

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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## JOY AT CHRISTMASTIDE

By Rev. E. W. Carpenter, A. M.

"Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." — Luke 2: 10-11.

Christmas is a season of festivity and joy. We should consider why the proclamation and commemoration of Christ's birth should be an occasion of joy. In our consideration we find the reasons:

1. Because Christ came to make atonement for the world's guilt and sin. The greatest plague that a man can have is the plague of a guilty conscience. Most other miseries may, by skill and in time, be removed, and all come to an end in the grave. But a guilty conscience is something no man can remove, either from himself or from others. This forms its peculiar sting — that after death it pursues to the judgment seat, and will torment us in the abodes of despair. Many driven well nigh to frenzy by this dreadful scourge, have, in the hope of securing relief from its torments, been willing to surrender the dearest object of their affections.

With the light of the gospel shining in our midst, we see much less of the extremities to which an uneasy conscience leads mankind than was to be witnessed before the good tidings were brought to the angels. This is a matter for thankfulness and joy.

We can not have too strong convictions of the heinousness and loathsomeness of sin, but the bitterness of despair is not necessary for deepness of conviction. The remedy has been provided for the guilty conscience. To be alarmed, therefore, may be proof as much of ignorance of or want of faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ, as of deep conviction of sin. When that loathsome disease, the small pox, now enters a neighborhood, it does not awaken the same consternation as in former times it did. This is owing, not to our being less sensible now of the disfiguring and fatal effects of the disease, but because we are in possession of a remedy, an antidote which, although imperfect, is yet a powerful check against its progress. And so the fact that in Jesus Christ, His incarnation and death, we have an antidote for the uneasiness of a guilty conscience ought to lessen, yea, to allay altogether, the disquiet of the guilty soul that has received the good tidings of great joy. Much injury is done to individuals, and loss occasioned to the Church of Christ, by parents and teachers overlooking this joyous truth, and leading those who in youth have been made wise unto salvation to doubt their union with Christ, because they have not passed through the violence of heathen despair.

2. Christ's birth is good tidings of great joy because it is the coming to us of a loving and joy-giving Friend. The joy of deliverance from evil, to be complete, must be associated with the love of a personal friend. And in the goodness and wisdom of God in saving us from our wretchedness He has given us the love and joy of a heavenly Friend. It is quite possible for one to be a real friend, and yet the announcement of his coming to be other than good tidings of great joy; although friendly, he may be stern and morose. At the moment of such a friend entering upon the scene of our joy, we may be conscious of something like a

chill creeping over our spirits. Christ's coming to us should never have this effect; He is a Friend "in whose presence is fulness of joy." Although our Lord was a "man of sorrow," He never made others sorrowful by a desponding tone or gloomy views of men and things. On the contrary, He Himself not only graced with His presence the joyous festive ceremony of the marriage feast, but compared his continuance on earth among His disciples to the joy-giving presence of the bridegroom (Mat. 9:15), while those He rebuked on earth most severely were the men who made a sorrowful countenance the mark of devotion. It is the coming together of friends at Christmas that helps to give that season its festivity and joy. But your Christmas home and Christmas joy can not be complete unless the Lord who loved you and gave himself for you has come to you, "that His joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

3. Christ's birth should be to us "good tidings of great joy," because He has come to secure us a home above. At the Christmas season we have all soon to say "good bye" to our friends; the grief of parting follows on the heels of the joy of meeting. But it is not so with the friendship and joy of Christ who came as the Friend of mankind more than eighteen centuries ago. He abides with us always; His presence and joy remain with us to the end of life, and even then He does not leave us, for His guiding, supporting and joy-giving presence accompanies us when we enter upon that dark valley which separates the tabernacle on earth from the everlasting home in heaven. His joyous presence will be the light and the glory of that home.

Can we say that these three considerations enter into and increase our joy at Christmastide? Has His atoning love given us true peace with God? Have His presence, His sympathy, His words, given joy and gladness to our life? And have His promises filled us with the expectation of the fullness of joy?

New York City.

## NEW WORKER IN HAMPTON RELIGIOUS DEPARTMENT

Hampton Institute, Va., November.—Rev. Herbert King, of Detroit, Michigan, has been called into the Religious Department as assistant to the Chaplain, Rev. S. Arthur Devan. He came on a visit to the Institute last week, and filled the pulpit in the college church.

His sermon, dealing with juvenile Christians and Christianity, created a profound impression, and was highly enjoyed by students and faculty alike. At the joint meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association and Young Women's Christian Association on Sunday evening, he spoke again to a large group that had been attracted there by reason of his able sermon preached in the morning.

This new worker is a graduate of Morehouse College, and has done work at the Oberlin School of Religion. At present he holds a pastorate in Detroit. This he will continue to hold until the middle of January when he comes to Hampton to begin his work. He was shown a number of courtesies here and was invited to be a guest observer at sessions of the Yale party of graduate students under Dr. Loram.

