lumberton, Secretary; Miss D. T. Williamson, Assist. Secretary; Mrs. J. H. Hayswood, Lumberton, Treasurer.

The collection, \$6.60, was taken and the benediction was pronounced by Dr. C. Dillard, of Goldsboro.

Friday Morning.

Prayer and praise services were conducted for thirty minutes by Rev. S. H. Holdman and Elder McBride. "The Daily Vacation Bible School, What It Is" was forcefully demonstrated with interest by Mr. A. H. Prince, who has charge of this district for the summer. This demonstration was followed by a live topic: "The Church's Greatest Peril—Religious Illiteracy," led by Revs. T. T. Branch, R. C. Scriven and B. H. Brown. After these had spoken the discussion was enthusias-

tically joined in by many and a satisfactory conclusion was reached in the solution of this peril which is tantalizing our Church in its struggle for uplift.

"Some Advantages in Using the Departmental Lessons" was the next topic which created so much interest that a call for a demonstration of how this lesson is taught was made. In response the Sunday School Missionaries, R. W. Kornegay and A. H. Prince, demonstrated the use of the departmental lesson. The hour for dinner arrived and the session adjourned with benediction by Dr. J. H. Hayswood.

Friday Afternoon.

At 2 o'clock the convention re-assembled and conducted an interesting song service for the first half hour with Mrs. T. T. Branch at the organ; after which the Convention was called to order by the President, Mr. Leach. A demonstration of teaching the lesson of August 2nd was had by Mr. David A. Leach, with the reiteration of the application and methods of presentation by Mrs. T. T. Branch, which filled the minds of the delegates and those of the Convention with serious thoughts in connection with the presentation of the Sunday School lesson. On the heels of this interesting topic came the question of "The Place and Importance of Social Activities in the Sabbath School," led by Revs. T. G. Williamson, S. H. Holdman and T. T. Branch. This topic aroused much for the Convention to consider and the discussion was heartily joined in by every one. The Convention adjourned the afternoon session with the benediction by Rev. L. H. Fuller.

Friday Night, 8 P. M.

A special program was arranged by the Christian Endeavor with Miss A. E. Bryan presiding. The program was made up from the delegates and was interesting in its entirety. Dr. C. Dillard, of Goldsboro, was the principal speaker and spoke very forcibly on "Presbyterianism." This address will long be remembered by those who heard Dr. Dillard on this subject. The collection was taken amounting to \$9.00 and benediction was pronounced by Rev. P. P. Johnson.

Saturday Morning.

The first half hour was taken up with prayer and praise service, led by Rev. L. H. Fuller, of Chadbourn, and Elder A. L. Patterson, of Panthersford church. After this the order of business for the day was gone into, including reports from the Sabbath schools, verbal and written.

On a whole all the Sabbath schools in the district show progress both financially and spiritually as well as an increase in their membership. The reports of the contributions from Children's Day sent the Board were far above last year. Heated debates at this session made it possible for many to become well informed in regard to the management of the funds of the Sabbath school in distribution, and a thorough knowledge of this was had, even as it may not have been given in the Presbytery.

Dr. J. H. Hayswood, the committee on program, was retained.

The next place of meeting will be the Bethany Presbyterian church, Lumberton, Dr. J. H. Hayswood, pastor.

Saturday Afternoon.

This session was given over to the reports from the Christian Endeavor Society. Many of the Societies reported special work being done for the church in the way of helping it to carry its burdens. The societies were urged by Miss Bryan to increase their membership and seek the cooperation of the churches.

Sunday Morning.

At ten o'clock the Model Sunday School was conducted by A. H. Prince.

At 11 o'clock the pulpit was

filled by A. H. Prince, who spoke from Gal. 5:1, urging for a purpose to stand fast for God.

Sunday afternoon was given over to a young people's meeting. Special music was directed by Misses A. E. Bryan and D. T. Williamson. Addresses were delivered by R. W. Kornegay and A. H. Prince, with remarks from Dr. J. H. Hayswood and Rev. T. T. Branch. Thus the Convention was brought to an end.

The people of Elizabethtown spared no pains in making the Convention pleasant for all. The Ladies' Missionary Society tendered the Convention a reception on Friday evening at which delicious ice cream and cake were served. Rev. T. G. Williamson is doing a good work there, having built a unique edifice and made untold sacrifice for its maintenance. He is a man full of the love of God and is devoted to his work.

The Convention adjourned Sunday, August 16, to meet Thursday before the third Sunday in August, 1926, with Bethany Presbyterian church, Lumberton.

A. H. PRINCE, S. S. M.

RENDALL PRESBYTERIAL CONVENTION.

