

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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## SOME CAUSES OF CRIME AMONG NEGROES

"The highest crime rates among both Negroes and whites usually occur at the lowest economic levels," said James D. Burton, Presbyterian ruling elder, of Oakdale, Tenn., in his annual report as Interstate Secretary to the State Interracial Commission at Nashville, Tuesday, January 19. Dr. James E. Clarke, editor of The Presbyterian Advance, presided. "Some reasons for the crime rate among Negroes," said Dr. Burton, "are the meager allocation of public funds for Negro education and institutional care, general economic conditions and inadequate police protection provided in Negro communities. Courts deal lightly with Negro criminals accused of crime against members of their own race, but the court penalty is invariably heavy when a Negro kills a white man. Southern leaders, both white and Negro, feel strongly that the inadequate police protection provided Negro communities breeds crime. Negroes are allowed, without interference, to commit crimes on one another, which, when committed against white people, result in severe court sentences, if not in death at the hands of the mob.

"The fine records of Negro graduates of training schools, colleges and universities make it plain that the educated Negro is no menace. Recent mob victims had but little formal education. Not one of them had high school training, and only one had gone beyond the fifth grade; three were illiterate, and eight nearly so. Many lynchings belong to that type of person who reads but little, is identified with but few or no organizations, and is outside the reach of modern agencies affecting group morals and public opinion. Negro education is a factor in crime prevention.

"Practical programs for lessening crime should be worked out through co-operation between white and Negro leaders. Much Negro crime centers about white criminals. During unemployment there is a great deal of visiting, loafing, gambling and general carousing which inevitably leads to a large amount of crime. More lynchings occur in the summer than at any other time in the year and a relation is discerned between the weather and crimes against the person, and a consequent relation between the weather and resort to lynch-law. With the coming of warm weather, the majority of farm folks work out of doors. After cultivation is done and before harvesting begins, there is little to occupy the time of white and colored workers. While no population element is without obligation, the primary responsibility for the lessening of crime and the eradication of lynching rests upon that portion of the population which controls political, social and economic conditions.

"However, Negro leaders are not without responsibility toward the lessening of crime and the eradication of lynching. Negro leaders of ability and character, who have proved their worth and won respect for their race, can appeal to local officers or influential white citizens and prevent threatened outbreaks. They will have to span the gap between the level of their own lives and that of the lawless element with a view of extending their influence over it. This will assure white people that the Negro does not condone crime or shield criminals. The church, the lodge, the school and the press can make large contributions toward the reduction of crime.

"The Southern States generally have made inadequate institutional provision for Negro

dependents, juvenile delinquents, feeble-minded and mentally deranged. As a result, many dangerous Negroes have been placed in such institutions. It is held that the confinement of two hopelessly defective mental types would have prevented the occurrence of at least two crimes which resulted in Negroes being lynched in 1930. Proper care of hopelessly defective Negroes is an essential part of any practical program for lessening crime. Tennessee does not as yet have an institution for the colored feeble-minded. Provisions should be made for them.

"Studies of juvenile delinquency show that the opening of supervised parks and playgrounds leads to an immediate reduction of delinquency. We feel that there should be a probation officer in every county. The State Interracial Commission is not striving for special privileges for the Negro, but is working simply for even-handed justice and a fair chance in the struggle for existence. The color of the skin should not militate against any one in the administration of the law. Every man should be accorded legal protection of his life and property and educational opportunities for his children. This is a progress of human relations in which both races are the beneficiaries."

## ST. JAMES CHURCH GREENSBORO

Sunday morning, January 25th, the service took the form of a symphony. The theme was "The Supremacy of Jesus' Friendship." The theme was based on Eccle. 17:17; John 15:13. The Junior choir, under the leadership of Mrs. Geo. P. Dudley, Jr., rendered the music for the symphony. The rendering of Largo from Xerxes furnished an excellent introduction. In fact, from Prelude to Recessional and Fourfold Amen, the choir entered into the spirit of the theme, while the congregation immediately caught the inspiration. Misses C. R. Miller and Annie Carter, soprano and alto, closed the symphony with "In the Secret of His Presence." The service was said to have been the most impressive in many years. Many were the tear-stained faces and happy hearts.

Mrs. G. P. Dudley was received into full membership at the close of the morning service. The Christmas pageant, "The Three Wise Men," was the central attraction at St. James during the holidays. Mrs. H. C. Miller, assisted by Mrs. G. A. Bridges, G. P. Dudley, S. W. Carter and R. E. McNair, sponsored the pageant.

Supt. G. A. Bridges gave a social for the Sabbath school in the basement of the church as the closing feature of the holiday activities. The Sabbath school has taken on new life under the leadership of Supt. Bridges and his associates, Messrs. Frank Caldwell and W. L. McNair.

All eyes are centered upon the Men's Bible class, named the Joseph Jones Bible class, in honor of Elder Jacob Jones, the oldest member of St. James church. Prof. T. B. Jones is teacher and Mr. N. L. Gregg is President. Both of these men are Smith graduates. This class has had a wonderful growth during the past two months. It now seems that all the men of the church will enroll therein.

