

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

(From The General Assembly Daily News.)

Rev. William Oxley Thompson, D. D., LL. D., was elected Moderator of the 138th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America which convened in Baltimore, Thursday afternoon, May 27.

The total ballots cast were 917. Dr. Thompson received 535 votes, while 382 votes were cast for Rev. Lapsley A. McAfee, D. D., LL. D.

The nominating speech for Dr. Thompson was made by Rev. Roy E. Vale, D. D., LL. D., of Oak Park, Ill. Dr. Vale spoke of Dr. Thompson as representing the Church as a whole. He said that he was born in a home of poverty, worked his way through college and seminary, as a farm hand, as a janitor in college halls and otherwise.

Dr. Thompson had been a home missionary for ten years. For more than 25 years he had been President of Ohio State University, which he had built up from a college in the cornfields to the sixth largest institution of higher learning in America. He had transmitted his personality through students into every state and territory. For six years he had been President of the Ohio Sunday-school Association for eight years had been President of the International Sunday-school Association. He had been a remarkable pastor, not only in particular churches, but also over the young people in the university, who had totaled over 12,000 the past year. He was not only a great Presbyterian preacher, but he was also a great patriot. He would fight for the United States Constitution and for the Prohibition Law. There would be no dodging and no evasion. He was loyal to the faith. William Jennings Bryan had wanted Dr. Thompson to be a candidate for Moderator last year because Mr. Bryan knew that the Christian gospel would be safe in his hands.

Dr. Clarence Edward Macartney, of Philadelphia, former Moderator, nominated Dr. McAfee as a candidate for a just and sacred cause, the preservation of the government and purity of the Presbyterian Church. Dr. Macartney said that grave issues confronted the whole Protestant communion. There were differences which put the whole Church as a witnessing Church in jeopardy. Dr. McAfee stood four-square for the historic standards and blood-bought doctrines of the Presbyterian Church. Dr. McAfee did not represent any coalition of men whose views were divergent and irreconcilable. Dr. McAfee did not ask for votes on any basis of compromise. He was a man of toleration. He had not brought any buoy knife of his own, nor had he asked for the loan of Dr. Macartney's. His father founded Park College, and his son was a missionary in China.

The nomination of Dr. McAfee was seconded by Dr. George F. Sevier of Denver, Col., who sounded a personal note based on his warm and long friendship.

The seconding speech for Dr. Thompson was made by Elder Edward D. Duffield, of South Orange, N. J., President of the Prudential Life Insurance Company. Mr. Duffield supported Dr. Thompson as a national candidate and as one who would set the lives of the young people aflame. This was not a question of theology. There would be no watering of the historic standard. Dr. Thompson was a man of efficiency. Efficiency meant it needed a man of Dr. Thompson's experience and force

to be at the head of an organization as great as the Presbyterian Church. Dr. Thompson as Moderator would aid in the solution for which the world was praying. Under such an administrator the large business of the Church would progress. He would correct criticism. As a business man, said Mr. Duffield, he urged the election of Dr. Thompson as tried and proven for efficiency of administration. Dr. Thompson would support absolutely both the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church and the Constitution of the United States.

After the vote was announced, Dr. Thompson was escorted to the platform by Dr. Vale and Mr. Duffield.

The retiring Moderator, Dr. Charles R. Erdman, said that a year previously a reporter, describing the escorting of Dr. Erdman to the platform, had said: "Then the grizzled veteran was led to the platform." He welcomed Dr. Thompson as "a younger and a stronger and a better man."

Dr. Erdman said to Moderator Thompson that while he "deeply regretted the necessity of resigning this office," there was no man he would rather transfer it to than Dr. Thompson. He said that Dr. Thompson had been striving through the year to promote the purity, unity, peace and progress of the Church. He knew that the Moderatorship was safe in the hands of a United Presbyterian "who had been adopted by us." He knew also that the Church was safe in the hands of a man who had a sense of humor and who was absolutely loyal to the standards of the Church. In conclusion, Dr. Erdman said to Dr. Thompson: "Your election is a sign of progress, because you have been elected to succeed me."

In accepting the gavel from Dr. Erdman, Moderator Thompson congratulated Dr. Erdman and the Church on the splendid leadership of the past year. He said that it would be many a long year before any Moderator would parallel the splendid spirit and achievements of Moderator Erdman.

Moderator Thompson said that more than 40 years ago as a Presbyterian preacher he took the vows to support the purity and peace of the Church. He had never violated his vows, and before God he never would. He said: "I am an unquestioned Presbyterian, whatever that may be." He said that he had been true to the standards, and he now took new testimony and a solemn covenant to stand true to the historic Presbyterianism represented by this Assembly.

Moderator Thompson pledged the same kind of obedience to the Constitution of the United States as to the Church of Christ. As he took office his first official utterance was to proclaim to the world sympathy with and support of the Eighteenth Amendment and the Volstead Act for its enforcement.

At this the Commissioners sprang to their feet and with much cheering and waving of handkerchiefs gave Moderator Thompson an ovation.

Dr. George W. Fender, of Texas, Moderator of the Permanent Judicial Commission, reported that the Commission had been in session since Wednesday, May 26, at 10 A. M., with a full attendance.