By Rev. H. C. Cousins

The sixteenth annual Sunday School and Woman's Home Mission Convention convened with Mt. Olive Presbyterian church, Okmulgee, Okla., July 24-28. After thirty minutes of devotional services the session was called to order by the President, Mr. J. H. Howell, at 9:30 Friday morning.

Following the enrollment of delegates and the report of the committee on arrangements, the President delivered his annual address which was the best that he has delivered to the convention during his long years of service as President.

At 10:15 the real work of the Convention program was begun and carried out according to schedule.

This was considered by all to be the best meeting that the Convention has yet held in many respects, although the financial side was not as good as in some previous years. It was full of interest and information from start to finish. There were more delegates in attendance than at any previous meeting. Some of them (14 in number) motored more than 400 miles to attend the Convention. The Spirit of the Master was truly with us during the meeting.

Among those accorded seats as corresponding members during the sessions were Rev. W. E. Pruitt of the A. M. E. church; Rev. D. W. Hubbard of the A. M. E. Zion church; Rev. W. W. Mayle, Synodical Evangelist for the Synod of Tennessee, and Rev. W. D. Newhouse (white) who sails in early September as a missionary to Kamerun, West Africa. Mr. Newhouse will be supported entirely by his local church here in Okmulgee, Okla.

At ten o'clock Saturday morning the Rev. Mr. Newhouse was invited to address the Convention. This he did to the delight of all present. His words were thrilling and inspiring and full of hope and life.

Instead of the usual popular program on Friday night the Rev. J. S. Wilson preached a gospel sermon to a large and appreciative audience. Rev. Wilson preached from the text, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head."

Saturday afternoon was given over to the Ladies' Home Mission Society. There were some very interesting papers and discussions by the ladies.

On Sunday morning a model Sunday School was conducted by the Sunday School Missiona-

ry assisted by Hon. R. S. Gamble.

The Convention sermon was preached by the Rev. W. W. Mayle, who used as a subject, "The Seven Judgments." This was a powerful discourse. The audience sat in tears while the speaker talked with us by the way.

At 8 o'clock P. M. the Rev. W. E. Huston preached from the text, "Arise ye and depart, for this is not your rest." Rev. Huston preached in his usual forceful way, which always makes a strong impression.

SOUTH CAROLINA HARD HIT.

Washington, Aug. 25.—The ravage of the boll weevil and the migration of the colored farmers have hit South Carolina a blow from which she may not soon recover, probably not until there is a greater diversification of crops and a reorganization of the entire educational system of the State. Certainly the high percentage of illiteracy among both whites and blacks in the Palmetto State is not a contributing factor to constructive economic readjustment or to healthy and permanent progress.

Conditions in Saluda County, located in the western part of the State, are typical. This is the county in which the per capita expenditure for the education of children, on the basis of teachers' salaries, was only \$7.78 per annum for the white and 97 cents for the colored, as reported several years ago by the U. S. Bureau of Education. Paltry expenditures where nearly 5 per cent of the white and about 23 per cent of the colored inhabitants are classified as illiterates make this glaring illustration of a most unfavorable situation.

During the past five years this county has lost 637 Negro farmers. Land in farms has decreased by nearly 30,000 acres, and the value of farm land and buildings by 35 per cent. A further comparison with the year 1920 shows 500 less horses, nearly 900 mules, 1600 cattle and 850 less swine. The cotton crop in 1924 was 14,553 bales under the 1919 production, a decrease which represents a staggering financial loss to the local farmers and business men. To this can be added the money loss sustained through a decrease in the production of corn, sweet potatoes, peaches and hay.

From other counties come similar reports, and it has been conservatively estimated that fully 15,000 colored farmers in addition to thousands of farm laborers have left the farms of South Carolina to engage in industry and to locate in other states where living conditions, employment opportunities and educational facilities are more attractive.

NOTES FROM CHURCH ST. CHURCH, SALISBURY.

On Sunday afternoon, August 24, we had with us Dr. Z. A. Dockery and his choir of Statesville. He preached a wonderful sermon from the subject, "God Calling Men to Service," which was enjoyed by all. Sunday evening Dr. Coleman gave a fine talk.

We had a pleasant time at our Sunday school picnic which was held at South River Wednesday of last week.

Mrs. Hipp, Mrs. Allie V. Dunn, Mrs. Annie McCormick and Mr. L. W. Ellis attended the Synodical Convention and School of Methods at Charlotte.

The Missionary Society met with Mrs. Clingman August 21 at 4 o'clock.

We are putting forth every effort to get out of the basement before the weather gets cold.

MARIE E. COWAN.