

Africo-American Presbyterian

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

VOL. LV.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1934.

NO. 28.

REV. LYLURN LIGGINS DOWNING, D. D.

FOR FORTY YEARS PASTOR FIFTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ROANOKE, VA.

The Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church, Roanoke, Va., will celebrate the 40th anniversary of its pastor, Rev. L. L. Downing, D. D., Sunday, July 15th. Dr. William Hallock Johnson, President of Lincoln University (Penna.) will deliver the anniversary address.

The University of Virginia recently in compiling a history of Roanoke adjudged Dr. Downing 15th in a list of the thirty most outstanding citizens. This was the result of questionnaires sent out.

Lylburn Liggins Downing, D. D., was born in Lexington, Va., May 3, 1862. For the past forty years he has been the efficient pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church of Roanoke, having come to this city in 1894, and assumed the pastorate of the church on the second Sunday in July, of that year.

Besides his work as a minister of the gospel, Mr. Downing has found time for other things of a civic and public nature. Born only a few months before the Emancipation Proclamation and nearly three years before the end of the Civil War, when the public schools were opened in the State to the boys and girls of his race, he was among the first to enter in Lexington. A rare influence in the life of Mr. Downing was that of General "Stonewall" Jackson, who taught a Negro Sunday school class, having among his pupils Mr. Downing's parents. He himself became a member of this class which was taught by Colonel J. F. Preston after the death of General Jackson. It was in this Sunday school class that Mr. Downing received his inspiration to enter the ministry.

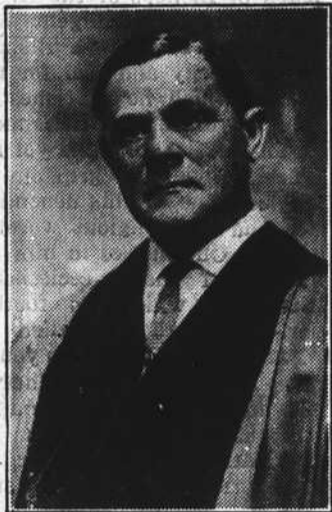
To better prepare himself for his life's work, at an early age he entered Lincoln University and it was while in the Preparatory Department of Lincoln that his great ability was first manifested. For four years he stood at the head of his class with a general average that was so high that he was awarded a scholarship in the college department. In 1889 he graduated with honors, after which he entered the Theological Seminary, determined to make ample preparation for the ministry. He graduated from the Theological Seminary of Lincoln in 1894. While a student in this department he taught Latin in the Preparatory Department for two years, and was offered a permanent place on the faculty staff which he declined for the nobler calling of the ministry.

He received from Lincoln University the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, and Bachelor of Sacred Theology, and in 1906 the institution conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

While at Lincoln Dr. Downing was not without class honors. In 1887 he won the Sophomore gold medal for an original oration. Immediately following his graduation at the Theological Seminary, Dr. Downing came to Roanoke to assume the pastorate of the Presbyterian congregation, then a small mission of only seven members. The services were then held in a hall on Sixth Avenue, N. W.

In 1895 Dr. Downing began the erection of the handsome church edifice at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Third Street, N. W., to which a beautiful new addition has recently been completed. When Dr. Downing took charge of the church, it was on the promise of two dollars per week salary from the congregation. His first collec-

tion was sixty-seven cents. Of course, there was a guarantee from the Freedmen's Board, and, but for that, the field was in many respects most uninviting and our good pastor never wavered. He had set himself to a task and went to it with a determination which nothing short of success could satisfy. That he succeeded is known of all men in the city of his adoption. Today there is no church in the bounds of the Presbytery, nor perhaps in the



REV. L. L. DOWNING, D. D.

South, which can boast of a better record.

With his work as a pastor, Dr. Downing has found time to mingle in affairs of State and civic betterment work generally. For twenty years he was a member of the City-Republican Committee, being the only member of his race in that body and was an able representative of his people in both civic and political matters.