## THE RISE OF THE NEGRO DEMOCRATS

By Dr. Kelly Miller

When I was a boy in South Carolina, in the heyday of Reconstruction days, a Negro Democrat was regarded as an abomination to God and man, a traitor to his race, and ostracized as a social outcast with whom decent folk have nothing to do. When we consider the contrasted attitudes of the two political parties at that time, such rebuke is at least understandable. No Negro Democrat of prominence rose to the surface until the administration of Grover Cleveland, in 1885. Frederick Douglass, a Republican hold over, became eulogistic of this liberal Democrat. I heard his eulogistic address, in which he said, speaking of his position as Recorder of Deeds, "I am ready to go, and willing to stay."

In my list of political celebrities, in last week's release, I failed to mention the names of any distinguished Democrats. These were so few by comparison that the omission was an oversight.

President Cleveland appointed James C. Matthews, of Albany, N. Y., to succeed Frederick Douglass as Recorder of Deeds. Mr. Matthews' appointment failed of confirmation by the Senate. Thereupon Mr. Cleveland appointed to that position Mr. Trotter, of Boston, father of William Monroe Trotter, who also failed of confirmation but served until the expiration of Congress. Southern Democratic Senators at that time could not entertain the idea of confirming a colored man to high office even though he professed to be of the same household of political faith. Rev. Moses Hopkins, of New York, was appointed Minister to Liberia. Thereupon he died and was succeeded by C. H. Taylor, of Kansas City, Mo. Dr. John W. Thompson was sent as Minister to Hayti. These Negro Democrats were confirmed for these purely Negro governments. During Cleveland's second term Mr. Taylor was appointed and confirmed as Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia. I believe this was the first Senatorial confirmation of a Negro Democrat for federal office in the home land, under a Democratic administration. It is the only one of record until the appointment and confirmation of Dr. Thompson as Recorder of Deeds by Roosevelt who was unanimously confirmed by an overwhelmingly Democratic Senate. Both Presidents Cleveland and Wilson appointed several colored men as ministers to Liberia. President Wilson appointed Adam Patterson as Register of the Treasury, but at his own request the nomination was withdrawn to save the face of his political sponsor. Judge Robert H. Terrell, though a Republican, was reappointed and confirmed as Municipal Judge by Woodrow Wilson.

When erstwhile Republican Negroes found that Grover Cleveland was generously disposed towards the race, they fell over each other seeking appointive favors at his hands. President Cleveland's first administration threatened to divide the leadership of the race between the two parties. But his second administration was much more reactionary, which drove them back into the Republican fold, only to be sorely disappointed under McKinley and the long line of Republican successors. Theodore Roosevelt furnishing a notable exception. Since then the Negro race has been gradually sinking in the estimation of the G. O. P.

Under Woodrow Wilson's administration, Bishop Alexander Walters assumed the role of Negro leadership. Candidate Wilson made glowing promises of what he intended to do for the race which he found it difficult or impossible to fulfill. His good intentions were attested by the appointment of Patterson as Register of the Treasury which he was forced to withdraw. He found himself so dependent upon Southern Democratic support that he dared not offend them for fear of jeopardizing his principal measures. A distinguished Democrat, high in the councils of the party, told me that President Wilson, as soon as he got his chief measures out of the way, was going to give the race more important and significant appointments than any President had ever done. Just then the clouds began to thicken. The World War loomed above the horizon. All else was swallowed up in this holocaust. There were, however, more Negroes in the civil service than at any time before or since. Many were given officers' rank. President Wilson inaugurated the policy of appointing Negroes to important non-confirmatory positions in the various departments of the government. Dr. Emmett J. Scott was assigned as Special Assistant to the Secretary of War and Prof. George E. Haynes to a similar position in the Labor Department. This policy has been followed by succeeding administrations, Republican and Democratic.

This brings us down to the year of our Lord, 1932, and the years of President Franklin D. Roosevelt one and two.

President Roosevelt has chosen two distinguished Negro Democrats to high official positions, Dr. Thompson as Recorder of Deeds, and Robert L. Vann, Editor of the Pittsburgh Courier as Special Assistant to the Attorney General. But as Captain Henry would say, "This was only the beginning." The assignment of qualified colored men to important posts in the several departments is most encouraging. Never before in the history of the government has such a group of colored men with technical and special fitness and preparation for their tasks recruited the ranks of the federal service.

The day of the Negro Democrat has arrived. He measures up fully in character, caliber and quality with his Republican counterparts and the stigma of reproach has been rolled away from his name.

Roscoe Simmons, of irresponsible rhetoric, during the last presidential campaign, said that any Negro who voted the Democratic ticket should be sent to hell. Judging by the recent election I fear that the pyrotechnic orator would relegate the better portion of his race to the hotter place. Ex-Congressman De Priest, by slip of tongue, said in New Jersey that any Negro who voted the Democratic ticket was a skunk. My distinguished friend is not the only eminent politician who suffered severely from a lapsus linguae. Both the Afro-American and Pittsburgh Courier attributed the political death of our Republican champion to the bite of the "skunk."

America is being exhorted by moralists, scolded by reformers and cursed by agitators. Each has his panacea for the troubles that assail us. But the man of the hour is he who can give its people bread.—Dr. Charles Stelzle.

