

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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## THE HAMPTON MINISTERS' CONFERENCE.

By Rev. L. B. West, D. D.

The Rev. O. E. Sanders and I motored from Charlotte to Hampton, Va., to attend the 13th annual meeting of the Ministers' Conference at Hampton Institute. We had a very pleasant trip. We spent Sunday night, June 20, in Durham, where we were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Baker. We left Durham at 8 o'clock Monday morning, going by the way of Richmond, and at 7 o'clock in the evening our Ford coupe was pulling into Hampton. We were duly registered and assigned our rooms, and after refreshing ourselves were ready for the opening session at 8 o'clock.

The Conference was in session June 21 to 25. The Conference affords an opportunity to the ministers of all denominations to meet for a few days of study and discussion of the great common problems which they are facing in their work. The authorities at Hampton seek to put their hands on the best men they can find in the country and bring them to Hampton as lecturers and leaders in the discussion of these problems. The Conference has grown in influence and in numbers. The attendance has grown from 23 at the first Conference to 326 at the 13th session. Representatives have come from over 20 States, as well as from foreign countries.

The Conference is headed by a President, several Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, an Executive Secretary, and an Executive Board. The Rev. M. E. Davis of Portsmouth, Va., is the President; the Rev. J. W. Lemon of Ark., Va., is the Recording Secretary, and the Rev. Lawrence Fenninger, Chaplain of Hampton Institute, is the Executive Secretary and directing genius of the conference. His abounding energy, and wise planning, and steady pulling make things go.

The Conference this year was the "best yet." The attendance was large. As was to be expected Virginia was in the lead, with North Carolina running a good second. The number by States is as follows: Virginia, 179; North Carolina, 105; Maryland, 18; New Jersey, 9; New York, 4; Pennsylvania, 4; Washington, D. C., 3; Delaware, 1; Georgia, 1; South Carolina, 1; Mass., 1; Ala., 2; Michigan, 1; British Guiana, 1.

The number by denominations follows: Baptists, 137; A. M. E., 33; Presbyterians, 12; A. M. E. Z., 30; Congregationalists, 2; Christian Church, 17; Northern M. E., 25; C. M. E., 4; Protestant Episcopal, 12; Reformed Zion Apostolic, 2; Holiness, 2; Lutheran, 1.

The Conference was divided into 3 parts: devotional, study, and popular meetings. Each session was begun and closed with a season of prayer. The daily sessions were held in the beautiful Memorial church, and the night meetings were held in Ogden Hall.

The opening sermon was preached by the Rev. Arthur L. James, D. D., pastor of the First Baptist church, Roanoke, Va. His text was: "And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God command this stone that it be made bread. And Jesus answered him saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone but by every word of God." Luke 4:3-4. Subject, "The Material Plus the Spiritual." Dr. James said that the devil made the mistake of thinking that the only needs of man were physical and material. He declared it is the mistake that many are making today. He clearly showed the value of the spiritual over the material. He was certain that those who neglected the spiritual for the material would suffer in the long run, because the material passes away but the spiritual abides forever.

He said that material possessions did not bring lasting happiness. True happiness only comes when the heart of man is reconciled to God.

**Lectures.**  
The lecturers were men of note. Their names follow:

Rev. William Adams Brown D. D., Professor of Systematic Theology in Union Theological Seminary, New York, N. Y.

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

Rev. Harry Lathrop Reed, D. D., President of Auburn Theological Seminary, Auburn, N. Y.

Rev. Ralph W. Sockman, D. D., Pastor of Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, New York, N. Y.

Rev. Charles A. Tindley, D. D., Pastor of East Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

Rev. Chas. H. Wesley, D. D., Professor of History in Howard University, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Brown delivered four lectures on prayer: 1. Why We Need to Learn to Pray. 2. To Whom We pray. 3. For What We Should Pray. 4. How to Pray. He spoke in a scholarly, yet Christlike manner, giving the Conference the benefit of his rich, full life of Christian experience which has been lived in the atmosphere of prayer. His messages were built up around the central thought that prayer was the heart of our religion.

Dr. Brown spoke at one of the popular meetings. He told interestingly of the work of the Conference on Church Unity which was held at Stockholm, Sweden, last year.

