

Africo-American Presbyterian

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."—John viii, 35.

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DECLARATIONS THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL TUSKEGEE NEGRO CONFERENCE

The annual Tuskegee Negro Conference in its thirty-seventh annual session extends greetings to those who work and sympathize with us in the common cause of the improvement of rural life.

In our last conference, farmers were much depressed because of conditions in the cotton market. This year for a crop five million bales less than last year, the farmers are getting more money. In addition to this improvement in the condition of cotton, more food and feed stuffs have been produced. In a word, general prosperity has attended the cotton belt farmers this year. These conditions have been brought about largely by diversification of crops, live stock farming, and soil building. For years this conference has urged such a program upon our farmers.

In our last meeting, the conference emphasized dairying as one of the roads to safe farming. As a result it has been noted that great progress has been made in this direction. In the Black Belt of Alabama, creamery reports show that three times as much milk is being produced and sold as in former years. Reports from other sections would indicate that this is true in other States, especially Mississippi. We learn from a recent letter from Mr. L. J. Folse, General Manager of the Mississippi Development Association, that 501 Negro farm owners of the 1200 patrons of the Borden milk plant at Starkville, drew for month of May, 1927, about \$14,000 for milk and cream. Their production alone is now \$15,000 per month or an average of \$3,600 per year for each of the Negro farm owners. They are growing as much cotton as ever. Dairying offers a way out to those farmers living in the boll weevil infested territory.

Another indication of our prosperity is the large increase this year in the number of fairs, community, county and state, which are being held by Negro farmers in every section of the South. We are also pleased to note the growing number of fairs conducted by white people which are, every year, giving a larger space to the exhibits of Negro farmers. This is especially true of the Southeastern Fair at Atlanta and the Alabama State Fair at Montgomery.

We note with pleasure that after a lapse of several years Tuskegee Institute has revived the custom, which it initiated, of giving Certificates of Merit and this year in co-operation with the United States Agricultural Extension Service, is awarding this honor to several farmers at this conference. The giving of these Certificates of Merit is a worthy recognition of the skill and intelligence which Negro farmers are more and more putting into their work and of their contributing to the dignity of a profession.

The continued development of local farmers' conferences is another source of great satisfaction to this conference. Through these agencies the message of this larger conference reaches a larger number of farmers than would otherwise be possible. The Tuskegee Conference urges upon the local conferences to develop strong committees on co-operation, and committees on co-operative buying and selling for their communities. We further recommend to the farmers reached by this conference, the use of the "curb market" for the disposal of their surplus

and perishable products; such as green vegetables, fresh and canned fruits, poultry and dairy products.

Through the Farm Bureau, Negro farmers are marketing cotton, vegetables, fruits, poultry and live stock in many of the Southern States. The conference records itself as appreciating the activities of the Farm Bureau in this direction, and urges Negro farmers everywhere to join with the Farm Bureau in these co-operative efforts. At the same time we suggest that the general cause of co-operative marketing in the South and the idea of racial co-operation will be greatly advanced if the Farm Bureau will grant full membership privileges to Negro farmers. Such a step would be a means of greatly increasing their interest and support of this movement which is so vital in a program of farm marketing.

Improvement in race relations in the Southland continues. We are heartened by the efforts from time to time to remedy conditions, which in the past have been intolerable. We are pleased to note instances which indicate a tendency to more fairness in the courts and a large increase in the provisions for more and better schools. In this connection, this conference wishes to reaffirm its opposition to discrimination practiced against Negroes by railroads and other common carriers, especially the bus lines which are springing up in every part of the South. We acknowledge with sincere appreciation the efforts which are being made to improve race relations. May the voice of the better South be heard and heeded. May there be no halt in the program for justice, peace, harmony and good will so necessary to our national progress.

Again we urge the desirability of making the country home more comfortable and attractive. Many homes are installing electric lights and power, and running water. And also increased prosperity should result in many owners of farms replacing their dilapidated farm houses with more modern and up-to-date buildings. This will go far toward making conditions more livable and will enable the country boy and girl, as well as their parents, to get more satisfaction out of country life.