The Junior choir received loudest praise for their rendition of Sanctus Sunday before Christmas. The choir also appeared in a program in the Cherry Street Presbyterian church, High Point, recently. They made a fine impression.

## THE UPS AND DOWNS OF PROHIBITION

I'm dreaming about that ancient time,  
Before the invention of crooks and crime,  
When there were no laws, and no repression,  
And consequently no transgression.  
Then, a man might do whatever he wanted,  
And not be fine-and-prison haunted.  
He captured a colt or he butchered a beef,  
Unconscious of such a thing as a thief,  
Should a likely pullet park near by,  
He fed his family chicken pie.  
He took his girl joy riding nights,  
And drove right by the traffic lights;  
And when he parked his gig, he tied  
In the middle of the street or on the side,  
If anybody made him sore;  
He didn't do it any more.  
He wooed all the women he wanted to marry,  
And drank all the corn he wanted to carry.  
Then, there wasn't any need of a crime commission,  
Because there wasn't any prohibition.

But there arose a new regime,  
A rigid prohibition scheme,  
Inventing law, and, in consequence,  
Originating its offense.  
Judge Moses first exhibited  
A list of things prohibited.  
He told the people plain and flat,  
"Thou shalt not do this, and thou shalt not do that."  
Of all the gods, unknown and known,  
He prohibited homage to all but one.  
With this commandment was another,  
"Revere thy father and thy mother."  
Then, there was a Sabbath Day to keep,  
And a man couldn't swipe a shoat or a sheep  
Or demonstrate his skill in dealing,  
But that he was jailed or fined for stealing.  
He who had homicide on his bill  
Was halted with "Thou shalt not kill."  
Misuse of facts made one a liar,  
And subject to a bath of fire.  
So unromantic, indeed, was life,  
That a man couldn't borrow his neighbor's wife.  
Why, one could neither gee nor haw,  
Without his running a-foul of a law.

The modern use of fine and fetter  
Has gotten worse instead of better.  
New statutes go on codifying,  
And new crimes go on multiplying,  
Till every hill and every dale  
Maintains a charging of a jail.  
Thus, all down through the centuries,  
Rock piles and penitentiaries  
Have thronged with prisoners pulling time  
For being caught committing crime.  
And hence, in spite of fines and jails,  
The prohibition flatly fails.  
The disobediently inclined  
Don't give the thing a minute's mind,  
But treat the laws of God and man  
With all the disrespect they can.  
The sanest rules inaugurated  
Are insolently violated.  
They have persistently adored  
All sorts of gods except the Lord  
And parents seem to be select  
For their especial disrespect.  
Also, the Sabbath's destination  
Is universal desecration.  
They lie, and rob, and maim and kill,  
And steal another's ewe lamb still.  
Since Noah's neighbors razed the rain,  
They've had rebellion on the brain.  
They've claimed the freedom to select  
What laws to honor, or reject,  
Till, finally, they balk, and stall,  
And give regard to none at all.  
The upshot is that soon or late,  
Rebelliousness will terminate  
In junking all the laws in vogue,  
Together with the Decalogue.

J. RILEY DUNGEE I.  
Norfolk, Va., Jan. 1, 1932.

Elder C. K. Brown is again attending regular services, after being indisposed for the past year.

Mrs. Virginia Eskridge, who has been confined to the St. Leo Hospital will be out this week. Her many friends are delighted at her recovery. Mrs. Edna Hunter is sick at this writing. We hope to see her out shortly. Mrs. A. D. Waugh continues indoors. She keeps very cheerful and sunny.

During the holidays the ladies of the two missionary circles stormed the manse Wednesday night after the midweek service. From the wreckage the pastor and his family gathered a pile of groceries and other useful things. O. K., ladies. Come again.

Mr. Ed Williams, of Washington, D. C., is visiting in the home of his sister, Mrs. Esther Wood.

Both branches of the Missionary Society are very busy,

trying to round out a creditable year. The society is studying "The Land of the Dawn," while the Lucy Laney Circle is studying "God and the Census."

Among the number of visitors in the church during the holidays were Messrs. Geo. Meares, Kermit McNair and John Sandifer, of Johnson C. Smith University; Mr. Gaston Meares, of Northwestern University; Mr. Harold Morrow, of Washington, D. C., and Misses McConnell, of Oklahoma, and Carpenter, of Boston, Mass.

## CORRESPONDENT.

The whole course of history since the advent of Christ goes to prove that wherever the light of the gospel shines, the blessings of civilization abound also.—Dr. James Stalker.

Even if you are too deaf to hear the preacher, the church is still a good place for listening to God.—John a Holmes.

