

Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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JUST LIKE A TREE

Sunday, March 11th, was the day set apart for the first memorial service for the late Rev. W. R. Coles, D. D., founder of Immanuel Mission, of Aiken, S. C. It was deemed proper and fitting to have this memorial in view of the fact that Rev. Coles died in the hospital in Columbia, S. C., on February 15, 1928.

Information was received by friends in Aiken on Friday, also it was arranged to have the funeral on Saturday, February 18th, at Immanuel Presbyterian church. These plans did not allow sufficient time for announcements to get to many of the ministers and friends of Dr. Coles; also heavy rains hindered greatly, so much so that the number in attendance at the funeral was very small. This occasioned much regret by the family, former students and friends. Hence Mrs. M. B. Price initiated the move to hold a memorial service to this great Christian worker and servant of God and man.

The co-operation of the pastor, Rev. L. E. Ginn, and Dr. C. C. Johnson was secured so that the idea was soon taking shape. Associate ministers, former students, former teachers and friends were promptly notified of the memorial service to be held March 11th, 3:00 P. M., at which time there was a very large assemblage of relatives, ministers, former students and friends from Augusta, Ga., Aiken and vicinity. All with one accord were acclaiming the greatness of the first pastor of Immanuel church and founder of the Immanuel Training and High School, now known as Andrew Robertson Institute.

A well planned program was arranged, consisting of favorite hymns, Scripture reading, solos, speeches, and letters from friends. The early history of the founding of this school by Dr. Coles was very impressively given by Mother Agnes Green, now ninety years old, whose husband and mother-in-law were the only Presbyterians in Aiken at the time Dr. Coles came to the city in 1881. She related how after three days in Aiken Dr. Coles began his noble effort to establish a school and church with only two members, each of them full of zeal and awakened to the needs of those times. They labored untiringly with undaunted courage and high hopes, ever prompt to thank God for whatever was gained or accomplished.

When plans for the project were fully decided upon, and a suitable location selected on which to erect his dream, the school, having secured the necessary legal advice, he learned that the owner of the ground he desired on which to erect a church and school building, lived three miles in the country. In those days a taxi was not known. The only way to reach the owner of this land was to walk. This he attempted with Mother Green's mother-in-law as a guide. But before they reached their destination they got lost and went ten miles instead of three. They were found by a white man who carried them to their destination and later brought them to the home of Mother Green in a wagon. Notwithstanding this disappointment and hardship the deal was made successfully and endeavors were put forth to raise the required money to secure possession of the ground for the school. Mother Green and her husband gave \$5.00 each which was the first money given to start this school and church. But every fitting and significant appreciation and thankfulness to God was shown when upon receipt of this first donation a whole-hearted, sincere prayer-meeting was held in Mr. Green's

home to praise God for this beginning.

From this time on Dr. Coles worked day and night in the interest of this work which he had begun.

It was said of him that no day was so cold, no wind so high nor rain so hard, or sunshine so hot as to stop him from forging ahead as opportunities presented themselves, and as duty called. When opposition arose he was prompt to arise with courage and fortitude and battle until he won his battle. Many endeavors and plans were used with which to erect and furnish the buildings.

Mother Green was very emphatic in acclaiming that having known Dr. Coles nearly forty-seven years, she always knew him to be great and broad-hearted Christian gentleman. "Flee as a Bird," a favorite solo of Dr. Coles, was sung by Mrs. A. L. W. Jones.

Miss Lucy Laney was the next on the program as the principal speaker and all regretted very much that she was not able to attend this service. Fortunately, however, she was represented by Rev. A. C. Griggs, Dean of Haines Institute, who spoke eloquently of the service rendered to the race by Dr. Coles and other things accomplished, having given his life to make the work possible.

Dr. C. C. Johnson spoke of Dr. Coles as a real far-sighted man with high ideals—a constructor of institutions for good in the community, and not as a destructor or knocker of efforts for the advancement of his people.

Rev. J. F. Pearson, pastor of Wesley M. E. church, then spoke briefly but fittingly of the good made possible by the untiring efforts of Dr. Coles.