For years he has taken an active interest in juvenile work and was the city's first probation officer (and still serves in that capacity) in the care and protection of delinquents of his race.

Fraternally he is a Mason and Odd Fellow, having been honored by both organizations. He served as Grand Master of Masons of Virginia and District Grand Master of Odd Fellows. He is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

For two years Dr. Downing served as President of the National Interdenominational Ministerial Conference, which meets annually at Hampton Institute, Virginia.

Three times in succession he was chosen a Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church and for a number of times as Moderator of the Presbytery. During the World War Dr. Downing was a Special Deputy of the government in connection with the sale of Liberty Bonds and served as a collaborator of history in preparing records of the accomplishments of Roanoke soldiers.

In 1906, Dr. Downing erected the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Window in the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church. Few monuments erected to commemorate the lives and deeds of heroes have the significance and interest of the people of this community and throughout the South as this memorial of a Negro pastor to a Confederate General because of appreciation of the illustrious character who so nobly befriended the colored people of his town.

Recently the newly erected colored grammar and high school of Lexington, Va., was named, "The Lylburn Downing School" in appreciation of the

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VOICE PROTEST AGAINST PREVALENT EVILS

By Robert E. Flickinger, D. D.

"I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord, as said one prophet Isaiah.—John 1:33.

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Romans 6:23.

It was soul-cheering to us in Iowa, to read in the columns of our home paper, The Times, the sensible and vigorous protest of the Free Spring Brethren Church against prevalent evils, especially the return of the nefarious traffic in intoxicating liquors, and united resolve to combat this debasing, effrontery of human greed, by a system of religious education, to lift our young people to higher levels of understanding and living.

I send you herewith, not clippings, but merely some suggestive, large type headlines from two Texas newspapers: "The News," a daily of Dallas, population 260,000; and "The Fundamentalist," a weekly of Fort Worth, 150,000.

It fell to my lot to visit those two cities in February. I attended the services at the First Baptist church, Fort Worth, and greeted Dr. Norris, the pastor, on Sabbath, February 4th.

Victory in Cook County
A great victory has been won in Cook County, of which Gainesville is the county seat.

Whenever a county goes wet, the newspapers feature it with display headlines, but when it goes dry, they list it at the foot of the classified ad column. However, most of the counties in Texas that have held local option elections have gone dry.

Cook county is one of the most populous counties in the State. Its population includes a large German element, and in the election of April 28, 1934, they voted wet, as they usually do. It was, however, the privilege of Rev. Frank Norris to voice a gospel protest in the public square of Gainesville on the Saturday afternoon preceding the election to a great crowd of several thousand from all parts of the county. The ministers of all denominations were present and joined enthusiastically in the battle cry. The result was a decisive blow to the liquor crowd. This was said to be possible in every county in Texas. Protest Against Corrupt Public Officials and Gamblers

Headline announcements in Texas newspapers, after a protest had been voiced at the First Baptist church in Fort Worth on a Sabbath evening in April against corrupt public officials and horse racing gamblers.

"Sunday night message stirs Dallas to close bookmaking and gambling in Dallas, hurriedly and tight."

"The District Attorney's Office in Dallas promised Dr. Norris to close all book-making gambling places, and this promise was kept."

"Bookies close up hurriedly after threatened raids."

Another one reads: "Regular patrons, trying to place their bets, find their favorite retreat in Dallas shut tight."

At the close of an investigation by the District Attorney and the grand jury, it was agreed to close all the book-making places in Dallas immediately, and those in Fort Worth immediately thereafter.

These victorious incidents in Texas have been noted to indicate the value of voicing a protest against a public evil. They also illustrate a good method of procedure when the right thing is done in a good way.

Corrupt Deputies

It is a well known fact that

the worst criminals and gangsters have found for some time safe protection in and around Fort Worth and Dallas, the two large cities near each other in the Northern part of Texas.