From its first session through its thirty-sixth session, this conference has emphasized the owning of land. Conditions for buying land were never more favorable during any of these years than now. As farmers let us adopt a slogan for the year, "Buy Land."

In the Southern States generally, there is an unprecedented increase in the enrollment and attendance of school children. Many adults are also taking advantage of educational opportunities. Encouraging as is this report, we regret to note that too large a number are not taking advantage of their educational opportunities. As farmers, let us adopt "Go to School" as another slogan for the year.

In this connection we note that the number of Rosenwald schools has passed the four thousand mark. We appreciate the sacrifices colored people have made in raising over three and a half million dollars to aid in the construction of these schools. We also appreciate the contribution of more than eight hundred thousand dollars by white

friends to enable the colored people to meet the conditions of Mr. Rosenwald's gifts. We congratulate these communities which have availed themselves of the generosity of Mr. Rosenwald, and the conference hereby expresses its gratitude to this philanthropist for his great contribution to rural advancement.

For the first time, the annual Tuskegee Negro Conference and the Southern Negro Boys and Girls' Four-H Club Camp have met together. They have been mutually inspiring. The club represents a far-reaching movement of the greatest promise. We urge that these clubs be organized widely as a means of encouraging and helping the boy and girl in the country districts.

We would not forget at this time the farmers who have suffered so heavily in the great Mississippi flood disaster. We hope with them, that despite the loss of life and property, this disaster may bring something of blessing to the affected area. Certainly the country is aroused as never before to use every means possible to prevent its recurrence. The rapid and satisfactory rehabilitation of plantations and farms will depend largely upon the attitude of landlords toward tenants, and tenants toward landlords. Here may we counsel mutual patience, forbearance and consideration.

For two successive conferences we have missed, due to ill health, the presence and direct counsel, advice and inspiration of our beloved leader, Dr. Moton. We rejoice in his recovery, and pray for his continuance of health and strength that he may for many years to come devote himself to racial uplift, and the services of his fellowmen everywhere.

The South is on the verge of unparalleled prosperity. One of our greatest Southern newspapers heads an editorial with the caption, "Grow Rich With The South." This conference calls upon the Negro farmer to do his part in contributing to this prosperity by uniting in a producing and selling program of all farm products in line with the most progressive methods of the day, and we sincerely believe he will in increasing measure from year to year, share more equitably in that prosperity which his service helps to create.

BARBER COLLEGE NOTES

By Joetta Stinson

Monday was universal "Shopping day" at Barber. The shops at Christmas time are haunted by Barberites though much of it is being done at the windows.

"The Star of Hope," a Christmas cantata, will be presented by the chorus on the Thursday evening before Christmas.

Leatha Reed, a Sophomore from Morristown, Tenn., is recovering slowly from a burn on the foot and leg. The accident happened while working in the kitchen when hot frying fat was overturned.

A delegate from the Barber Y. W. C. A. was sent Friday by request of the Field Secretary, Mrs. McLemore, to the meeting of the council which is being held this week-end in Atlanta, Ga. The President, Gertrude Davenport, was elected by the Y. W. Society to be the delegate.

The prayer circles of Misses Foresman and Elston and Mrs. Donnell will have the missionary

program in charge Sunday evening, December 18, with Ruth Howell as leader.

Devotional exercises and the business of the society will be conducted by the President, Mamie Taylor.

The following program will be given:

Home subject—The Mormons. The Mormon Field—Map Talk—Elizabeth Foster.

A Sight-seeing trip to Presbyterian Schools—Muriel Gerdine.

Foreign subject—The Moslem World.

Map Talk—Ainslee Jones.

Story of Eran, A Persian Woman—Ethel Lou Young, Geneva Picher, Ethel Brown.

Recitation—Christmas Carol—Evelyn Fuller.

A Syrian Legend—Mildred Jones.

