

African American Presbyterian

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

VOL. LIX.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1938.

NO. 13.

REPORTS OF WORKERS' CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINDINGS

The Workers' Conference, begun in 1914, measured by any yardstick, has been a most worthwhile venture and an agency of unappreciable service in promoting the work of the Lord that has been committed to our trust.

We recognize with deep appreciation the wisdom of its originator and the gracious spirit it has manifested in guiding the activities of this Conference. In this undertaking Dr. Gaston has revealed himself as a genuine friend and brother as well as a directing genius. We here and now record our inestimable esteem for him and our inexpressible gratitude and praise to God for this man of God who has so exemplified the Lord Jesus as he has ministered to us in His name and spirit.

The program for this Conference shows thoughtful preparation and planning, attesting the wisdom of Drs. Gaston and West in its formulation and their sympathetic knowledge of the needs of our various fields—churches and schools and every phase of the work.

Each participant on the program measured up to the trust and confidence imposed, in the thoughtful and thorough preparation and admirable presentation of his or her paper or address. We acknowledge our indebtedness to each, and pledge our further study of the subjects presented and our earnest endeavor to put into practical operation many of the very timely suggestions offered for more effective promotion and development of our Church and school enterprises.

We urge more adequate church building programs, a greater stimulation of Evangelism, better Church and Benevolence support, more intensive heart-understanding in developing and guiding our young people in the way of life, that they may be in very truth the children of God.

The Community Center, yet young, is very promising and we hope will be fostered and expanded. We endorse the idea of a modern Christian expansion of the Rural Church program. The Larger Parish Plan challenges us and we feel indebted to Dr. G. W. Long for initiating it among us, and we are happy over its spreading growth.

Our Secondary schools are in safe hands, we feel sure, and are still arms of help to the churches.

Surely we must join hands and hearts in urging the homes to reestablish the family altar and to give God the first place in our family life.

We gratefully acknowledge our debt of gratitude to Mrs. Snively, Mrs. Preston, Miss Ray and Miss Sheibley for their invaluable contributions to the great success of this Conference. We are very happy to note the presence of two of our former most effective workers and truest friends, Misses Maud A. Kinniburgh and Jean M. Speer.

Our hats are off and our hearts are all a-throb to our good and Godly women for their wonderful program of Wednesday night and for their helpful and uplifting influence felt throughout the Conference.

Pen and tongue are paralyzed in any attempt to express our appreciation of and thanks for the inestimable and unappreciable service of Dr. Louis H. Evans in his conduct of the Bible Hour and the preaching of God's word. Surely God has been good to us in sending us Dr. Evans following our lamented Dr. McEwan, whose passing we mourn.

We have been led into very green and fertile pastures in the study of God's word, into the discovery of (to us) new truths and more illuminating interpretations of the glorious word. Though we have never doubted the word, Dr. Evans has strengthened our faith and revealed to us most impregna-

ble fortifications of our faith, and light houses of illumination of God in his word. We can not say it, but our hearts feel it and we thank God that He has spoken to us by the head, the voice and the soul of Dr. Evans.

We join the Resolutions Committee in expressing our regret of the sickness of Mrs. H. L. McCrorey, who from year to year has meant so much to the entertainment and promotion of the Conference and we assure Dr. McCrorey of our fellowship-suffering and anxiety, and our confident hope for the early and complete recovery of his dear wife.

We thank God for the success of the 24th Session of the Workers' Conference and look forward with happy anticipations to the 25th. May God continue to guide us and guide him through whom He has so graciously and profitably guided us these twenty-four years of happy, brotherly and Christ-dominated fellowship.

H. S. DAVIS,
G. E. CAESAR,
G. W. LONG,
C. J. BAKER,
Committee.

March 11, 1938.

REPORT ON NECROLOGY

This Committee is always in order and it shall ever be as long as time stands out against youth and infirmities accompany old age. Paraphrasing somewhat to make this hymn fit into the truth,

Our days are gliding swiftly by;
And we, as helpless strangers,
Cannot detain them as they fly,
In hours of joy and danger.

Although we stand on Jordan's strand,
Our friends are passing over,
And just before the shining shore
By faith we will discover."

Since the meeting of March, 1937, in this capacity, the Reaper, whose name is Death, with his sickle keen, has reaped the bearded grain at a breath, and the flowers that grow between. This reaper, like light, travels in a straight line. This reaper knows no rich, and knows no poor; he knows no high and he knows no low; he knows no social divide; he takes all in his path.

On the 5th of November, 1937, this reaper summoned from Hodge Presbytery the Rev. T. A. Thompson, age 83, and who did his best work in York County, S. C. On March 15, 1937, the Rev. J. L. Phelps, D. D., of Waynesboro, Ga., passed to his great reward. Dr. Phelps was the founder of Boggs Academy, Keyville, Ga. He gave years of faithful and sacrificial service in Burke County, Ga., in school and religious work.