## FROM AMELIA, VA.

By C. A. Wright

After the meeting of Presbytery at Russell Grove, Amelia, Va., the church thought and talked about the same for quite a while. But talk alone would not fill the bill. So many got down to business. Were I to say the church in every way is doing as well this year as last I would hardly be believed, because the majority of the churches and other public institutions, as well as cities and towns, are affected detrimentally to some extent. I am glad to say, however, while there is not a great deal of public work here to do, the Lord in His all-wise providence has provided nearly every one with a plenty to subsist on, having given us a bounteous harvest.

Our preaching services as a rule are well attended and prayer meetings are regularly held Wednesday nights with a fair attendance. The Sunday School is well attended and active, also the Christian Endeavor. We are glad to see the same and to know that while every one may not be able to contribute to the financial part as he would like, he, at least, is willing to further the spiritual side.

## A Short Vacation

Our pastor, Rev. R. L. Hyde, and his wife, decided to visit their old homes somewhere in Tennessee. So some time in the latter part of June, 1931, accompanied by Master Clemons Jeffrey, a member of the Russell Grove church, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Jeffrey, they took their departure in their own private car, with Mrs. Hyde at the wheel. After several days of pleasant and uneventful travel they reached their destination and for the space of several weeks enjoyed the companionship of relatives and friends.

## A Serious Accident

Their stay being ended the party started home about the last part of July. With Mrs. Hyde at the wheel they reached within six miles of home without incident worthy of comment, when, driving just after night fall, they were run into by a truck which was sprinkling the road. All the occupants were injured, Rev. Hyde the most seriously. They were carried to the hospital in Richmond, Va., where they remained several days, and have long since recovered and been on the job.

## Lo, I Am With You

The above words may be in the mind of Miss Mamie L. Taylor, as she goes from place to place visiting Sunday school after Sunday school, also day schools, all in the interest of the growth of the youth in Christian training.

She has been in our town since early September, 1931. She is out in the interest of Sunday school work and will likely be in our county yet a little while. We trust the Sunday schools will take on new life and profit by the information and inspiration she has given. I am sure she will greatly appreciate the co-operation of ministers and superintendents, also any one who has a desire to lend a helping hand. Her present address is:

Miss Mamie L. Taylor,  
Amelia C. H. Va.

"Suffer the little Children to come unto me."

The third Sunday in October, 1931, the doors of the Russell Grove church were thrown open and saints and sinners were invited in to a very interesting series of meetings being carried on, lasting one week. There were several conversions. Two small children joined the church and three larger ones will likely join elsewhere.

## "Joy to the World"

Just a couple of weeks ago that time-honored song was sung. It is old and yet ever so new, because every year it comes to us reminding us of the Saviour's birth. Our Sunday school and day school had a joint celebration—a short Christmas exercise and a Christmas tree.

The Amelia County Emancipation Association held its annual celebration January 1. Although it was a very disagreeable day quite a number listened to a very interesting talk by Prof. A. P. Watson, of Union University, Richmond, Va. He is a native of Tennessee. Prof. Daniels, also of Union, made a few interesting remarks. A few other interesting features were: a recitation by Mr. Robert Johnson, of Amelia, now a student of Mary Potter School, Oxford, N. C. His subject was: "The Sunday School and the Negro Youth."

Miss Gladys Swann, of Amelia, now a teacher in Armstrong High School, Richmond, Va., next favored us with a paper on "The Negro Songs." Other short speeches concluded the celebration of the day. Prof. Irving Brown, of Amelia, now a teacher in Warren, Va., presided at the instrument.

## Been Here and Gone

We were glad to welcome relatives and friends, high school girls and boys, teachers and others, who spent the holidays with us. But now they have gone: the teachers to their scholars, the scholars to their studies. May they all have success in their various lines of duty.

Bro. Watson Robinson, the oldest member of Russell Grove church, still keeps abed. Mrs. Lucinda Booker, a member of Russell Grove church, also took bed Thursday of last week. We hope for them an early recovery.

## OPPORTUNITY TO CONDUCT PRESIDENTIAL POLL

Opportunity, Journal of Negro Life, announces that it will conduct a presidential poll in order to ascertain the political trend of the Negro vote in the 1932 presidential election. The poll which is announced in the February issue will attempt to determine whether there is an appreciable drift to the left among intelligent Negroes of the country.

A statement from the editorial offices of Opportunity, 1133, Broadway, New York City, follows:

"The 1932 Presidential election will probably see more Negroes exercising the right of franchise than any previous election since the Negro became a citizen. Opportunity will endeavor to find out how the intelligent, serious thinking Negro feels about the political parties which will offer Presidential candidates next November. The readers of Opportunity represent a cross section of Negro life and will provide the nucleus of our poll. In addition, the 43 Urban League branches situated in strategical industrial centers and in those pivotal States in which the Negro vote is of paramount importance will co-operate, which will enable the poll to reach far beyond the number who can be reached directly through Opportunity."

## MAPS FOR SHOOL TEACHERS

Any school teacher in North Carolina who wishes a map of the State to hang in the school room may secure one by addressing "Agricultural Review," care the State Department of Agriculture, Raleigh. If you wish such a map, kindly send the request direct and not through a second party, and give the name of your school and the grade you teach.