Christmas Candle Service—Louise Beavers, Mattie Howell, Nellie Hill, Inez Harvill.

Wednesday night before Christmas, the Second Junior class will give a brief program, "Christmas in Merry Lands."

On Christmas eve the teachers and students remaining for the holidays will have a Christmas tree and program.

The First Senior class enjoyed a social hour Saturday afternoon from four to five in the Third Senior parlor.

The Senior class will give a program Saturday night, Dec. 17th, assisted by members of the faculty.

Solo—Miss Moke.

Reading—The White Gift—Georgia Donnell.

Instrumental Solo—Miss Collier.

Play—"Philip's Christmas Gift"—(written for the class by Georgia Donnell.

Last Monday evening the Freshman class, sponsored by Misses Smith and Burritt, Sociology teachers, and directed by Bessie Mayle, President of the class, entertained the Faculty and student body together with a large number of waiting friends in the chapel. The program consisted of:

Solo, "My Lover is a Fisherman"—Pauline Donnell.

Reading, "Who's Afraid"—Miss Burritt.

Saxophone solo, "Because," from Jocelyn—Ione Alston.

Reading, "Mr Brown Has His Hair Cut"—Albertha Loveless.

Play, "The Romancers"—The class.

At the beginning of the program, Rev. Miles, pastor of the Congregational church, announced that the purpose of the evening's effort was to aid in establishing a clinic for the Negro children in the city, possibly in the basement of his church. Following the program, a social was held in the dining room which was beautifully decorated with futuristic designs by Miss Burritt. During this period home-made candy, hot chocolate and ice cream were sold in green and white booths. Bessie Mayle acted as hostess, with assistants, and announced the features of the social:

Special musical numbers, a clown dance, a reading by Dr. Holloway and many humorous numbers were among the things given. Proceeds from the whole evening's entertainment amounted to \$30. The school is quite proud of its Freshman class and those who were responsible for this gift from Barber for the new project.

Six members of the faculty will go home for Christmas and a party of teachers will also go to Jacksonville, Fla., for the holidays.

To all readers of the Africo-Barber wishes a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SWIFT MEMORIAL COLLEGE LIFE

The past week has been one of exceedingly great joy and mirth, due to the spirit of service practiced by all. This added zeal can be definitely traced to the standards of the institution being taken on by the whole student body. Swift has a rich heritage to look back upon. It is being carried on with the same lofty ideals, and the news is heralded far and wide that Swift is a safe place for any boy or girl. More and more the great problem facing all institutions is how to make themselves safe, Christian and highly intellectual. Swift is solving the problem; it is now open for inspection and study, because the students show by their daily walks the fruits of the labor of the standard-bearer of Swift ideals.

Last Sunday the student body and faculty worshipped at St. Mark's Presbyterian church. Rev. Hubert F. Anderson, the pastor, delivered a very helpful sermon. The theme of his discourse was "Thou Shalt Not Hide Thy Coveted Things." The services were well attended and the newly organized choir under the direction of Mrs. Kate Ross Hatcher, an Alumna of Swift, added much to the services.

Our President-Emeritus, Dr. W. H. Franklin, is always found near the school and church. He attended church Sunday and frequently visits the President. It is definitely assured that he is the most beloved man by all rates in Roversville.

The Sunday school is making great preparations for the Yuletide season. They are planning to have a Christmas tree with a program under the direction of Miss L. Burdell Sullivan, consisting of cantata, pantomimes and many other features. The Christmas tree will be placed in the chapel and trimmed with all the beauties of the season. Candies, fruits and many other things will go to make the affair a pleasant one. Great rivalry is being shown by the classes for the party promised at the end of the first semester. The 4th year students are in the lead.

