

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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## MARY POTTER MEMORIAL SCHOOL EMERGING FROM ASHES

By An Observer

For thirty years Mary Potter Memorial School, of which Rev. G. C. Shaw, D. D., is principal, could boast of never having had a fire. Then the tables changed. First, the Principal's home went up in a blaze. About a year ago the Boys' Dormitory followed. Then last October our Main Building was charred and gutted and partly destroyed. Such calamities are the acid test of the permanency and inherent qualities of a school. Mary Potter staggered, but soon regained her equilibrium. Today her tread is firmer and stronger than ever before. From the ashes of the principal's home arose a modern bungalow that appropriately adorns the entrance to the campus. As if by magic there sprang up to take the place of the Boys' Dormitory that went down last March, a modern, up-to-date, beautiful boys' building with every conceivable convenience and comfort. It is conceded to be one of the best, if not the best, boys' dormitories in the State. From the charred and blackened walls of our Main Building there leaped a new roof, painted walls and new, modern furniture.

It has been a strenuous year with us, but we have continued to march. Every step has been forward, none backward or faltering. We are still in need of a renovated and enlarged girls' dormitory and an industrial building. We are praying and working for these additional and very much needed improvements, and believe they are in sight for the near future.

We feel very much elated because of our recent success in winning the silver cup for debating. This is the first year that circumstances have allowed us to enter the contest. Last year, just as we were getting ready for the debate, we had our fire which so disorganized things for a while that we could not get into the debate. We felt proud and congratulated ourselves on having won both sides of the debate and thus were called into the finals. To have won there is very encouraging.

Mary Potter has always taken an active part in the athletic sports of the State, having won the base ball pennant one season and was a close contestant for the athletic cup last season, having lost only two games during the season, and both of these games were contested, certain irregularities having featured in them. Under ordinary circumstances the games would have been given us by the executive board. But extraordinary circumstances existed and the games were not allowed us. Therefore we did not get the cup. But fate smiled on us and we got the debating cup. We must have a cup.

There is scarcely a school in the State that has been able to get anything like a capital mark on the athletic map that Mary Potter did not train and send them their star players. The National Training School, now North Carolina College for Negroes, never won a game that gave them any athletic standing until we sent them Nutall, their star pitcher, and Bennie Hicks, their present coach, who deserves the credit for all the athletic honors that have come to them. Biddle University, now Johnson C. Smith University did not get on the athletic map, so far as base ball is concerned until we sent them O'Daniel, Hayes, their present pitcher, who is pitching them to victory this season, graduated from us last May. We congratulate these two schools, our close ath-

letic competitors, and maybe, our supplanters for base ball honors. This year Mary Potter has decided to seek honors in other fields where the climate is more congenial or rather the gods of the storms are a little better disposed.

There are several things that have entered into the growth and spirit of Mary Potter that have made its growth steady and given it the spirit to win. Our motto in everything is to do our best and let our best be the best work of its kind.

To carry out this motto Dr. Shaw has, from the very beginning of the school, surrounded himself with the very best qualified workers available. This is especially noticeable in the class of young men he has had connected with the school.

Prof. C. A. Johnson, who was with him for ten years, only left to take charge of the High School of Columbia, S. C. Rev. B. R. Smith, who also was connected with the work for about ten years, left to enter the pastorate, and was later called by the Board of Freedmen to take charge of the girls' seminary at Crockett, Texas, being the first colored President the school ever had, and, in fact, the first colored man placed by the Board at the head of any of our seminaries.

Rev. E. J. Gregg was with us for two years and left to enter the pastorate. He is acknowledged to be one of the strongest men in our Church. Rev. P. J. A. Cox served us for a year or more. He is now in Louisville, Ky. Rev. Cox is a man of rare scholarship and intellectual attainments.

Rev. H. S. Davis and Prof. L. S. Cozart, who are at present connected with the school, are among the strongest and most progressive young men of the State. Each of them is in easy reach of his M. A.—Prof. Cozart from Columbia University and Rev. Davis from Northwestern University. Prof. L. S. Taylor, who is now at Berry O'Kelly School at Method, was with us for about two years. He is a young man of acknowledged rare intellectual ability. Prof. R. L. Smith, who was with Prof. H. A. Hunt, of Fort Valley, Ga., for a number of years, is known for his efficiency and thoroughness in scholarship and everything he puts his hand to, is with us this year.

