

Africo-American Presbyterian

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

VOL. XLIX.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1927.

NO. 11.

STRIKE THE RIGHT KEY

By Rev. A. U. Frierson, D. D.

This old world would be an exceedingly monotonous, humdrum and dull place for habitation were it not literally filled with music. There is nothing we can name or know that so touches a sensitive and responsive chord in the life and heart of sentient and animate beings as music. It indeed has charms "that soothe the savage breast." Every sound we hear can be reduced to music, and is but a response to nature's finger-touch upon some string of her magnificent harpsicord. The low, plaintive sighing of summer's gentle zephyr, and the mad rush and wild bluster of mid-winter's tornado are nature's touch upon here a minor and there a major strain. The faint murmur of the babbling brook and the thunderous roar of the restless sea are but the stretch of her fingers upon an octave. From well-nigh inaudible whisper to dread thunder peal or earthquake she blends sounds into harmonious, rapturous music. Run the whole gamut of nature and but one thing will appear—to wit:—all nature is strung to music. Then, "strike the right key and all life is harmony."

Now what after all seems to our limited and defective sense of hearing indistinguishable polyphonics are harmonics, euphonics. If I were asked to define music without consulting Mr. Webster or any other authority on defining, I would answer, music is the harmonious, synchronous blending of sounds.

The proper blending of sounds produces harmony which depends wholly upon striking the right key. Everything else in music must be subordinated to harmony, since where there is no harmony there can be no music. We have heard a crude critic in the art of music make these observations upon the performance of an amateur and an adept player. When the former sat before the key-board, of his touch the critic said, "There is something wrong. I don't know what it is. That does not sound right." Commenting on the latter he says, "That is right for it sounds right." The single or sole difference between my two characters is this, the former strikes the keys at random and without knowledge or reference to relative sounds; the latter by study of the art has acquired the habit of striking the right key. Thus while one brings out a discordant, confused sound, the other brings out a concordant, resonant sound. To my mind this illustrates the difference between the people in the world. Some go up and some go down. Some succeed, others fail. The ups and successful have found the art and formed the habit of striking the right key.

For two generations the case of our manifold shortcomings as a people or race has stood docketed before the bar of public opinion. In some of these shortcomings, I at least fear we stand fair prospect of having to plead guilty or of summary conviction. But as I can not talk about all of these at this time, I am going to discuss one—our unsettled social status. We stand charged as a people of having fallen below the social standard of all law-abiding and orderly peoples. Whether this be true or not, to cease to be looked upon as a social liability in the forward march of races and peoples, it is up to us to purge ourselves by striking the right key socially.

Our social status has entered more largely into our rating as a people than any other single element, our political and religious status not excepted. Therefore, we need to strike this key with a vigor and firmness that will make it ring out the world

round. We have made decided and commendable progress in this direction, but nothing short of perfecting the art should satisfy us. Let us do this so as to close forever the mouth of ridicule, reproach and vilification.

But we can do this only by the same painstaking and painful process pursued by all others who have built securely socially and otherwise. The pruning knife looks cruel and cold; but it is the most kindly and helpful instrument to a decaying tree. To a man suffering from a deadly malady that sends him to the operating table there is nothing that looks more terrible than the surgeon's knife; yet to the sufferer it is the most merciful and often the sole instrument of life. Drawing nice social lines and exercising a wise discrimination, at times, seem as cold as the grave; and yet it has always proven to be the highest exercise of social aesthetics.

