

Africo-American Presbyterian

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

VOL. LVI

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1935.

NO. 12

DOING THE COMMON THINGS OF LIFE IN AN UNCOMMON WAY

By Mrs. H. W. McNair, Ingleside Seminary

(A paper read at the Workers' Conference held in the University Church at Johnson C. Smith University, Feb. 5-8.)

It was the wisest man who said, "There is nothing new under the sun." Although there may be nothing new under the sun, what makes life worthwhile and keeps life from falling into a rut is doing the common things of life in such a way that they will appear new.

Were I asked the difference between the worth of men, my answer would be, One does the common things of life in an uncommon way, while the other continues to do the common things of life in the same old common way.

Never before has competition been so great as it is today. This applies to all phases of human existence, from the humble farm hand to that of the President's chair in the White House. Several factors are the cause of this ever growing, keen competition. The advent of the machine, taking the place of man power, has played no small part. The bringing to the fore of machinery, taking the place of man power, has thrown thousands of men out of employment. Those let out have been those less prepared to cope with the situation. The great money powers and corporations are not moved by sympathy but by efficiency.

Also, the spirit of consolidation has played its part. The last decade has been fraught with the spirit of consolidation. Smaller concerns have been brought together to form larger concerns. Even the school and the church have caught the spirit and followed in the wake. In every case where consolidation has taken place somebody has been thrown out of employment. Again we find the less prepared being the losers.

We are facing a rising sun. More will be expected of you and me in the future than has been in the past. More and more the world is swinging toward efficiency. The advancement in education, the scientific and machine age in which we live, and untold competition have brought this about.

As we face the future, we hear the command, Workers, get out of the rut; get up and go! I am sure you see with me the handwriting on the wall. See to it that your work is done so well that no one can do it better.

Owing to the many changes that confront us, we find a great mass of humanity striving for existence, terminating in the survival of the fittest. Men who are striving for the ascendancy must not only do things but must do them in a different way and differently from the ordinary individual, if the ascendancy they would reach. It is not so much what we do that counts, but how we do it.

In one of the mountain counties in the State of Kentucky, eighteen miles from the railroad, there was a little, one-room school-house, very much dilapidated, almost ready to fall to the ground. This little school paid the teacher forty dollars per month. A young woman applied for the place. The school board told her the place was hers, but informed her that they were sorry, but the teachers before her had given such poor service that the board felt it necessary to reduce the salary from forty dollars per month to thirty-five dollars per month. Without a single word she took the position and went to work. She cleaned up the yard, whitewashed the trees, cleaned out the spring, made curtains for the few windows, had the

children make hangers for hats and coats, polished the little wood-burning heater and induced each child to provide an individual drinking cup.

The board watched her work for thirty days and wrote her the following letter: "Of the thirty years the school has run, and of the twenty teachers before you, you have not only excelled them, but there is no comparison. The school board has not only voted to reduce your salary from forty dollars to thirty-five dollars, but has voted to increase your salary from forty dollars to fifty-five dollars per month. Also they have voted to erect for you a neat, two-room school building within the next sixty days. This young woman was a product of Fee Memorial Institute, in Kentucky. This came about by doing the common things in an uncommon way.

Our youth should learn this one lesson: Improve. Their whole being should be bent in the direction of improvement. They should endeavor to do it better than it has ever been done before.

A firm needed a man to fill an important position. The head of the firm sent for four men who had been recommended. All appeared at the same time. He took them in a body through the establishment, giving them an opportunity to see the men at work. He brought them back to the office, asking each this question: "What would be your first effort if given the position?" The first replied, that he would do the work just like the firm wanted it done; he would strive to please the firm. The second replied likewise. The third replied that he would do the work just as he saw it being done by the other men. The fourth replied that he would endeavor to improve on what he saw. He stated that he noticed that ten men were doing a piece of work, whereas he could take five men and do the work and do it more efficiently. He also stated that as men were making trips, carrying loads and returning with nothing, he would have them bring material back as they returned, thus saving the firm both time and money. The head of the firm told him to be on the job next morning. He also stated to him that the men who owned the concern were not versed in the affairs of the establishment. He stated he knew something was wrong but could not find the cause, and he had been sent out to find a man who would not simply do what the firm wanted but a man who would discover the cause and remedy it. Do the common things of life in an uncommon way and you will be the first to be selected and the last to be dropped.

We see men and women dropping out of the picture simply because they continue to do the common things of life in a common way. The surest way to the topmost round is not through petition, not through sympathy, not through pull, but by doing your work.

No foundation is so substantial as that of well done work. Recommendation is good, but efficiency is better. All recommendations must be lived up to; efficiency is its own reward. Nothing is good enough that can be done better.