Only a short time ago a former sheriff at Dallas was involved in a series of bank robberies. At the present time a deputy of the sheriff of Fort Worth is under indictment at Dallas for confessed robbery.

These unscrupulous deputies served as confederates between the criminal gangsters or hide-outs and the prosecuting attorney and sheriff.

It was high time the ministers and good citizens were aroused. The judgment began with a favorable decision by the Grand Jury, and approval of the District Attorney.

Our country is facing one of the most critical crises in its history, according to the Attorney General, Hon. Homer S. Cummings. He recently stated in the public press: "There are now more armed criminals than soldiers under arms in the United States." With more gangsters, armed bank robbers, and reckless gamblers than there are soldiers to enforce the laws, how long can our Christian civilization last?

It is high time that every public-minded citizen, minister and public official join hands in voicing a public protest against this immoral criminal menace that is shaking the very foundation of our civil and religious privileges.

Soul Winning Crusade

Fort Worth has recently been stirred by the young men attending Bible School in the First Baptist Church. In their soul-winning crusade they have been willing to go wherever the people resort in the evening for amusement or entertainment. Daily newspapers gave this soul-winning crusade special notice on the first page.

A group of fifty Bible students in small squads and singing "Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow," in the evening marched into the hotel lobbies, pool rooms, beer gardens, saloons, gambling dens, drug stores and filling stations, wherever they found accessible gatherings of the people.

One reporter said: "What a contrast they present to the usual religious gatherings, conventions or conferences, where ministers put up at high-priced hotels, smoke long, black cigars and spin yarns, but never win a soul."

Another reporter said: "These singing groups went into beer halls, where clouds of tobacco smoke floated, into domino parlors and a pool hall. The first evening of this crusade five souls were won."

Rockwell City, Iowa.

WHEN ON VACATION

Some people make their vacations a great injury to themselves by going with evil and worldly companions. They think that it makes little difference with whom they go, or what they do, when they are away from home. The pastor and people of a little country church are greatly helped or greatly harmed by the conduct of vacationists among them in the summer. You remember how carefully President Coolidge attended church out in the little mountain settlement when he had his vacation.

The disciples had Jesus for their companion. It is well to be with him at home and abroad, while working or resting, while asleep or awake.

—Dr. E. P. Whallon.

YADKIN CENTRAL DISTRICT PRESBYTERIAL

The officers met in an executive session from 10 to 11, July 17th, 1934, in Durham, N. C., to arrange plans and recommendations for the general meeting.

The meeting was opened at 11 with a praise service led by Mrs. A. W. Waddell, of Lexington, and Mrs. L. B. Turner, of Winston-Salem. The subject, "Let us love one another," was led by Mrs. Waddell. Mrs. Turner offered prayer. Sentence prayers were led by Mrs. Sullivan and closed by Mrs. Meares.

At the close of the devotional service the President, Mrs. H. N. Sullivan, of Lexington, took the chair and presided in a most gracious manner.

The roll call of delegates by churches follows: St. James, Mrs. R. E. McNair, Mrs. J. H. Biggs, Mrs. D. L. McNair, Mrs. E. B. Meares; Grace, Mrs. L. B. Turner; Pine Street, Mrs. Cora T. Russell; Shady Side, Mrs. J. V. Bitting, Mrs. A. W. Waddell, Mrs. H. N. Sullivan.

The noon recess from 12:30 to 2 was used for lunch served by the Missionary Society of Pine Street, and a sight-seeing tour of the city which took in the offices of the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Co., North Carolina College for Negroes, Duke University and Lincoln Hospital.

The afternoon session was opened with prayer by Dr. Russell. Delegates made their reports. The Treasurer reported, and the President, the Synodical delegate made an inclusive report.

Papers were read by Mrs. L. B. Turner, "The City of Our Dreams;" Mrs. J. V. Bitting, "Ask Somebody Else;" Mrs. Cora T. Russell delivered an address on "Missionary Work in Our Churches."

Mrs. E. B. Meares, President of the Yadkin Presbyterial, outlined the six objectives of the District Presbyterial.