## WEST OF THE FATHER OF WATERS

By Rev. T. B. Hargrave

Friends of Canadian Synod, good news again! The benevolence for the quarter ending in October shows that Canadian is up 86.8 per cent and has a gain over last year's record at this time of 49 per cent. From the reports that are coming to this office on the Fall drive it looks as though we will be up 100 per cent by the first of the year. This is our goal and when the workers in Canadian say they are going to do a thing they work as a unit and they never fail.

I was in Cotton Plant this week and witnessed a wonderful sight. The first drive for the Board headed by Rev. L. W. Davis and his co-workers ended in victory. The captains reported and placed on the table \$155. You just can't beat that Cotton Plant group.

Westminster Church, which Dr. Hyder Stinson is pastor, lined up all forces for another drive for benevolence to end the third Sunday in this month. They say they will not come short of \$100. Watch them raise every cent. They just do things down there. Some people have an idea that there is plenty of money in the West and that the people are more able. Let me tell you of the conditions in this county. In the county where Cotton Plant is located there is only one saw mill that has a pay roll and it operates on part time. The city public schools have not been able to open their doors this year. The drought killed all the crops and there is a shortage in hay and other feeds. The State of Arkansas was hit harder by the depression than any other State. Most of the streams dried up and even the mosquitoes died. The work of the church is of God and these people have the spirit.

Word comes from Rev. H. C. Cousins that Shaw's Chapel at Lima, Okla., is nearing the end of a successful benevolence drive. The records show that most of the churches are at work on the quota for Rendall Presbytery and there has been a gain of 30 per cent over last year this time.

Kiamichi Presbytery has a gain of 30 per cent over her last year's record by this time. The death of our beloved friend and brother, Rev. Morrow, was a hard blow. He meant much to the community and to the church. We could depend on him at all times to work with us.

Rev. J. T. Douglass and his workers are doing things in Springfield, Mo. Gibson chapel needed much repair work and many improvements in all departments. Rev. Douglass was the man of the hour and we are proud to point to Springfield as one of the lights of our dear Synod.

Our church at Brinkley is being completely remodeled by the Rev. Bynum. This church has been growing in membership ever since Rev. and Mrs. Bynum have been there. Rev. T. C. Boyd is generally the first man to report his full benevolence paid. There are other churches working for this coveted honor this year.

Our work at Hot Springs has suffered for quite a long time, due to the fact that we have not had a pastor. The members are hungry for a real church home and have expressed a willingness to work. The Ladies' Missionary Society has been reorganized and is functioning beautifully. Plans are being drawn up for the building of a new church. At present nearly 50 per cent of the benevolence quota has been raised and we are going to see to it that all is raised by Christ-

mas. A kindergarten has been organized by Mrs. Hargrave and it is growing daily.

Rev. G. E. Caesar, the busy Stated Clerk of White River Presbytery, reports gains in his church at Little Rock. This church has one of the largest quotas of the Presbytery and it never fails.

As we go to press we have just received word that Rev. Boyd and his good people at Pine Bluff went over the top and have raised \$12.00 over their quota. Congratulations, Rev. Boyd! You are hard to beat. We hope to have a paid up Synod 100 per cent by Christmas and the way the churches are rallying it is bound to go over. Dr. W. E. Houston, our energetic Field Activities Secretary, is in action, and is all smiles because of the results. West, who would not at such results? I think that the men of the Canadian Synod get more thrill out of their work than any other group of men in the whole church. When reports are read at the Presbyteries the men are all keyed up as if they were watching Dizzy Dean in a world series game. I think Rev. C. W. Francis, of Anderson, S. C., has some idea as to how it feels.

We have gained in confessions and accessions to our churches in even a greater way. There will be no cutting of the rolls to keep from paying for them this year. This is suicide and the men of Canadian have declared war against such dishonest practices. Look for further reports from the land West of the Father of Waters!

## BOOK CHAT

NEGRO AMERICANS, WHAT NOW? By James Weldon Johnson.

Published by Viking Press, 18 East 48th Street, New York City. Price \$1.25.

This volume of one hundred pages contains more careful thinking than one usually finds in a thousand pages. The style is clear, measured. The question, "What Now," covers many phases of the Negro situation: The Negro's Choices, his Forces and Resources, his Technique and Policies. His choices are Exodus, Physical Force, The Revolution, Integration or Isolation. Only fifteen pages are given to these four headings but those pages contain an exposition of each subject and a clearly thought-out opinion. Next the Resources, the Church, the press and various Organizations, Technique and Policies include a discussion of the labor situation. And the conclusion ends with a call upon the Negro to continually guard his spiritual integrity, not to permit any attempt of the white man to destroy his inner respect.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with it, this is a provocative book. No one can read it carefully and not be forced to think, to question not only the writer's opinion but his own.

The discussion of race relations, of segregation and integration (Dr. DuBois took issue with this in his review in the Herald-Tribune) may hope too much of Matthew Arnold's "sweet reasonableness," but it certainly has dignity and commonsense. In urging the cultivation of friendly interracial relations where they are possible without loss of self-respect, Mr. Johnson says: "Here we are, caught in a trap of circumstances, a minority in the midst of a majority numbering

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