May we conclude with these words: "I am only one, but I am one. I can not do everything, but

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STRIFE AND CONFUSION IN NEGRO COLLEGES

By Dr. Kelly Miller

Ever since the withdrawal of the original philanthropists and founders of Negro colleges and universities, there has been all but universal strife and confusion among them. Institutions founded by alien benefactions and supported altruistically by those who have no immediate personal interest in them, ought to command the unstinted gratitude of the beneficiaries. Such indeed, was the case as long as the original founders presided over the fortunes of these institutions. Who ever heard of a student strike in Atlanta under Ware, or at Shaw under Tupper, or at Fisk under Cravath, or at Lincoln under Rendall, or at Howard under Howard? But as soon as the fathers and founders began to fall away, the faith and confidence of the benefited people began to wane; and we look for pickering, commotion, strife and strikes in Negro colleges, almost as the natural order of things.

If we analyze the situation carefully we shall find that the frequency of outbreaks is apt to occur in those institutions which exercise the least care in filling the presidency. Lincoln University has had only three Presidents during its history. These were all, as one would say, to the manner born, and represented the full measure of the spirit and genius of the founders. They all had gained academic experience in the traditions of the school over which they were called to preside. The same thing might be said of Morehouse College, later expanded into Atlanta University. There has not been a serious outbreak in its history. Johnson C. Smith University has had only two Negro Presidents, both of whom had acquired long educational experience before they were promoted to the headship. The sustained order and discipline of this institution is well known. Tuskegee has had two Presidents both of whom were schooled and disciplined for the part. These schools have, in the main, been well ordered and have commanded the continued loyalty of the student body and the public.

On the other hand, Fisk University, after Cravath, began to experiment with a series of Presidents who were not prepared or fitted for the role they were called to play. They were ministers of the gospel of good meaning and intention but without academic experience in the college world. The same is true of Howard University which has become the scandal of the educational world. After Patton this capstone of Negro education called to its head a series of preachers who were well meaning but poorly fitted for the pedagogical function which devolved upon them. Repeated failure and frustration has been the result.

Since the ascendancy of Dr. Hope to the presidency of Atlanta University, peace and good order have prevailed. He was schooled, trained and disciplined in the specific work which he was called upon to command. These instances should be sufficient to establish the general principle that college presidents should be selected with reference to specific qualifications, as a bank, a railroad, or a factory would select its head.

The color of the president, as experience shows, has little or nothing to do with the outcome. Lincoln University, under a series of white presidents, has sustained good order and discipline, as Johnson C. Smith has done under Negroes in com-

mand. On the other hand, Fisk University has suffered disorder and unrest almost beyond the point of endurance. Howard University stands somewhat in a class by itself in this regard. It has had two colored administrations, one under John M. Langston and the other under Mordecai W. Johnson. All the other presidents have been white and yet Howard University has been and still is the "War College" in the public estimation. This is not due to the color scheme but to the fact the University has never exercised proper thought in filling the presidency.

I predict—and may live to see the prediction fulfilled—that Howard, Fisk, Atlanta, Lincoln and the rest will arrive at academic calmness and composure where the education and character building process can function without internal and external commotion, which necessarily frustrates their pedagogical aim. This will happen only when the trustees exercise the requisite wisdom and discretion in choosing the chief in command.

THE RACE RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL

Senator Guffey Against Discrimination in Economic Security Bill

New York, March 23.—Senator Joseph Guffey of Pennsylvania, has written the Rev. Marshall L. Shepard, a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and pastor of Mt. Olivet Baptist Tabernacle, Philadelphia, that he will urge upon his fellow members of the Senate Finance Committee the introduction of a non-discrimination clause in the Economic Security Bill. "I am in hearty sympathy with the desire of Dr. George E. Haynes in this matter," wrote the Senator following the appearance of Dr. Haynes, Executive Secretary of the Department of Race Relations, Federal Council of Churches, 105 E. 22nd Street, New York, N. Y., before the Senate Committee to argue the need of such clauses in the Bill. Dr. Shepard received this letter in response to his communication to the Senator urging his support of the measure.

Reprints of the full argument and statistical data given by Dr. Haynes before the Committee are procurable at nominal cost from the Department.

Federal Council Employees Sign Anti-Lynching Petition

In the campaign on the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill the Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches is working actively to secure signers to the mammoth petition which is to be presented to President Roosevelt. As an example to other organizations the Federal Council has signed the petition one hundred per cent, strong, the name of every employee within the Council having been affixed. Petitions have been sent in quantity to key people in every section of the country, especially in the South where outstanding church women have responded wholeheartedly in the Council's recent effort to have thousands of letters sent to Senators and Congressmen urging the passage of the Bill.

Federal Council of Churches Acts on New York Race Riot

The Department of Race Relations through its Executive Secretary, Dr. George E. Haynes, has urged upon Mayor F. H. LaGuardia, of New York

City, the appointment of representatives of the Harlem churches and religious organizations to the Mayor's Bi-Racial Committee selected to study conditions in Harlem leading up to the recent riot. The Department is working to stimulate a movement for a strong interracial committee representing the economic, social and religious forces both in and outside of Harlem to study and formulate plans for the improvement of the conditions out of which the riot grew.