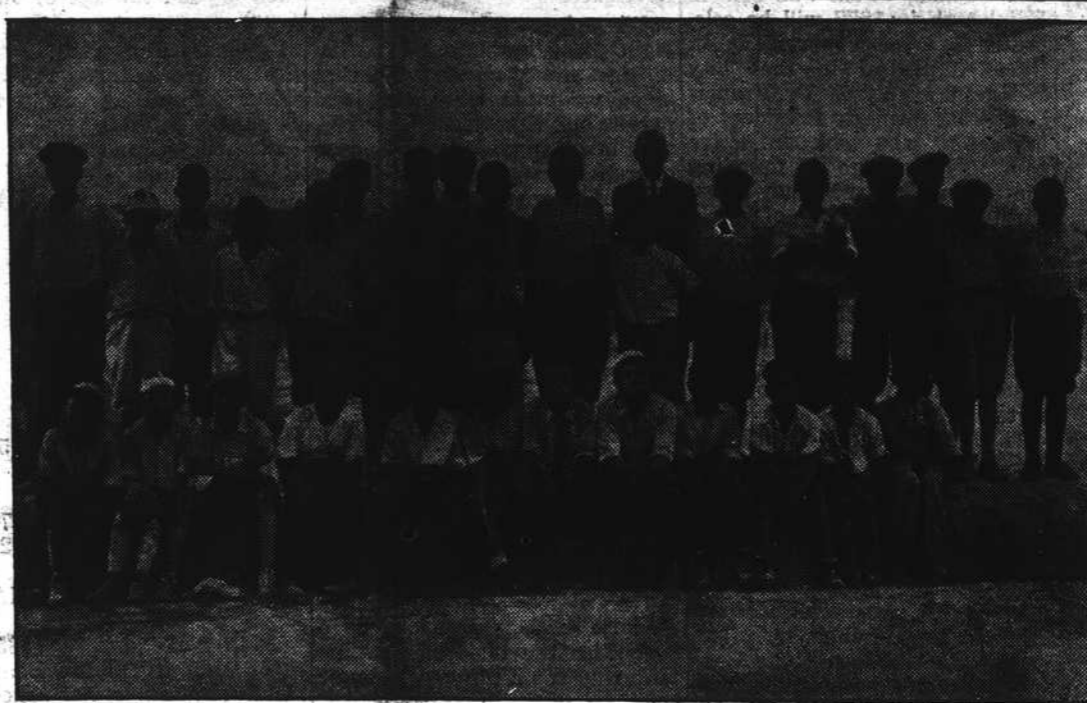
All life is one. When the body functions we call that physical life. When the conscience functions we call that moral life. When the spirit functions we call that spiritual life. Strike the right key physically by obeying nature's laws, we have health—harmony—music. Strike the right key morally and we have as a result ease of conscience, peace of mind—harmony—music. Strike the right key spiritually and we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus—harmony—music. Our past marvelous progress and our present unique position can be improved upon by striking the right key socially.

Our continued advancement will rest with our physical stamina, mental development, moral poise and balance and spiritual susceptibilities and passions in coming days as it has in all the past. Strike the right key. I pause to ask a few pointed questions. As a result of questionable social status are not our boys and girls marrying too young? Are we not fast becoming, or at least threatened with becoming, a race of physical and mental pygmies? Are we not getting and putting upon the public an army of intellectual sycophants by our boys and girls quitting school too soon and passing up too rapidly? A calm, sober survey of our young folks in the rural districts is not reassuring, to say nothing of being utopian. Here is a call to strike the right key. I am for striking the right key.

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE ANNOUNCES FELLOWSHIPS

The National Urban League announces that applications may now be filed for the Urban League Fellowship Awards for a year's study in Social Work at the New York School of Social Work, the Pennsylvania School of Social Work, the Boston School of Social Work, the Graduate School of Social Administration of Chicago University, the University of Pittsburgh, the Carnegie Institute of Technology, or some other social service training center selected by the League. These fellowships are for a minimum of \$70 per month during the school year and free tuition, and are awarded to colored graduates of colleges of recognized standing. Applications may be filed on or before April 15th on blanks which will be furnished by Eugene Kinckle Jones, Executive Secretary, National Urban League, 127 East 23rd Street, New York City. Competitive examinations are held in May to test the applicant's knowledge of current social problems, and the awards are made around June 15th.

PIONEER BOYS CLUB, CALVARY CHURCH, WILSON, N. C.



THE PIONEERS OF THE CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WILSON.

By Arthur Henry George, Guide.

"It is a great thing to teach a boy how to do things and it is a great thing to teach him that he has a personality to mould, a leadership to acquire over himself, and a soul to develop and save. Hats off to the boy. He is the future leader of mankind. His life is big with possibilities. He may make or uncrown kings, change boundary lines between States, write books that will mould character, or invent machines that will revolutionize the world; so I say again, 'Hats off to the boy.'"