1. Check on local societies. 2. Create more interest among the women. 3. Explanation pertaining to local and general meetings. 4. Reach more local persons. 5. Exchange plans and ideas. 6. Urge quarterly quota payments.

The following churches were not represented: Lloyd, Cherry Street, Graham, Groveland, Thomasville and Mebane.

Mrs. Sullivan brought greetings from the Presbyterial.

Visitors were welcomed by the President and invited to sit as corresponding members. The following were present: Rev. C. H. White, High Point; Dr. I. H. Russell, Durham; Mesdames C. H. Harris and E. W. Butler, Durham; Mesdames Roberts and Stewart.

The following recommendations made in the executive meeting were offered and left open for discussion:

1. That officers always keep in mind the things that are for the upbuilding of the district. 2. That the official group of this meeting be composed of Presidents of local societies. 3. That each society do sewing, bring one or more articles to the district meeting and sell the other articles. All articles not sold to be given to some school.

The recommendations were received and adopted.

It was decided to pay the entire expenses of all officers to and from the District Presbyterial, if possible; if not, pay as much as could be paid.

The following officers for the year 1934-35 were unanimously elected:

President, Mrs. H. N. Sullivan, Lexington, N. C., P. O. Box 30.

Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Cora T. Russell, 411 Pine Street, Durham.

Treasurer, Mrs. A. W. Waddell, 219 Center Street, Lexington, N. C.

The President appointed the following ladies to constitute the program committee:

Mrs. C. L. Cooper, 1021 Lindsay Street, Greensboro.

Mrs. J. H. Biggs, 408 Beach Street, Greensboro.

Mrs. D. H. McNair, 429 East Washington Street, Greensboro.

Mrs. J. E. Avant, 305 Pine Street, Durham.

Mrs. H. N. Sullivan, P. O. Box 30, Lexington.

It was decided that each local society shall each year give \$3.65 or more to the Efland Home for Delinquent Girls and that this amount be sent to the Presbyterial Treasurer, Mrs. W. P. Donnell-Mebane, N. C. The second Sunday in May, Mother's Day, was suggested as a good time to raise this fund.

The Yadkin Central Presbyterial will meet each year the second Friday in July.

Rev. C. H. White, of High Point, offered the closing prayer.

The delegates and visitors were served an elaborate two-course dinner by the Missionary Society of Pine Street church at 5 o'clock. All enjoyed the dinner and expressed their appreciation by giving several yells of praise.

Friday evening at 8 o'clock the meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. H. N. Sullivan. The following program was rendered:

Music was furnished by the Pine Street and the Groveland choirs.

Prayer—Dr. Avant, Durham.

Solo—Mrs. C. H. Haywood, Durham.

Welcome Address—Mrs. J. E. Avant, Durham.

Response—Mrs. R. E. McNair, Synodical President, Greensboro.

Music.

Greetings—Mr. C. C. Spaulding, President North Carolina Mutual Insurance Co.

Solo—Mrs. E. B. Meares.

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ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN BOOSTS N. A. A. C. P. MEMBERSHIP

New York, July 5.—A surprising increase in membership has already resulted from the nationwide 25th Anniversary Campaign of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, it was announced from that office today. For the first six months of 1934, the number of branches of the Association has grown from 374 to 390, an increase of 16. The number of branches in process of organization is 10. The number of inquiries received in regard to organization of branches in the past six months is 68.

N. A. A. C. P. officials also attributed no small part of the increase to the intense discussion of segregation which instead of splitting the organization as predicted in some quarters, has aroused militant Negroes in all parts of the country to renewed determination to fight more vigorously all forms of segregation and discrimination.

It is also pointed out that the Association's Penny A Negro Campaign for \$120,000, or one cent for every Negro in the United States, has resulted in reaching areas hitherto dormant or largely untouched, particularly in the South, winning the cooperation and support of clubs, societies, fraternities, churches and individuals in a most gratifying manner.