The Alumni of Swift met in the Larimer Y. M. C. A. rooms last Friday night. The purpose of the meeting was to perfect a permanent organization so that the Alumni can do effective work for their Alma Mater. Swift has about 800 Alumni in all parts of the world. It is the purpose of the organization to bring them together in one band. If there be any one who has attended Swift in past years, please write to the Alumni Secretary at Swift. The President, Dr. Tucker, met with the Alumni and told them that the institution was open at all times to them, and that he is willing at all times to give them a helping hand. Mrs. Kate Hatcher is acting as the Secretary. An appeal has gone out. Old grads and students, write to Swift.

Another organization which is doing effective work for the school is the Choral Club. Miss Burdell Sullivan, head of the music department, is practicing them each week and they are able to give helpful programs at any time. The students selected for the particular parts have nice voices and are showing that they will make good leaders for any community.

They are as follows: Miss Bessie Starr, Knoxville, Tenn.; Miss Modeste Brazelton, New Market, Tenn.; Miss Annabelle Thomas, Sadie Mills, Gertrude Bradford, all of Dandridge, Tenn.; Eunice Nelson, Middlesboro, Ky.; Lessie

Lewis, Maryville, Tenn.; Lois Rooker, Dalton, Ga.; Maggie Harris, Anniston, Alabama; Miss Henrylyn Williams, Anniston, Ala.; Edward Bolden, Birmingham, Ala.; Lee Brown and Glover Rhodes, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Bennett Allen, Killen, Ala.; Lynn Gillenwater and John Harrell, Abingdon, Va.; Albert Thompson, Macon, Ga.; Harry Coleman, Asheville, N. C., and Booker T. Jackson, of Dalton, Ga.

BOOK CHAT

By Mary White Ovington, Chairman Board of Directors of the N. A. A. C. P.

"Plays of Negro Life," selected and edited by Alain Locke and Montgomery Gregory. Published by Harper and Brothers, 49 East 33rd Street, New York City. Price \$5.00.

In this book twenty plays are gathered together, all dealing with Negro life. Among them are well-known pieces of literature, Eugene O'Neill's "Emperor Jones," Ridgely Torrence's "The Rider of Dreams," Paul Green's "In Abraham's Bosom," while rubbing elbows with these dramatists are a group of Negro writers, Willis Richardson, Eulalie Spence, John Mathews and others. The book ends with a chronology of the Negro theatre and a bibliography of Negro drama. And if these two editors, one of Oxford, the other of Harvard, lack at times accuracy—for example, Ellen Terry is described as playing with Ira Aldridge in 1858—they have made a most readable volume and one typical of present-day Negro drama.

It is hard on the dramatist, white or colored, who finds his play in the pages between Eugene O'Neill's "The Dreamy Kid" and "Emperor Jones." Who can compete with the driving power of this first of American dramatists? Nor is it easy to bear comparison with such delicate, half humorous, more than half pathetic plays as Paul Green's "The No 'Count Boy" and Ridgely Torrence's "The Rider of Dreams." To me, the writers in this volume who fare best in such company, are those who have been least ambitious in their themes. "Plumes," by Georgia Douglass Johnson, (the plumes are those that wave at the funeral) and Eulalie Spence's gay bit of Harlem in "The Starter," are simple, true pictures. Willis Richardson's "Banjo" is in the volume, a play that acts very well, and Drank Wilson's "Sugar Cane." Wilson is now winning renown as an actor in "Porgy." Two of the plays are laid in Africa. There are twenty plays in all, the most of them gloomy—they could not be modern and be anything else—the plays by Negroes a little less given to picturing a thwarted race than the plays by whites. Altogether a fine group.

The book leads one to reminiscence. The Washington Square Players, precursors of the Theatre Guild, saw the value of Negro material and used it once in a short play concerning the flight of a criminal and his capture. The Neighborhood Playhouse besides producing, as Mr. Gregory notices, Angelina Grimke's "Rachel," gave "The Noose" by Tracy Mygatt. This was a straightforward bit of propaganda regarding a Southern lynching with the church organ playing hymns while the murder went on. The Forniightly Players gave Rosalie Jones "The Victim," a powerful picture of the quadroon with her white and colored lovers. One attempt was made in New York

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