Mr. Nathaniel L. Brayboy enthusiastically spoke of Dr. Coles as being a good mixer and advisor in all matters of religion, education and enterprise and was always appreciative of considerations.

Rev. John A. Jones spoke of Dr. Coles' whole-heartedness and sincerity and zeal to make the work measure up to his ideals and accomplish that for which it was intended. To do this he would often spend all of his salary for the general upkeep and promotion of the church and school. Thus he gave his life and his life's earnings to make the Immanuel Mission a reality. His later days' financial security was sacrificed for it.

Rev. Moore spoke of his eight years' acquaintance with Dr. Coles and the friendship that existed between them.

Mrs. Julia Berry Price, of Charleston, W. Va., made some beautiful flowers to be used at this service.

Mrs. M. B. Price (formerly Mary G. Berry) an alumna of the school and promoter of this memorial service, read letters from Dr. Coles' associate ministers, former students and friends. These letters had been received by Dr. C. C. Johnson, Rev. L. E. Ginn, pastor, and Mrs. Price. Only excerpts from these letters will be given.

Message from W. R. Coles, Memphis, Tenn., son of Dr. Coles:

"He gave freely, unstintingly of the best years of his life for the sake of the cause to which he had dedicated that life. In his passing, if there are those who appreciate the good that he did sufficiently to turn aside and let those who did not know him know what he meant to the community, I thank them."

"Rev. William R. Coles, D. D., was born in Kentuck, Va.; educated in Lincoln University,

Pennsylvania, and studied theology under Rev. Dr. Jethro Rumple, who was pastor of the Presbyterian church in Salisbury, N. C. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Yadkin in 1872 and ordained by this Presbytery in 1873. His text was I Timothy 1:15. After his ordination he pastored the churches at Salisbury, Oakland and Gold Hill, N. C., during the years 1872-79. After serving these churches he was appointed Synodical missionary of Atlantic Synod. He labored for the Master in this capacity from 1879 up to the time he went to Aiken as founder and principal of Immanuel Training School in 1881. He became pastor of the church in Aiken in the year 1885.

"He was the first Stated Clerk of Atlantic Synod, elected the year 1885, and served as our most efficient Stated Clerk until October, 1908, when he was succeeded by the late Rev. Alonza S. Gray when our Synod met in Jacksonville, Fla.

"As a churchman he was the man of the hour."
W. L. METZ,
Edisto Island, S. C.

"He was truly a great man in Zion. The Synod will hold memorial services at its next meeting in his honor. As chairman of the committee on Necrology I hope to say more. Please inform Rev. Ginn and the other members of the committee. I enclose \$1.00 to help on expenses if needed. Let me hear about the meeting."
A. A. JONES,
McConnellsville, S. C.

"I wish I could be present at that service. I first met him when I was a young man starting off to school. Dr. Coles was then the active pastor of our church at Salisbury, N. C."
I. D. DAVIS,
Sumter, S. C.

"The old landmarks and pioneers of our Presbyterian prowess are rapidly passing away, and as we have come into their labors, we honor ourselves when we turn aside to show them the reverence and honor to which their good works entitle them."
JAMES E. JACKSON,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

"It is an inevitable fact that mortals creatures must die. The Scriptures are replete with evidences of this fact. Evidences in nature declare it, and yet, with the innate feeling in us all that man is mortal, it's painful to us to bow to the inevitable. The grim monster, death, a common and continuous process among us, shocks our nerves and pains our hearts when the voice of one of our worthy comrades is hushed up in death. The Rev. Coles is not dead. He sleeps to awake and to greet us when our immortal spirits shall have awakened in His likeness."

"It is not death to die, To leave this weary road, And midst the brotherhood on high To be at home with God."

"Let sorrow's rudest tempest blow, Each cord on earth to sever, Our King says, 'Come,' and there's our home Forever, O forever."

"For O, we stand on Jordan's strand, Our friends are passing over; And, just before, the shining shore We may almost discover."

"We'll gird our loins, my brethren, dear, Our distant home discerning; Our absent Lord has left us word, Let every lamp be burning."
J. H. TOATLEY,
Stated Clerk,
Presbytery of McClelland.