The Calvary Presbyterian church is trying to develop her boys through the organization known as the Pioneers. This club is more than four years old. Its certificate of registration with the Associated Presbyterian Boys' Club dates in March 1923. The present membership of the club is over fifty. The average attendance is around thirty. The club endeavors to carry out the four-fold program.

Its physical equipment consists of supplies for basket ball and base ball teams, also a tent, twenty folding cots, cooking utensils and other camping accessories.

The primary object of the club is to lead the boys to Christ. No meeting is held without the claims of Christ being held up. Great emphasis is put on the period of worship. He who is not present for the worship period thereby disqualifies himself for further participation in any activities of the club during that particular meeting. Talks are frequently made to the boys on social hygiene and kindred subjects. The boys are often given an opportunity to make a practical application of their Christianity. During the recent heavy snow a poverty stricken family was supplied with food. A few of the boys also assisted in making paths to the homes of a number of widows who were shut in by the snow drifts. When the survey was made a lot of the work was done by the Pioneers.

The Sunday school library is available for the boys. They are urged to read such books as, "The Boy Problem," by Forbush; "The Unfolding Life," by Lamoreaux; "Touchstones of Success;" "The Junior Classics." At times they are asked to tell something of their readings.

The club has each year a Father-Son banquet. This feature serves to bring about a better understanding between the men and the boys. It is grand to see the men join in with the boys in the "jamboree." At the last banquet about seventy-five men and boys were present.

Another feature of the club is the annual camping trip. Into the woods the boys go and live the care free life for a few days. A well ordered program for the event is mapped out. There is an interesting feature for each day. At night the boys gather around the camp fire where they have singing, camp fire stories and character talks. The days spent in the woods with the boys are days of genuine, unalloyed happiness. Each year the boys look forward with keen delight to camping time.

While the club is under Presbyterian control its membership is not restricted by any means to Presbyterians. The policy of the "Friendly Church on the Corner" is to present a constructive program for the community. Its aim is to be of the greatest help possible to the greatest number possible. Hence any boy who is able to meet the conditions is eligible to membership. Chief, among these conditions is that he must be a member of some Sunday school.

BARBER COLLEGE NEWS

By Joetta Stinson.

Monday evening a health representative came to Barber with a portable moving picture outfit, for a lecture on "The Care of the Teeth." This was not a slide but a "movie" with comic intervals to relieve the probable dullness of a mere "tooth" lecture. King "Felix" who is so well known in Aesop's Fables was a real hero as the "Germ Demon."

On returning from the Conference at Tuskegee the Deans, Misses M. A. Kinniburgh and Ruth Smith, had many interesting things to tell about the school. It is such an immense place with order and system perfectly arranged. The discipline and management are the things which excite the most interest to a stranger, as the long lines march by with the same sort of clock-work as befits an army. Everything is in tune.

In their very interesting talks in chapel Wednesday morning Miss Kinniburgh and Miss Smith both spoke about the cleanliness of everything and the fine school spirit that was very evident. They said the busts and pictures and statues of Booker T. Washington meet one on every hand all over the campus and perpetuate in the minds of the students the spirit of loyalty and Washington's own favorite principle—"Team Work." Besides being an interesting place Tuskegee is full of interesting people. They also had the privilege of seeing and talking with Madame Wicksell of Europe, who is the only woman in the League of Nations,

and is studying educational systems in this country for foreign use. She plans to come to Birmingham. Barber would certainly favor a visit from her.

The student government system becomes more and more efficient as the year grows and with the new officers and new energies at work good results are evident.

A group of generous college students were present at a program and "foot party" at South Highland School Monday evening at 8:00 o'clock. The program was good and the rest of the evening, which marked a new epoch in the history of "feet," was interesting as well as giving lots of fun. Plate suppers and ice cream were sold. The proceeds of this entertainment will go towards swelling the budget for the Board of National Missions.