Prof. I. H. Buchanan, who is known throughout the State for his musical ability, was with us for twenty-five years. His high moral character and stand for clean athletic sports are still felt around the school.

Prof. A. H. Poindexter, who was with us last term, was fresh from Lincoln where he was a tutor during his last year there. He resigned to enter the University of Toronto, Canada, to study medicine.

Prof. Thomas Hicks, who has charge of our Manual Training and Industrial work, is a genius in his profession and is so acknowledged by all who know him or has seen his work.

Prof. J. C. A. Dillard, who is with us this year, is a graduate of the class of 1925 of Union University, Virginia, and was a member of their traveling quartette. He is a young man of marked abilities, both in music and literature.

Our lady teachers have been no less efficient and active than the men in bringing Mary Potter to the front. The entire faculty during all these years has been loyal and true to the best interests of the school and this loyalty and devotion has been passed along to the student body, all

working to do their best and to let their best be the best work of the kind. Now and then this motto is seen to bud and bear fruit—sometimes in athletics, at another in debating. May the motto ever live and in living bear fruit.

## SOUTHERN VIRGINIA PRESBYTERIAL

The Woman's Home and Foreign Mission Society of the Presbytery of Southern Virginia met with the missionary society of Bethany Presbyterian church, Norfolk, Va., on April 10. The executive meeting was held in the home of Dr. and Mrs. S. I. Moore and the meetings thereafter were held in the U. P. church. The devotional exercises were entered into with interest, after which was the enrolling of delegates which showed that the work is being advanced and that we are awakening more and more in the interest of home and foreign mission work.

Mrs. Kendrick, the President, recommended the circles, which recommendation was accepted and the circles were arranged as follows:

Mrs. Marks: Hopewell, Bracey, Petersburg, Charley Hope.

Mrs. Carr: Chatham, So. Boston, Love's Chapel, Danville, Mt. Zion.

Mrs. Hedric: Newport News, Norfolk, Richmond.

Mrs. Lomax: Crewes, Nottoway, Victoria, Allen Memorial.

Mrs. Dillard: Martinville, Central, Lynchburg, Grace, Oak Grove.

We are hoping that results from these circles will greatly increase the spirit of missions.

Officers for the ensuing year were next elected:

Mrs. Kendrick, President.  
Mrs. M. B. Marks, Vice-President.

Mrs. C. P. Hedric, Recording Secretary.

Mrs. S. J. H. Dillard, Corresponding Secretary.

Mrs. M. H. Burrell, Treasurer.  
Mrs. W. E. Carr, Secretary of Literature.

Mrs. M. K. Jones, Secretary of Missionary Education.

Mrs. M. J. Jones, Secretary of Young People's Work.

Miss E. Reynolds, Secretary for Freedmen.

Miss E. V. Gunn, Secretary of Westminister Guilds.

Our financial report was as follows:

Money paid through the Presbyterial Treasurer, \$557.00;  
assessments, ———— \$43.43  
Public collection ———— 50.00  
Contribution of five So. ———— 15.00  
Circles ———— 663.43  
Total ———— 663.43

We feel that we have an excellent program committee with Miss Reynolds and Miss Gunn heading this committee. We had one of the best programs that we have ever had. The principal feature was a pageant, "The Way of the Cross Leads Home." It was quickly gotten up but well rendered.

We cannot forget to mention the hospitality shown us in Norfolk and especially that of the United Presbyterian church in that they threw their doors open to us with a hearty welcome for which we wish to thank them. Ask God's blessings on us continually.

We shall meet next year, D. V., with the missionary society of Henry Presbyterian church.

(MRS.) C. P. HEDRIC,  
Recording Secretary.

DR. FRIERSON GOES TO LANCASTER.