"We as former students and co-workers of his, wish to add our testimonial to the great service which he rendered to the people of Aiken and to our Presbyterian Church in the State of South Carolina. He was a pioneer of Presbyterianism among our people and also a pioneer in promoting higher education and our church and school work over which you preside are the strongest memorials of his life and service."

PROF. AND MRS. H. P. BUTLER,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

"I trust the services of his memory will be worthy of him who for many years worked for the uplift of the people of Aiken and vicinity."

A. P. DENNY,
Atlanta, Ga.

"I often think of the pleasant days spent as a student, at Immanuel and of his fatherly advice. Have not seen him since graduation. One of my valued possessions is a Bible presented by him as a graduation gift, with the plea that it be taken as 'a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.'"

M. B. PENDERGRASS,
(formerly Maud Chavous),
St. Paul, S. C.

"He was a noble soul. He was brave, true-hearted, far-sighted, generous, and since he has finished the work his Master gave him to do, let us glorify Him by keeping the memory of his unselfish life everlastingly green."
HATTIE BROWN WASHINGTON,
Reading, Pa.

"His life was simple, always trying to help others, not selfishly, but for their own good. Was always kind and true. He was a friend, a father and everything that goes to make one happy. His advice was always good, because in many instances I can remember many of the things he told and taught me, which I can never and will never forget."

FLORENCE JOHNSON FRANCIS,
New York City,
Class of 1894.

"Few people realize more than we do the loss of this good man. We are in a position to know that his heart always went out to those in need, and he was always ready to deny himself in order to help the needy."

DEAN AND MRS. A. F. COLEMAN, Georgia Normal and Agricultural School.

Since Rev. Coles began his noble labors for which so many now praise him, many people have come to Aiken who did not have the pleasure or privilege of meeting this great man. Yet they see the results of his work and hear many proclaim praises and do him fitting honors. The newcomers who witnessed this worthy demonstration, though not able to say anything of this great man and his valuable service from personal contact and knowledge of his persistent struggles, yet after summing up all that has been said, are impelled to say that Rev. W. R. Coles is "Just Like a Tree." Yes, like a great oak tree, with many large, strong, long, far-reaching branches that afford comforting shelter to way-faring men. Like the tree, he possessed many strong virtues and characteristics, was courageous, persevering, persistent, considerate, an able counsellor and ready advisor, of high ideals and preaching vision.

Each of these characteristics stood out prominently as branches of the oak. The men and women who received his teaching,

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SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ANDERSON, S. C.

Mrs. Geo. W. Marion, Jr.

On Sunday morning, March 18th, the Rev. J. P. Foster filled our pulpit. He preached a short but very strong sermon from the subject, "The Union Between Christ and His Disciples," taken from John 15, 5th, 6th, and 7th verses. He spoke of the vital, spiritual and natural union and said if we as Christians abide in Christ, we are bound to bear fruit.

Mr. Charlie Gary, of Bethlehem church joined the Beacon Light Sunday school class and expressed the purpose to attend regularly.

The Brotherhood held their monthly meeting on last Sunday evening. Their topic for the meeting was: "The Life of Consecration." It was well discussed and all present seemed to have enjoyed the program.

On the first Friday in March the Woman's Missionary Society held its last meeting for the year at the home of Mrs. Marie Calhoun. The meeting was largely attended and all plans for the year were perfected. After a very interesting program on "The Foreigners in America," our Treasurer gave her yearly report, which was very encouraging to the Society, especially since our quota had been paid in full. The hostess served us a very delicious two-course luncheon and we adjourned to meet with Mrs. C. W. Francis the second Friday in April.

The Ladies Aid met the third Friday at the home of Mrs. Marie Calhoun, and was entertained by Mesdames Marie Calhoun and Marcia Marion. The meeting was very interesting as many plans were discussed to replenish the treasury.

Mr. Douglas Butler and Mrs. Aese Hawkins are still on the sick list. We still hope for them a speedy recovery.

