

Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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BY THE WAY

Wealth makes friends with wings who fly away at wealth's funeral; but the wise will be honored and remembered after death for their wisdom.

Rev. H. M. Scott, our faithful Sabbath School Missionary, who carries on in the State of Florida, invited some brethren of another denomination to accompany him to our white Synod, U. S. A., in session in one of our Florida cities last Fall to let the brethren of a sister denomination see just how we carry on as a great Church. As soon as they entered, the pastor in whose church this Synod was despatching business, approached them and kindly asked them to vacate and told the colored brethren: "You know just how it is down here; but I am sorry," etc. There was nothing to do but to hide your face and steal out as if you had committed a very serious crime.

Last Fall one year ago Rev. W. T. Frasier, our pastor of Wallingford church in Charleston, and Reverend Ledbetter pastor of the Plymouth Congregational church in Charleston, visited the Scotch Presbyterian church, U. S. A., in Charleston to witness the examination and ordination of Dr. Alexander Sprunt's son. Dr. Alexander Sprunt, who is the pastor of the Scotch Presbyterian congregation, met these two colored preachers at the door and most cordially shook hands with them and introduced these brethren to the Presbytery of Charleston; and on motion Rev. Frasier was accorded a seat as corresponding member, and Rev. Ledbetter, as a Congregational minister, was introduced. This was done by a rising vote of Charleston Presbytery, one of the most thoroughly Southern Presbyteries in the world when it comes to honoring the traditions and gathering up the broken and scattered links of customs of the old South. Was Dr. Sprunt ignorant of Southern traditions that are so deep-seated and crystallized in the warp and woof of the South's social and economic fabric? I say not. Dr. Sprunt, though having been born in Glasgow, Scotland, is an alumnus of Davidson College of the early 70's; and a graduate of Union Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va. They tell me that he was reared in Wilmington, N. C., where his father was a wealthy cotton dealer.

This would seem to show Dr. Sprunt in the light of a real Southern man. Evidently he knew where, what and who. Why did these skylights act diversely in their behaviour toward these two brethren of color? The reason is quite clear to me. I think those of us who have kept ourselves informed in the history of these two branches of the Presbyterian Church know that the Presbyterian Church, U. S., believes that the Negro should be off to himself, while the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., takes the opposite view of the matter. But when a preacher of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., comes South, he feels that he is in Rome and must do as the Romans do (in Florida for instance) or as he thinks they would do under certain conditions and circumstances.

The Presbyterian preacher, U. S., seems to feel that his branch of the Church put the bars up and only his branch of this great Church has a right to take them down. He feels that if social and ecclesiastic innovations are to be initiated and carried out in full measure on Southern traditions as they affect the Negro, they must be the objects of their own efforts. And when these two branches of the Presbyterian Church come together the coming generation will find this to be the crux, the Gordian knot.

Dr. Walter Lingle, President of Davidson College, said in The Presbyterian Magazine, in the February issue, that neither the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., nor the Presbyterian Church, U. S., is "One hundred per cent in its treatment to the Negro." He is pretty thoroughly correct; but there are degrees in treatment. I feel very sure that Dr. Lingle's Northern brethren exhibit more the fraternal spirit than his good brother among whom we live; while we have quite a number this side of the Mason and Dixon's line with hearts that are as big as the souls of men dying in the Christian faith; but they have to go slowly and speak often behind closed doors. But we appreciate that.

UNCLE BILLIE.

KIAMICHI PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery of Kiamichi was convened by the call of the Stated Clerk in Pleasant Valley Presbyterian church at Broken Bow, Okla., April 17, 1936, at 7:30 P. M. The opening sermon was preached by the retiring Moderator, Rev. J. D. Stanback. Rev. Stanback took for his text Acts 3:6, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee." Rev. Stanback proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that we should use what we have for the glory of God and the advancement of His kingdom. Many expressed themselves as having heard a most wonderful sermon. We are always glad to have Rev. Stanback to preach for us in this section.

The Presbytery was then called to order and prayer was offered by the Moderator. The roll was called and a quorum declared.