Please take and give notice of the change in my Post Office address from Winnsboro, S. C., to Box 146, Lancaster, S. C.  
Sincerely,  
A. U. FRIERSON,  
Lancaster, S. C.

## EVERY DAY MOTHER'S DAY

By A. Danforth Dinkins

By a beautiful custom of recent origin, next Sunday is set apart as "Mother's Day," in honor of universal motherhood. It is well for all of us to devote at least one day in the year to tender memories of vanished years, and to look forward with faith and hope to better years to come.

Is it not a fact, however, that every day in the year is mother's day? From the dawn of the New Year to the fading light of December's last day, is not mother the central figure of the home and a radiant center of influence in the community? Without the mothers, if indeed existence were possible, what a dreary life this would be.

Every day is mother's day of duty and of toil. There is truth in the old saying: "Man's work is done from sun to sun, but woman's work is never done." From the time that her first babe is laid in her arms to the last day of her normal life, she is full of responsibilities and of labors. Early and late, in heat and cold, in time of feebleness as well as in time of vigor, she feels impelled to spend the last ounce of strength in ministering to her children. The wants of these children are numerous and pressing, and sometimes the tired mother feels impelled to render services that the children would better take upon themselves. There are few sights more pathetic—and more exasperating to a wise observer—than of a delicate mother wearing her life out in waiting upon a group of inconsiderate boys and girls, who are perfectly able to wait upon themselves. But the very nature of motherhood is to be self-sacrificing, and it is the bad habit of many children who are old enough to know better, to accept those sacrifices without scruple. Yes, every day is mother's day of toil and struggle for the benefit of others.

Every day is mother's day for the exercise of influence over those whom she has brought into the world. No other human influence is comparable with it. The great emancipator, Abraham Lincoln, on one occasion said, that "All I am or hope to be, I owe it to my mother." The late Senator Lodge shortly before his death wrote these words to an intimate friend: "The truth is, that I should have been an atheist of the French type, if it had not been for one recollection, and that was when my mother used to take my little hand in hers and cause me on my knees to say, 'Our Father, who art in heaven.'" I once knew a young man in a Southern college who told me that he had become so disappointed and discouraged with life, that he had been strongly tempted to suicide, but one thing restrained him, and that was the dear, sympathetic mother back at home. That mother's influence was all that held him back from self-destruction. Such influence as is illustrated in these incidents is the result of patient, steady, toilsome living on the mother's part, with love in her heart for her children and her God.

Every day is mother's day in another sense. It is a day when those about her should appreciate her faithful labors and yield to her gracious influence. Not one day in the year merely, but all the days should bring honor to motherhood, and loving cooperation with her whose personality binds the household together. It is easy enough to render tribute to mother under stress and remorse, when she lies broken in health and almost ready to depart for lack of the help and sympathy which her children might have given, but

too often withheld. It requires thoughtfulness and a degree of self-sacrifice on the part of young people to forego at times their favorite diversions that mother's burden may be relieved. The true mother always finds hope and strength when she sees her children eager in the household tasks, ready to give up the tennis game, the party or automobile ride when mother needs help at home.

In the foregoing remarks, of course, it is the true mother who has been held in view. As we all know, there are women of a different type—women to whom God has committed the holy responsibilities of motherhood, but who fail to meet them in the only way that leads to wholesome influence and well earned reward. If these lines, which is an experience told to me by a mother a few days ago, should chance to meet the eyes of such a mother, they may be well commended: "When my children were young," she said, "I thought the very best thing I could do for them was to give them myself. So I spared no pains to talk with them, pray with them and to be a loving companion and friend to my children. 'Sometimes,' she continued, 'I had to neglect my house. I had no time to indulge myself in many things which I should have liked to do. I was so busy adorning their minds and cultivating their hearts' best affections that I could not adorn their bodies in fine clothes, though I kept them neat and comfortable.' 'I have my reward now,' she said with a smile on her face. 'My sons are ministers of the gospel; my daughter is a Christian woman. I have plenty of time to sit down and rest, and I have a thousand beautiful memories of their childhood to comfort me. Now that they have gone out into the world I have the sweet consciousness of having done all that I could to make them ready for whatever work God calls them to do.'