Dr. Howard magnified the Country Church. His lectures dealt with: 1. The Task of the Rural Church. 2 and 3. What Rural Churches Have Accomplished. 4. The Future of the Rural Church. Dr. Howard has had considerable experience in Rural Church Work. He, therefore, brought to the Conference facts and figures showing what the rural churches were accomplishing. He also gave light on some of the problems that confront the rural church and was very optimistic in his outlook for the future of the rural church under trained leadership.

Dr. Reed lectured on the general theme—The Life Work of Paul. 1. The Boy: at home, at school, at college. 2. The Young Man: an ardent pioneer evangelist. 3. The Mature Man: a wise, skillful organizer. 4. The Elderly Man: a prisoner.

Dr. Reed spoke with an ease, a grasp of facts, and a warmth of heart that made the Apostle Paul live with us for those four days. One's love for and admiration of Paul were heightened beyond measure as Dr. Reed marshaled fact after fact concerning the life and character of this bond-slave of Christ, who was the greatest exponent of Christianity the world has seen save the Christ.

Dr. Sockman delivered two lectures. 1. Sermons of Personal Culture. 2. Sermons on Social Questions. In these lectures Dr. Sockman gave outlines of sermons he had preached in his own pulpit. In a very unique way he showed how the gospel of Christ can be applied to the personal life as well as the great social questions of the day. The Conference was sorry that Dr. Sockman could not give all of his lectures on account of the fact that he had to hurry back to New York to attend the funeral of one of his members.

Dr. Wesley's lectures were: 1. Neglected History. 2. The Passing of African Tradition. 3. Negro American Literature. 4. The Negro Church in America. These lectures were very instructive and edifying and appealed to the personal pride of

each member of the Conference. Dr. Wesley plainly showed that the Negro has a past that he need not be ashamed of, a present that he should glory in, and a future promised that will place him side by side with all men in the vanguard of civilization.

The outstanding feature of the Conference was the presence of Dr. Charles A. Tindley. Rev. Fenninger told of having visited his church in Philadelphia, and the joy that came to him as he worshipped there. He invited Dr. Tindley with fear and trembling and was glad that he accepted.

Dr. Tindley spoke in Ogden Hall at one of the popular meetings. His address was a master piece. His great faith in God and in God's Word, his certainty that man is in need of a Saviour, and must be born again; his convincing argument that one who is born again walks in newness of life; his portrayal of social injustice and world-wide restlessness; his eloquent plea for a fair chance for the Negro race; his apt illustrations and illimitable wit and profound philosophy, were some of the points in an address that will linger long in the hearts of those whose good fortune it was to hear Dr. Tindley. During the Conference he led in singing some of his songs by request. As we listened to him in prayer we felt like asking "Lord, teach us how to pray." It was a benediction to have heard him.

Another big event in the Conference was the lecture and musical demonstration by Prof. Nathaniel Dett, director of music at Hampton Institute. Dr. Dett gave valuable instruction in church music.

**Entertainment.**  
The entertainment was first class. Several of the spacious dormitories were placed at the disposal of the members of the Conference. Every conceivable courtesy was extended by the authorities of Hampton to add to the comfort of each member. Appetizing meals were served in the dining room at nominal cost.

An elaborate reception for members of the Conference and the summer school teachers was given in the gymnasium, the inclement weather forbidding that it be held on the lawn in front of Virginia Hall as planned. The Executive Board enjoyed the annual dinner.

**The Exhibit**  
A stimulating exhibit was shown in Clarke Y. M. C. A. Hall. Books, pamphlets, papers, posters, etc., touching every phase of church and social life were nicely arranged for the information and help of members of the Conference. The Conference was photographed.

**Business.**  
The Executive Board held its regular meetings. The Conference had its business sessions at which time committees were appointed and reports made. Several new names were added to the Executive Board. It was decided to make all former lecturers honorary vice-presidents of the Conference. The Conference voted that the office of President shall be limited to two years.

Resolutions touching the death of departed members were read. Resolutions expressing the thanks of the Conference to Hampton Institute were adopted.

It was decided to meet June 20 to 24, 1927.