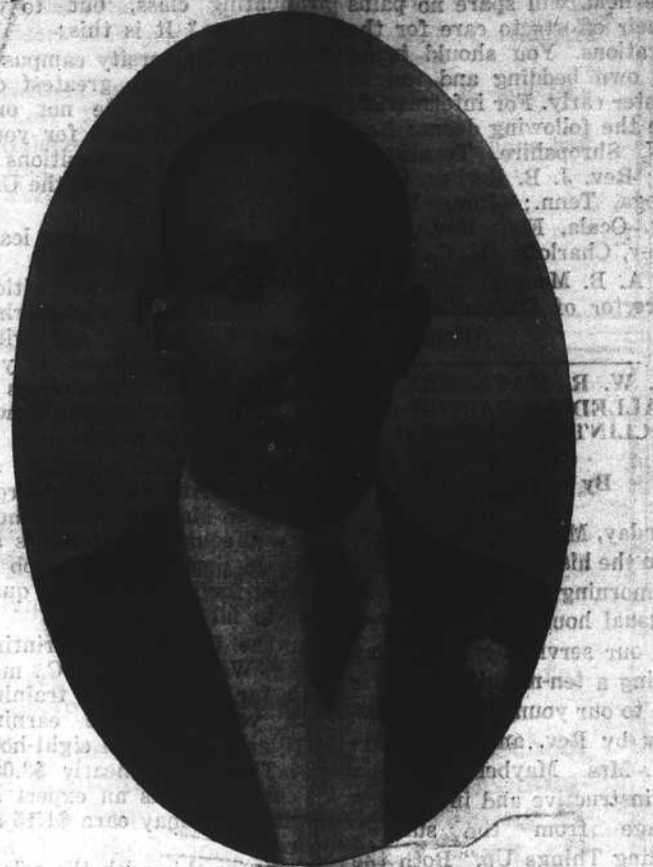
Revs. C. N. Shropshire and W. E. Houston, of the White River Presbytery, were accorded seats as corresponding members.

Rev. J. W. Mallard was elected Moderator and Elder Garfield Williams was elected Temporary Clerk. The Committee on Arrangements reported and a collection was taken. The long meter doxology was sung and we retired for the night.

Friday morning was taken up in discussing National Missions and Evangelism. We had with us the Rev. W. E. Houston, of Springfield, Mo., of the White River Presbytery, who is also a member of the staff of the Board of National Missions. He addressed the Presbytery on the subject of National Missions. Dr. Houston fired us up with enthusiasm. Long may his words linger with us and keep the fire of duty burning on the altar of our obligations. The report on Evangelism showed an increase of 17 per cent in membership for the Presbytery.

Rev. T. B. Hargrave, our Synodical Evangelist, paid us a visit, stopping at Beaver Dam church, Grant, Okla., for 8 or 10 days. He swept the people off their feet. Notwithstanding there was some objection to having a meeting at this season of the year, 14 conversions were had and there were 12 additions to the church, making 20 additions since last we met. The church almost doubled its number last year. Foreign Missions and Board of Pensions were also discussed.

The next striking feature of the day was the report on Program and Field Activities. This report showed a wonderful growth of interest in our Boards and an amazing increase in the interest in our churches in paying their quotas. More than 75 per cent of the churches paid their full quotas. The quotas for the current year were ac-



REV. T. A. ROBINSON

Pastor of Good Will Presbyterian Church, Ft. Pierce, Fla.

Before coming to us at Ft. Pierce, Rev. Robinson served St. Luke Presbyterian church, Orangeburg, S. C., and was stationed at Bamberg, S. C., where he labored for a number of years as Principal of Frasier Excelsior Academy, and pastor of Zion Hill Presbyterian church of the same place.

He was born August 1, 1890, in Barnwell County, S. C., near the ancient city of Midway. He is the sixth child of Cato and Maria Robinson. He attended public and private schools in Barnwell and Colleton Counties, S. C., also the South Carolina A. & M. State College. Later he took a business course in Durham, N. C. He finished his preparation for the ministry by taking a full four-year course in Theology. In 1918 he was ordained to the Gospel ministry.

The subject of this sketch has a two-fold talent. Aside from being a gifted preacher he is an eloquent orator and lecturer, having swayed large audiences at all during extensive tours of the Middle West and the East. He is an apt and fluent speaker as well as an exceptional writer. He firmly believes in, and teaches by precept and example, the fundamental principle of good morals. He holds that a person may have good morals without Christianity, but no man can be a Christian without the best moral character.