Interracial Dramatic Play Published

In response to a consistent demand for plays dealing with social relations, the Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches has just published a short interracial play entitled, "A Little Leaven," written by Elsie Lineweaver and Mary Reed. The play tells a story of a white benefactor of a Negro college who preaches efficiency and preparedness to the students but has to be converted to a belief in his own preaching when one of the graduates applies to his firm for work. The play is easy to produce and is recommended for church and community organizations, especially those wrestling with problems of economic opportunity for Negroes. It can be secured from the Department at a nominal cost.

Federal Council Secretaries Help Youth Conference

At a recent Metropolitan Conference held at Riverside Church, New York, promoted by The Greater New York Federation of Churches, Dr. George E. Haynes, Executive Secretary, Department of Race Relations, Federal Council of Churches, and Mr. James Myers, Industrial Secretary of the Federal Council, were among the directors of the discussion. A report just received stated that "the Conference marked a new epoch in the work of young people in the Protestant churches of the city and environs."

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MAYESVILLE, S. C.

The subject of the sermon preached by Rev. H. McFadden on the first Sunday in March was "The Unruly Tongue." Text, James 3:8. Our minister preached this sermon sometime during the first of the year, and the few that were out enjoyed it so well that Elder W. W. Wilson requested it to be preached again in March in order that the congregation at large might hear it. Everybody seemed to enjoy it very much. We had a number of distinguished visitors out on this occasion.

The Missionary Society had their meeting after services, which was largely attended.

On Sunday evening the Junior Missionary Society rendered a very interesting program.

On Sunday, March 17th, Rev. McFadden spoke on the subject, "Need and Supply." (Philippians 4:19.) The speaker emphasized our world needs, material and spiritual. He also said that the supply is twofold, primarily and fundamentally, divine. The secondary provider is man himself. God provides or makes possible the physical essentials, and he provides for the soul, spiritual refreshment and nourishment. Man must seek and find and use that which God has provided for him. The man of God told us vividly why the bodies and souls of men starve. This indeed was a most striking message, delivered to a packed house.

The church was divided into about twenty groups, headed by the ladies for the purpose of raising the Presbytery, delegates' and benevolence expenses.

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HERE'S HOPE FOR TENANT FARMERS!

Committee Asks Federal Aid to Ownership of Land—Bill to Make It Possible Now Pending in Congress

Atlanta, Ga., March 23.—Government aid to end the evils of "sharecropping" by enabling thousands of tenant farmers to become self-supporting landowners is urged in a report just made public here by a committee composed of Dr. Edwin R. Embree, President of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, Dr. W. W. Alexander, Director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, and Dr. Charles S. Johnson, of Fisk University.

The report, based on an exhaustive survey of the South's agricultural situation, reveals that 71 per cent of the South's cotton farmers are landless, that 58 per cent of its total farm population is in the same unhappy condition, that tenancy is rapidly increasing, and that declining exports of cotton are steadily undercutting the foundations of the tenant system. A far-reaching program of government aid to ownership is seen as the only remedy. The report reveals the following facts:

In 1930 of 3,088,111 farms in the thirteen Southern States, fifty-eight per cent, or 1,789,000 were cultivated by tenants, of whom 1,091,000 were white and 698,000 colored. In the case of cotton farms the prevalence of tenancy ran to seventy-one per cent, and in certain black belt regions to eighty per cent and upward. Due to the agricultural depression of the nineteenth century, the number of tenants increased in ten years by 200,000 through loss of farms and otherwise.

Since 1930, according to the report, the Federal limitation of cotton acreage, the steady decline of cotton exports, due to tariff barriers and the rapid increase of cotton production abroad (which in 1935 promises to exceed that of the United States) have undercut the living of multitudes of tenant farmers wholly dependent upon cotton. Others it has cast entirely adrift without access to the land or other assured means of support. As a result millions of people who normally should be making their living on the soil have been thrown on relief.

The report concludes that the South is confronted with the necessary choice between continued crop control, with subsidies for idle lands and relief for displaced tenants and laborers, or a program of government aid by which multitudes of tenants may become self-supporting landowners, after the example of Ireland, Denmark and other countries. It seems obvious to the committee that to continue the present system offers no hope and that the latter course will be not only far better, but cheaper in the long run.

The committee is giving all possible support to a bill introduced in Congress a few days ago by Senator Bankhead, of Alabama, providing for a vast government project to restore tenants to land ownership. This would be done by selling them land in small tracts or by lending them money to buy, on long time and at low interest rates. The committee regards this proposal as of the greatest importance, both for immediate recovery and for rebuilding the crumbling economic and social foundations of the nation.

If the mind of Christ were in the controlling persons of our world, this would be a very different world in a very little while. They would think the Truth of God and not the falsehoods of Satan.—Sel.