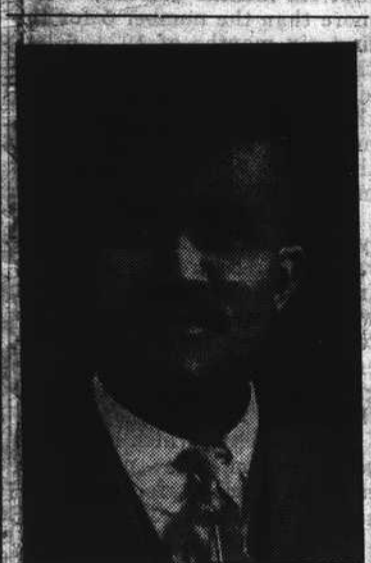
We spent Friday night in Richmond with Rev. and Mrs. A. A. Hector, and after an all-day trip reached Charlotte on Saturday night, full of delight over a successful trip and the profit we had gotten from the Conference. We are booked for the 1927 Conference.

God will not call you to account for the four or five talents you have not received, but He will ask a strict account for that one which he has entrusted to you.—Selected.

## NEGROES SHOULD BE INSURED BY NEGRO COMPANIES

The North Carolina Negro Insurance Association, affiliated with the National Negro Insurance Association, and represented in the State by the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company; National Benefit Life Insurance Company; Winston Mutual Life Insurance Company and the Bankers' Fire Insurance Company, conducted during the months of February, March and April, an Essay Contest, open to pupils in Negro high schools of the State.

The object of the Association is to direct the attention and



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thought of our youth to questions of general interest to our group. It is planned by the Association to continue each year conducting these contests.

At this time the subject discussed was "Why Insurance on Negro Lives Should Be Written in Negro Companies."

Much interest has been manifested throughout the State, and approximately one hundred contestants submitted essays. Mr. W. Gomez, Secretary-Manager of Bankers' Fire Insurance Company and Chairman of the Committee or judges, expressed himself favorably upon the composition, style, clearly expressed research and statistics shown by the youthful writers.

It was noticeable that many thoughts were brought out that otherwise would never have come to the mind of the veteran insurance salesman or broker. It is indeed interesting to note what these boys and girls themselves have said and to get their trend of thought, and following will be found quotations from some of these papers:

"The only relation existing between other companies and their insured Negro patron is the 'Eloquent Clink' of the dollar—their unexpressed (but active) motto is 'go get it.' But between the Negro agent and his patron there is a sort of brotherhood and a feeling of a common fellowship seen and felt as often as he makes his collecting rounds or visits the sick—never the feeling of I am 'better than you' appearing on the surface, and it cannot help, so far as that matter is concerned, leaving a deep impression of social enjoyment as well as safe and business intercourse."

2. "Negro companies are strong; and the patronage of white companies means the loss of funds to the race for investment purposes; equality and part ownership of Negro companies affording employment for the group."

3. "As Negroes we must open our eyes and look around us and see what we are doing for the progress of the race. Parents are making great sacrifices to educate their boys and girls, but what are they doing to make employment for them when they shall have finished? This is the problem we must solve for ourselves and not depend on other races. They have no time to interest themselves in our needs."

4. "The power to succeed in any undertaking lies within the reach of the Negro, but he must search within himself where the secret lies until he finds it."

5. "There are numbers of other companies who have agents of their race and while they get the patronage of their race and our race, too, is there a home in the South of the other race that will permit a colored agent to come to it to write or collect business even though they may be better qualified?"

6. "There is no need to boast of our freedom as long as we enslave ourselves and our race enterprises, especially our life insurance companies, by holding our full patronage from them."

One young man pleads for encouragement to facilitate growth and thus mark our race progress. One young lady writes:

7. "All of our insurance was being collected by white agents and one day I told my mother that I did not think it was quite fair to me nor to the other children as there would never be an opportunity for me to marry the man who was collecting or any of his sons, and that our money should be going to help support some member of our own race into whose family some day I might happily go."

8. "The much discussed equality in rates and class of contracts offered to all Negroes by Negro companies; respect for Negro womanhood afforded by Negro agents, as there are skilled Negroes in executive positions in our companies."