WM. WHITE,

Ft. Pierce, Fla.

cepted by the Presbytery, and the ministers and elders were urged to see that their churches raise their quotas.

Rev. G. A. Morrow was elected principal ministerial commissioner to the General Assembly, and Rev. J. W. Mallard was elected alternate; and Elder C. M. Burris was elected principal lay commissioner, and Elder Garfield Pratt was elected alternate.

Friday night was educational night. The usual popular meeting was held. Rev. C. N. Shropshire, our Sunday School Missionary, had the floor, and spoke in the interest of the Sabbath School Work and the Board of Education. Rev. J. D. Stanback followed with a plea for Elliott Academy and its great work. A nice sum was raised for education.

Saturday morning was the day for "Free Conversation on the State of Religion." The discussions were fine. Every one seemed to have a brighter hope for the work in the future.

The Stated Clerk read a communication from Mr. and Mrs. Franklin in which was the information that they had given us an acre of ground and an old house building for church purposes. We have had our eyes on this property for some time, but we had no means with which to purchase it. Now the Lord has given it to us. The Presbytery heartily accepted this property and appointed a committee to draw up a deed and place the same on file.

All other matters having been adjusted to the satisfaction of all, the Presbytery closed one of the most successful meetings in its history.

G. A. MORROW,
Stated Clerk.

GOOD WILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FT. PIERCE, FLA.

By Mrs. Hattie Toney

Sunday, April 27th, was a day long to be remembered by our members and friends here. It marked the culminating point of the installation of our worthy pastor, Rev. Thos. A. Robinson, who has been laboring faithfully in our Zion for more than two years. For five nights during the previous week, every church in our community joined in rendering special services each night, at which time the several pastors, with their members, played well their parts in an official way. Each night brought a splendid crowd; at times standing room was at a premium and some had to be turned away for lack of seating capacity. A sermon was delivered by some pastor or local minister at each service. Even our High School came in for its share of service one night, bringing out a capacity crowd.

The following ministers delivered able and forceful sermons during the week: Rev. N. Smith, pastor of Mt. Moriah (Primitive) Baptist church; Rev. C. Byrd, pastor Bethel Baptist church; Rev. J. N. Bullard, pastor St. John A. M. E. church; Rev. M. P. Chappelle, pastor St. Paul A. M. E. church; Prof. N. M. Christopher, Chaplain and Vice-Principal of Lincoln Park Academy.

Saturday, April 26th, about noon, the members of the Commission for Installation, appointed by the Presbytery, began to arrive, and before eight the full quorum was present. The glad tidings of their arrival soon began to spread among the members and friends who were anxiously awaiting them. Dinner was served in the manse and the brethren, most of whom had motored over two hundred miles and were fatigued, retired for the night.

Sunday morning brought us a most ideal day, with a clear, beautiful sky. Old "Sol" began early to spread his glittering rays over the beautiful and famous Indian River. It was just another of those beautiful sunrises that suggested the name, "The Sun-Rise City," to the founders of Ft. Pierce. It also brought a new epoch to the church life of South Florida and Ft. Pierce. Never before had a Presbytery sent a commission to install a minister as settled pastor of a Presbyterian congregation of our group in two hundred miles or more of this point. Church loyalty and Christian enthusiasm were at high water mark from morning until night. By 10 o'clock in the morning happy groups of little children, young folks and adults could be seen streaming towards the church from every direction.

The first service of the day was the Sabbath school which opened with a large and enthusiastic crowd. The theme for the day was: "Giving Up All for the Kingdom." Every one seemed to be inspired with the spirit of the theme. Rev. E. J. Gregg, D. D., pastor of Laura Street Presbyterian church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Dr. E. J. Grogg, Rev. J. P. Foster, and Elder Walker, of Palatka, Fla. Upon request of Elder Bryant, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" was sung as a closing piece by the congregation, while the entire audience mingled with a parting hand-shake, amid tears of spiritual and sacred joy. Truly a great spiritual feast in our Zion had closed which will long be remembered, and a happy people and pastor, were left to keep alive the spiritual fire.