This type of motherhood is that which imparts to Mother's Day its noblest significance.

## BIRMINGHAM PRESBYTERY.

Wednesday, April 14, was an ideal spring day. In he mountains of Northern Alabama, where iron and coal abound, where the villages are green and shaded here and there by beautiful trees, is situated Anniston, where the Presbytery met with Calvary Presbyterian church, Rev. A. W. Rice, pastor.

At 8 o'clock, P. M., Rev. Van Horn Murray, of West Point, Miss., retiring Moderator, preached a soul-stirring sermon. After the sermon Presbytery was called to order. The Rev. T. B. Bailey, of Ackerman, Miss., was chosen Moderator.

From the beginning, the spirit of Christ was in the meeting. It could not have been more harmonious. All members answered to the roll call, save two—Rev. W. H. Lampley, who was sick, and Rev. C. J. McLin, who labors out of our bounds.

All causes of the Church were ably represented by the different chairmen. Presbytery did better on its benevolence than in any previous year. After the report of Committee on Program and Field Activities every brother expressed his determination to pay his full quota for 1926-1927. We have many reasons to believe that Birmingham Presbytery will go over the top on benevolence this year.

Rev. L. R. Taylor was received into our Presbytery from the Baptist Church and is our

Sabbath School Missionary for Alabama.

For the good of the cause Presbytery made a few changes. Our good Brother David S. Collier, who has been supplying our churches at Okolona and Shannon, Miss., has permission to labor out of our bounds. He is returning to South Carolina, the native State of most of the Presbyterian ministers in these parts.

We need two good men to take work among us. Rev. C. J. McLin was dismissed to join White River Presbytery.

Rev. A. W. Rice and Rev. Geo. E. Cooper were elected commissioner and alternate, respectively, and Elders J. L. Grier and R. L. Davis were elected lay commissioner and alternate, respectively, to the General Assembly.

We had very pleasant visits to Barber College where we found that most of the college girls were Presbyterians—such as the Brodies, Joneses, and Stinsons—whose fathers were my classmates. Barber College is actually doing the work and has a faculty of no mean ability.

The President of Barber, Dr. J. F. Scherer, was accorded a seat as a corresponding member of Presbytery and he made an interesting talk.

Our Woman's Presbyterial had a nice program Friday night. They went over the top with their quota.

Presbytery closed one of the smoothest and most pleasant meetings in its history.

H. L. PETERSON,  
Stated Clerk,  
1286 McLemore Ave.,  
Memphis, Tenn.

## NORTH CAROLINA OLDER BOYS' CONFERENCE ASKS FOR COLORED STATE WORKER

Instead of one State Colored Older Boys' Conference as last year North Carolina held two, one for the West at Winston-Salem and one for the East at Raleigh.

The State Conference held at Greensboro last year was the first and was a great success as about 250 boys were registered from even the remotest sections of the State. It was this large interest that called for regional conferences this year. Nearly a hundred boys met at Winston-Salem, April 9-11, and about two hundred fifty met at Raleigh, April 23-25.

These conferences, held under the auspices of the State Organizer of the Y. M. C. A., have been conducted largely by J. T. Fesperman, the white Boys' Work Secretary, and his attitude throughout has been thoroughly Christian and entirely satisfactory to the colored group of adult leaders with whom he has cooperated.

The State Department of Education has given its cooperation through W. A. Robinson, Supervisor of Colored High Schools, who has promoted all three of the conferences. The National Council of the Y. M. C. A. has cooperated through its workers like W. C. Craver, Ralph Bullock, Channing H. Tobias and J. H. McGrew.

Both 1926 conferences had "Vision" as a conference theme. After listening to the excellent and inspired speakers, including Dr. J. A. Cotton, of Henderson, Dr. McDowell and C. B. Curley, of Durham, and others, the boys discussed their own problems intelligently and frankly and drew up resolutions. The resolutions at Raleigh listed the boys' problems under the following heads:

1. Student Life.
2. Choice of Life's Work.
3. Bad Habits (profanity, drinking, etc.)

(Continued on page 4)