9. "I had a hard time with my dad trying to convince him that we should patronize our race insurance companies. So one day the superintendent came around with the agent to go over the business in our vicinity and I asked him what would be the prospect of my getting a contract with his company, when my dad spoke up and said, 'Why, my boy is a fine boy and writes much better than on my present card.' Of course the superintendent explained that he had nothing to do with giving the agents contracts; that was done at the Home Office and that they had not made it a policy to use any colored agents. The next week our family made applications to a race company and we are now carrying business with several of them."

"And since we boys and girls know that it means a better future for us to help build our own companies, we should be the ones to fight these battles in our own homes when it is necessary and love our mothers and fathers see that they will be helping us by doing business with companies of our own race."

Such thoughts as outlined coming from our boys and girls not yet 20 years of age bespeak a new day and we should be proud.

There are three prizes to be awarded and the essays have been judged as follows:

First Prize—\$15.00. Awarded to Miss Lula Davis, Lincoln Academy, Kings Mountain, N. C.

Second Prize—\$10.00. Awarded Miss Clementine Stroud, Kittrell College, Kittrell, N. C.

Third Prize—\$5.00. Awarded to Wm. H. Quick, Jr., City High School, Sanford, N. C.

Mr. A. E. Spears, President of the Association, says: "It is gratifying to note the interest shown by the contributing schools, and I earnestly request that more principals will urge their students to take part next year."

The other officers of the North Carolina Negro Insurance Association are R. W. Brown, Vice-President; J. W. Taylor, Secretary; A. L. Goodloe, Treasurer; and associated with these officers are J. A. Blume, Presi-

dent of the Winston Mutual Life Insurance Company, and J. W. Parker who constitute the executive committee.

The association is holding its annual meeting in Winston Thursday and Friday of this week. An outstanding feature will be an address Thursday night by Hon. Benj. J. Davis, National Republican Committeeman, of Atlanta, Ga.

## FOURTEEN PASTORS

A few days ago fourteen pastors representing (supposedly) some of the most soundly evangelical churches of a certain great city were together. They were asked how many of them (or their churches) were conducting open air services during the summer, and only two hands went up! And yet all were professed followers of the great open air Preacher of Galilee—Two following His example—twelve apparently indifferent! Most of them preach to a mere handful or people on the inside, while on the outside the surging throngs pass ceaselessly by, apparently unmindful of any obligation to God or of their own spiritual welfare. And who cares very much!

Would Jesus care! Would He wait complacently inside some little church and expect people to come in? If God had waited until the world asked for Christ, would he not be waiting still? If Jesus had waited until the multitude came to Him, would they ever have come? He went to them!

The open air season is not yet over. Many weeks remain. What an opportunity for every evangelical church in America to fill these remaining weeks with such campaigns of thoroughly sound open-air evangelism—lifting up Christ as the "Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world"—as would draw thousands upon thousands to receive Him as Saviour and Lord!

The fields are ripe everywhere. The hour is at hand for a mighty movement of the Spirit of God. If God's people—whether pastors or laymen—do not act, the hour of gracious visitation may pass forever, and the multitudes be lost. There are those who are doing their utmost in their respective communities and cities. Are you doing your utmost in your community or city? For soon "the night cometh when no man can work."

Pray for the speedy evangelization of every community in America and for world-wide evangelization! Pray that yourself may be revived; also pray for Church-wide revival!

## URBAN LEAGUE NOTES LABOR PROGRESS.

Department of Industrial Relations Presents Encouraging Facts.

According to an announcement made by the Industrial Relations Department of the National Urban League, T. Arnold Hill, Director, the two sections of the country showing the most satisfactory conditions in industry for Negroes are widely separated—the New York City district and the city of Milwaukee, Wis. The New York district, which includes parts of Jersey City, where prospects are usually bright, has actually witnessed the importation of colored workers from the South for railroads and industrial plants. Wholesale transplantations usually reveal weaknesses in the jobs offered. While the rule has followed in this case, the movement has not been entirely unsatisfactory. Wages offered have been fifty cents per hour with seventy-five cents for overtime.

In Milwaukee two plants are looking for molders and chip-pers. Conditions there are good in all lines and the colored worker is getting a good opportunity.

(Continued on page 3)