National Board Helps to Finance 242 Buildings

Rev. David G. Wylie, D. D., of the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., gives the following

report in regard to building operations of the Board:

During the past year the Board of National Missions has assisted in financing the building of 242 churches, manses, chapels and community houses in the United States, Alaska, Cuba and Porto Rico, by grants, loans without interest, and loans with interest. Grants were made for the building of 70 churches and manses, aggregating \$127,946; grants were made for the building of 91 churches aggregating \$169,900; and loans with interest to 48 churches aggregating \$303,500, a total of \$712,971.

The Board is aided in its work by the revolving loan funds, which are loaned to churches usually for 10 years, sometimes without interest and sometimes with interest, and when returned are again loaned out to other churches.

In addition to this, Dr. Wylie said, buildings have been erected for carrying forward work among colored people, and for the school and hospital work conducted by the Division of Schools and Hospitals of the National Board. In addition to this, the Department of Building Fund Campaigns has secured between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 for the erection of new church edifices.

Including the work done the past year, the Presbyterian Church, through its established agencies, has aided in the past 80 years in assisting to finance between 12,000 and 13,000 church edifices, chapels and manses.

The headquarters of the Presbyterian Board of National Missions are at 156 Fifth, New York, N. Y.

Increase for Year in Membership and Contributions.

Rev. C. H. Weber, statistician of the General Council, from preliminary reports from 91 per cent. of the churches, gives the following estimated figures for the year 1925-1926.

Membership increased from 1,873,859 to 1,910,000.

Additions on confession—last year, 107,691; this year, 110,000.

Sunday school enrollment, about the same as last year.

Contributions to all purposes, including self-support and missionary and benevolent objects: increase from \$57,382,988 last year to \$61,000,000 this year—between three and four million dollars.

Contributions toward congregational expenses, increase from forty-one million dollars last year to forty-four millions this year.

Benevolent and missionary contributions, including miscellaneous, an increase of three and a quarter million dollars over last year.

New Treasurer For Board of National Missions.

At this General Assembly the Board of National Missions introduces its new Treasurer, Rev. E. Graham Wilson. Mr. Wilson came to the Board in February from the West Side Y. M. C. A. New York City, where he had been since his graduation from Hartford Theological Seminary in 1910, first as Director of Religious Work and then as Executive Secretary.

He brings to the office of Treasurer an experienced leadership not only in dealing with men, but also in financing the work of a large organization both in connection with the West Side Branch and the International Committee in the nation-wide campaigns. For his services during the war, Lafayette his alma mater, conferred the degree of M. A. upon him. Mr. Wilson is a member of the Presbytery of Westchester, New York.

THE WHY OF STATE PROGRESS

But after all neither natural advantages nor wise leadership accounts for North Carolina's growth. The credit must go largely to the "get-together spirit of a people 99 per cent native born. The average Tar Heel owns his little farm, "lives at home and boards at the same place." North Carolina's development is the triumph of a vigorous middle class. The State never had the aristocratic traditions of either Virginia or South Carolina. To be sure, it had its planter class, the members of which cherished their escutcheons and family trees as the Virginia and South Carolina grandees cherished theirs; but this favored company never established itself so firmly in a holy of holies as its blood brethren to the north and south. It was closer to the ground, and when the big smash came the aura which had surrounded it was dissipated more quickly.

The more complete dominance of an upper class in Virginia had its advantage. It was favorable to leisure for a privileged few, and that leisure in turn was favorable to the growth of culture. No unbiased observer of the life of these two neighbors, no student of their history, can fail to find that North Carolina has been behind Virginia in polish, in the amenities of intercourse, and in devotion to things literary and artistic.

The lesser gap between high and low in North Carolina in ante-bellum days has been reflected in a greater readiness to welcome new ideas, a lack of reverence for old allegiances and preconceptions. True, the dead hand of the past seemed to have as firm a grip here as elsewhere in the first quarter of a century after Appomattox, but more recent events have proved that this was not so.

While South Carolina and Georgia have been worshipping at the altars of such gods as Bleas and Tom Watson, North Carolina has been heeding the advice of Aycock, McIver, Alderman, and others with a passion for real democracy and democratic education.—Robert W. Winston in These United States.

SESQU'S SPECTACULAR OPENING

Philadelphia, Pa., May 26.—Everywhere on the Exposition grounds you will see Negroes at work, from laborers to contractors. The scene presents a huge beehive with every one executing all his man-power to get the grounds and buildings in shape for the grand opening on June 1st. All races, creeds and colors are employed in the preparation to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of independence.

Conventions Coming

The Afro-American League of America which will convene here August 10th-18th inclusive is to be one of the greatest meetings of the race. Questions of interest will be discussed by prominent men and women of the country. It is planned to entertain the Association of Negro Musicians from July 27th-29th inclusive and the National Medical Association from August 23rd-August 27th inclusive. The National Negro Press Association will bring here men and women representing at least one hundred and ten Negro newspapers. All of the latest art in newsprint will be displayed. Authors and writers of note will visit the exposition while the works of our historical writers will be seen among the educational exhibit. The State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs will be held July 12th-19th inclusive.