Speaking of suppers, Barber plans one for the 17th of March, which is St. Patrick's Day. This is to be a box supper. The girls decorate their own boxes and on the final night all boxes are to be auctioned and the contents eaten by the one whose name is hidden inside and the purchaser. The value of the boxes range from \$5.00 to \$10, but of course go to the highest bidder.

The same evening the Physical Education Department, under Miss Knight, will present "The Pied Piper," a play rich in music and rhythm. Tickets are now on sale down town at 25c each. Buy your tickets early. All out-of-town friends who wish to contribute may write to Miss Veronica Redd, Chairman, Second Division of Westminster Guild, Barber College.

SPECIAL TRAIN TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Through Rev. Benjamin M. Gemmill, Ph. D., D. D., Stated Clerk of the Synod of Pennsylvania, a specially conducted General Assembly train will be operated to San Francisco. The special will leave Washington, D. C., 3:10 P. M., May 18, over Pennsylvania lines to Chicago, leaving Chicago for San Francisco May 19, at 10:30 A. M.

Dr. Gemmill urges that all Commissioners from Atlantic and Catawba Synods and others go to the Assembly on this special train. There are special advantages in doing so.

I shall be glad to send circulars of the proposed trip. These circulars will give full information as to Pullman reservations, dining car service, etc. If any one wishes to correspond with Dr. Gemmill his address is Hartsville, Pa.

We hope that everybody from this section will go on the special to San Francisco.

J. L. HOLLOWELL,
Statesville, N. C.
Box 28.

NEGRO EDUCATION STUDIED SCIENTIFICALLY

By National Association of Collegiate Deans and Registrars

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Mch. 10—The National Association of Collegiate Deans and Registrars held its second annual meeting last week at Tuskegee Institute. More than 40 delegates attended representing 36 schools, including both standard colleges and junior colleges. This represents nearly a 50 per cent increase over last year in the number of schools sending delegates to the conference.

According to the officials, it is the aim of this organization to study the problems of the internal administration of the Negro College, particularly as it relates to the work of the dean and registrar. To this end it is understood that many research studies are being made and the various problems involved are being approached from a scientific viewpoint.

The main topic for discussion at the meeting which has just closed was "The Freshman," the three main divisions being: Admission, Orientation, and Scholarship Standards, which were discussed respectively by Registrar S. H. Adams, of Johnson C. Smith University, Dean Ambrose Caliver, of Fisk and Dean B. W. Doyle, of Paine College. Sub-topics of these main divisions were: Reporting Credits, Evaluating Credits, Standardized and Minors, Extra-Curricular Activities. The subjects were ably discussed by Deans Thompson, Clement, Pearson, Florence, Lanier, Sampson, Registrars Cade, Holloway, Gordon and Dr. Phenix.

A special feature of the program was an address by Dr. J. G. Snipe, of Emory University, on "The Interrelations of the Work of the Dean and Registrar." The entire Saturday morning session was taken up with this address and discussions which followed.

An interesting innovation which proved to be quite stimulating and helpful was the introduction of the question box. Registrar Wilkinson, of Howard University, was appointed chairman to collect and present questions which any one desired to have answered.

Next year's program will have as its central topic—Negro College Curricula. Professor Caliver was made chairman of the committee to receive suggestions and to study and devise a plan of procedure in approaching this vital subject. It is understood that this curricula study will attempt, first, to ascertain the social, economic and educational background of those for whom the curricula is to be evolved; second, to briefly set forth certain desirable goals of those for whom the school exists; third, to correlate the aims and objectives of the curricula with the goals and background of the students; fourth, to state certain fundamental principles which should govern such a curricula study; and fifth, to collect a study all the available data on modern practices in curricula making.

It was specifically pointed out that the findings of this committee would in no wise bind or obligate any school in the Association to adopt any suggestive curricula that might grow out of the study. This is a purely professional organization, it was said, and not legislative.

The officers will remain the same as they were last year except that Professor Caliver was elected Second Vice-President. Dean T. E. McKinney of A. & T. College, Greensboro, N. C., is President and Dean B. W. Doyle of Paine College, Augusta, Ga.,

(Continued on page 4)