Mr. Wade Childs, father of Mrs. Julia C. Burriss, died at 3:40 o'clock Thursday afternoon, March 15th. The funeral was held Sunday at one o'clock at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Burriss. The Rev. J. P. Foster, of Sumter, S. C., officiated, assisted by Rev. C. W. Francis. Rev. Foster took as his text: "Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like a shock of corn cometh in his season." Job 5:26.

This text was very appropriate as Mr. Childs lived to be about ninety years old. He leaves to mourn his loss six daughters: Mesdames Mary F. Childs, of Chicago, Ill.; Josephine Quarles, Los Angeles, Cal.; Eliza Ware, Bridgetown, N. J.; Wadie Williams, Detroit, Mich.; Emma Pressley, Atlanta, Ga.; and Julia Burriss, Anderson, S. C., twelve grandchildren and five great grandchildren, also a host of relatives and friends.

Mr. Childs was held in high esteem by both races, and since space will not allow us to mention the letters and messages sent Mrs. Burriss concerning her father before she ever knew him, we will give a few extracts from a letter written by Magistrate M. E. Hollingsworth, of Abbeville, S. C.: "I wish to say that your father was an exception to many of your race, for he was a God-fearing man, upright and honest in all his dealings with his fellowman and I am glad to be able to give you this information. And no one has a better right to commend him than I, for I had dealings with him at a time when it took honest dealings to pull through the most stringent days of his life. He labored for me during the year 1878 when cotton, the chief mode of a poor man's living, was five cents per pound;

besides he had a large family to support and it took Christianity and a belief that God does nothing but what is for our good and help us weather the storm of adversity, and your father was equal to the occasion."

The music lovers have been quite fortunate this week in having to visit Anderson the Southern Harmonizers of Atlanta, Ga.; Miss Hazel Harrison, of Chicago, and the String Quartette of Claflin University under the direction of Mrs. Marion Caprich and Miss Smith. We were glad to have them all here.

Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Peek entertained the Southern Harmonizers at their home on Monday evening after their concert at Bethel A. M. E. church. All present expressed themselves as having enjoyed the evening.

Miss Josephine Butler and Dr. J. C. Anderson entertained the String Quartette of Claflin University at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Williams Wednesday evening. All present reported a delightful evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Quick entertained the String Quartette of Claflin University Thursday morning. Both companies expressed themselves as having enjoyed the hospitality of the good people of Anderson.

BLANDONIA CHURCH NOTES, SANFORD.

By Mrs. Nancy L. Crumpton

The subject of Rev. McMillan's talk to the children on Sunday morning, March 18th, was "Courage and Difficulties."

He told the story of Jacob very impressively. Of how, finally, through a changed life and steadfast faith in God he was able to overcome all difficulties. He besought the children to be courageous, to know they were right and then go ahead.

The sermon to adults was taken from St. Mark 15:1 and II Cor. 12:9. His subject was, "The Strength of His Weakness." This was a great spiritual sermon and the presence of the Holy Spirit was felt. Immediately after the sermon when the invitation was extended Elder L. W. Ellis came forward and united with the church by letter. He comes to us highly recommended from the Church Street Presbyterian church of Salisbury. We consider ourselves fortunate in having Elder Ellis to become one of us, as we believe he can and will be of very great help to us in our church work. He made a very inspiring talk in Sabbath school which was enjoyed by all. We were glad to have Mrs. Ellis as a visitor. She also in a very pleasing way made brief remarks.

The Communion of the Lord's Supper was celebrated at the morning service with a large number of communicants.

The attendance was good throughout the day and all expressed themselves as having enjoyed the services.

The Missionary Society met on Thursday, March 1st, in the home of Mrs. Margaret Hoke. After the devotionals the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Pres., Mrs. N. L. Crumpton; Vice-President, Mrs. I. H. Blue; Secretary, Mrs. Electra Cox; Treasurer, Mrs. Angelette McIver, Secretary of Stewardship, Mrs. F. C. Alston; Secretary of Home Sewing, Mrs. E. W. Hoke; Secretary of Literature, Mrs. Callie Cox; Secretary of Missionary Education and Program Committee, Mrs. B. G. McMillan.

Mrs. N. L. Crumpton was elected delegate to the Presbyterial, with Mrs. I. H. Blue as alternate.

The annual reception for the

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