Negroes In All Choral Features

Besides having their own Folk Songs, choruses and Hiawatha the race will appear with other groups in all the festival choruses. Franklin W. Hoxter, chairman, of the Committee on Music, has been assured of the hearty cooperation of Sesqui officials to this end.

Rooms For All

The housing commission under the direction of John Tillman has secured ample accommodations for visitors. Special care is being exercised to select good homes where protection and comfort are first considered.

A RECORD WORTH WHILE

(From The Detroit Independent)

The annual report of the N. A. A. C. P. just issued by the New York office is one that should inspire new hope and courage in every Negro heart. The Association is achieving real tangible results, and in the face of heavy odds and, at times, much unjust criticism, it is slowly but surely pushing forward in its fight for the advancement and protection of our group. Through the mastery skill of its officials and legal representatives, backed by the steadily increasing support of the masses of our people, the N. A. A. C. P. is daily hammering and it will go on until the last barrier is battered down.

The direct work and activity of the Association for 1925, as stated in the report, dealt with the following questions: Segregation, Legal Defense, Lynching, Disfranchisement, Discrimination, Release of former members of the 24th Infantry, Miscellaneous Cases, the Annual Conference, Organization Finances, Branch Organization, Publicity, Cultural and artistic development of the Negro.

The Association has among its field representatives some of the most gifted and scholarly leaders of the race, also noted white representatives; including R. W. Bagnall, Wm. Pickens, Walter White, J. W. Johnson, H. J. Seligman, Mary W. Ovington, and others. These representatives addressed a total of 488 meetings during the year, visited 31 States, and covered a total mileage of 79,403 miles. Twenty new branches were organized and eight revived. Surely this is a splendid record of achievement.

The cynical query, "What has the N. A. A. C. P. done?" is being changed into the proud acclamation: "What the N. A. A. C. P. has done!" Since the Association has achieved so much during the past year with limited funds and membership of not more than 100,000 persons, its friends rejoice and its opponents tremble to think how much more it will achieve when its financial strength increases and its membership is multiplied into a million.

Three cheers for the N. A. A. C. P. and the cause it champions! The Independent hopes the time may soon come when the Association will reach the million mark in money and in membership.

FIGHT PROVINCIAL SAVAGERY.

(From The Kansas City Call, Kansas City, Mo.)

Residential segregation has come to Kansas City. Actual segregation has long been a condition here, but at last there is a case in the courts in which the power of the State is sought in support of private contract restricting property against Negro ownership and occupation. Now, what is Kansas City going to do about it?

It is characteristic of our group that we learn late, very late. We see foresight in others,

but for ourselves we trust to luck. Dr. Sweet, who is being tried because he defended his Detroit home against a mob, at the time was not not a member of the organization which has enlisted Clarence Darrow in his defense, and which has raised money everywhere to see that the case is fought to the last ditch. And you whose home is now being jeopardized by this case in the Circuit Court, are not a member either! Only six hundred members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Kansas City, is proof that the forty thousand of us here are sooner or later going to be asking the Association to safeguard rights though we are too stingy and too foolish to help ourselves. We Negroes in Kansas City have little to boast of so long as we neglect the one proved agent of our uplift.

There will come a day when we of Kansas City will have to give our money, hundreds of dollars of it at a time, for the defense of our homes. Too bad we do not have foresight now and give a dollar for the growth of the Association so that in time its publicity will educate the American people out of their provincial savagery.

ARKADELPHIA ACADEMY.

Although several weeks have elapsed since the closing exercises of Arkadelphia Academy, yet we do not think it is too late to make mention of them and the good work the school has done.

The exercises were splendid. After listening to the well prepared and well delivered orations by members of the eighth grade we had the high privilege of addressing the members of said grade. Each speaker reflected credit on the training which was received from the late Dr. Feimster, together with the training received from his co-teachers, who continued the work after his death, with Mrs. Feimster as the head.

To listen to the speakers would make any one conclude that a man's work lives after him. Dr. W. D. Feaster has gone to his reward, but his work speaks in the life and character of the young people who came in touch with him while he lived.

The school in this part of the moral vineyard stands as a monument of the good work which has been done in the last twenty years by Dr. Feaster. May the good work be continued; and the beacon light which is shining, shine brighter in future years. This can be done by the school having at its head another man of vision and ability to carry it on to higher heights of service, and we do not doubt that such a man can be found; for God has a Joshua in reserve always to carry on his good work begun. It is His will that the march to Canaan be completed. The Jordan must be crossed, the walls of Jericho must fall, the city must be taken, and the promised land must be possessed.

Hence, He will give this man a vision of His glory and power and purity and will. Also, He will give him seraphic zeal, touch his lips with the live coal, as it were, and fit him for the great work which is awaiting him.

The patrons and friends of the school are hoping that the good work will be continued. This was manifested by the large attendance at the school closing, and the interest they expressed. The school facilities are good. The President's cottage was built just before the death of Dr. Feaster, with modern conveniences, also there is a dormitory for boys, and one for girls.

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