Promptly at 11:15 A. M., the visiting ministers with the pastor ascended the rostrum and the regular morning services began at the proper time. Rev. J. P. Foster, pastor of Mt. Vernon Presbyterian church, Palatka, Fla., according to the scheduled program, preached the special ordination sermon to the two deacons who had previously been elected. He used as a text The Acts 6:3.

"Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost, and wisdom, whom ye may appoint over this business." Subject, "The Qualifications of a Deacon." The speaker captivated his audience with his silver-tongued oratory, while God used him as a mighty shepherd, feeding his flock to the fatness of their souls. It was indeed a burning message, long to be remembered.

At the conclusion of this sermon two brethren were set apart to the holy office of Deacon by the imposition of hands: Bros. Solomon Lowery and Marion McCoy. The congregation was dismissed until 3 P. M., at which time the installation service proper was scheduled.

The hour of three brought a packed house from every quarter in the community—ministers, teachers, doctors, business men, and folk in every walk of life—to witness the crowning event of the day, the installation.

Rev. E. J. Gregg, D. D., according to schedule, delivered the installation sermon. He used as a text the following words, "And there went out with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched." I Sam. 11:26, subject, "The Touch of His Hands." The lowliest hearer could with ease clearly realize during his discourse that the spiritual Sun was in its zenith from the start of this great message to the close. O how our hearts did burn within us while the man of God talked with us by the way! The speaker drove home to his hearers the fact that in order to succeed there must go with the pastor a band of men whose hearts God had touched and no man whose heart God has never touched has a right to office in God's great Church. He said that "righteous officers are equally important as righteous pastors and ministers."

At the conclusion of the sermon which blest our very souls, the chairman of the commission, Rev. J. P. Foster, took up the installation ceremony proper. The pastor-elect was asked to stand, which he did, at an angle facing the audience slightly from the left side, and the presiding minister from the right. Rev. Foster propounded the questions to him in a very grave and solemn manner from the Book of Discipline, after which the members were asked to stand while questions of love and duty were propounded to them. The chairman then charged the pastor concerning his duty, and the members were charged of their duty to the pastor by Rev. H. M. Scott. The most beautiful ceremony was concluded by a warm greeting of handshakes by the members who were joined by more than two hundred visiting friends, and the presentation of flowers. The benediction was pronounced by the newly installed pastor.

At night another stirring message was delivered by Rev. H. M. Scott, at which time one new member, Miss Lula Toney, came forward and united with Good Will church. Closing remarks were made by Elder Bryant, one of the commissioners from Laura Street Presbyterian church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Dr. E. J. Grogg, Rev. J. P. Foster, and Elder Walker, of Palatka, Fla. Upon request of Elder Bryant, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" was sung as a closing piece by the congregation, while the entire audience mingled with a parting hand-shake, amid tears of spiritual and sacred joy. Truly a great spiritual feast in our Zion had closed which will long be remembered, and a happy people and pastor, were left to keep alive the spiritual fire.

Mr. John Masfield was recently appointed Poet Laureate of England.

ST. JAMES CHURCH GREENSBORO

By Mrs. T. B. Jones

On Sunday morning, our pastor, Rev. H. C. Miller, gave a very fitting discourse which was on the theme of Mother's Day. He spoke from the text St. John 19:27, "Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother." Jesus, while He hung upon the cross—the cross which symbolizes so much in the lives of all men who embrace Christianity—remembered the women who followed Him to the last and showed honor and respect for his mother. Rev. Miller moreover said, the cross upon which Jesus hung and His pierced hands have overturned nations and empires. Some of the virtues he pictured the cross as symbolizing were: sacrifice, faith and sympathy.

In the same way in which our Saviour was sacrificed upon the cross that we might not die, so have mothers of all times—the women of all ages—sacrificed their joys and even their lives for the well being of humanity, nations and empires.

The cross stands also for faith, without which who of us shall see God?

Sympathy is typified through tears and heartaches, which are the part of the woman who bears the shame and disgrace which may fall upon her home, her family or her people.

The pride of a nation was emphasized by the speaker not as wealth, citizens, soldiers, nor even vast domains, but as her women, her mothers. They stand behind every individual, nation and race.

The earliest laws demand re-

(Continued on page 3)