On the 28th of August, 1937, Rev. W. I. P. Roseborough, in the bloom of life, was summoned from Fairfield Presbytery, Melina church, Sumter County, S. C.

On the 20th of December, 1937, this reaper came for Rev. J. M. McKay, at the age of 80. This brother gave the best of his ministerial service in Fairfield Presbytery, in the Counties of Sumter and Clarendon, S. C.

Unexpected by his wife and the friends nearest to him, the Rev. Jno. T. Wright was commanded to take his flight to his reward on Feb. 4. This eloquent preacher, born and reared near Lincoln University, was graduated from this outstanding institution in 1889, and from the seminary in 1892. The same year he came to South Carolina and took charge of the churches at Clinton and Mountville. He labored faithfully in Laurens, Newberry, Orangeburg, Abbeville, and York Counties.

On the 10th of December, 1937, Rev. H. M. Stinson was called to be crowned. This brother, after graduating from Bidle (college 1892 and seminary 1895) labored in Spartanburg, S. C., until he went to Cotton Plant, Ark. There he carried on well until the Master called him to receive his crown.

Dr. Wm. L. McEwan passed

from earthly labor to eternal refreshment October, 1937. This Christian giant was presented to those of our older group October, 1922, on the day Bidle gave up her name for that of Johnson C. Smith. On that day he injected his personality into our work so completely that to hear his name he was before you in the Spirit, a friend—reproducing the man of Galilee; he was the imitation of Christ in all his active and passive obedience to save a lost world. His sermons were sunshine to the soul. Without his personality, this Conference—though one of the best—seems to be at another place minus a great spiritual force.

Committee,
W. L. METZ,
A. W. RICE,
T. C. BOYD,
Z. A. DOCKERY.

RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS

Dr. Gaston, Members of the Workers' Conference and Friends:

We, your Committee on Thanks, submit the following:

From year to year the Workers' Conference has been a great refreshing in mind and spirit to those who have the privilege to attend, because of the fine opportunity for fellowship and the helpful information and trend, suggestion of the well planned program and the wonderful stimulation for greater endeavors in the work on the local fields represented.

We wish here to express our gratitude to Dr. J. M. Gaston, Secretary of the Unit of Work for Colored People, Board of National Missions, for providing this great enterprise; in wisely planning the program; for his unappreciable contribution to the fine spirit that has pervaded every session of the Conference, and for his wise and impartial presiding and directing its activities.

We acknowledge with gratitude our indebtedness to the Committee on Entertainment, consisting of Rev. L. B. West, D. D., Chair., Rev. A. H. Prince, Rev. F. C. Shirley, D. D., Rev. W. R. Mayberry, Rev. S. Q. Mitchell, D. D., and Prof. W. G. Morgan, for the thoughtful and ample provisions made for our accommodation and comfort during our sojourn here.

We are grateful to the students of Johnson C. Smith University who so graciously cooperated with the committee on entertainment in sharing their rooms with members of this body, and to the members of the faculty and friends of the community who in such a fine spirit of hospitality welcomed us into their homes in response to the solicitation of the Committee on Entertainment.

We cannot in words express our appreciation for the wonderful service rendered by Rev. Louis H. Evans, D. D., of Pittsburgh, Pa., in his striking, lucid interpretation and presentation of God's word, in the Bible Hour study and in his sermons. Our minds were greatly enlightened and our souls stirred to their depths, as he made us feel as the apostles of old, on their way to Emmaus: our hearts burned as through him Christ spoke to us by the way.

From year to year Dr. and Mrs. McCrorey have been the impersonation of courtesy and friendliness in their unstinted entertainment of the Conference and placing at our hands every facility for its easy and effective operation, and we are unspeakably grateful to them for their bountiful hospitality this year. We note with regret the absence of Mrs. McCrorey, due to illness, and hereby extend to her our best wishes for a speedy and permanent recovery. Though she is not present with us, we feel her influence and very sincerely thank her and Dr. McCrorey for the gracious courtesies we have enjoyed at their hands.

We feel deeply grateful for the presence of the various members of the Board, to Mrs. Gaston and every visitor. It means more than we are able to express to feel in our hearts your sincere interest. A tinge of sadness enters the picture when we think of the retirement of our dear Mrs. Snively,

who has so faithfully discharged the duties of her office. There is joy, however, in the assurance that this is only officially, and the mutual love shall ever exist in the unbroken circle.

We wish to acknowledge our appreciation to Dr. Thos. A. Long and Prof. David E. Carroll for the fine and beautiful music. Truly we have soared to the heights and felt keenly what music means to the soul. We express our thanks to the faculty and students from every institution who assisted in making the music outstanding. We are grateful to each individual who participated on the program.

Very hearty thanks are extended to those who have served our physical needs. An abundance of appetizing food has been served us daily by a corps of courteous young men who have been at all times mindful of us. To them and to those in charge of this department, we say in all capital letters, "THANK YOU!"

In the light of the special emphasis given the Rural Church we feel that words of commendation should be given Dr. Geo. W. Long, of Cheraw, S. C., for the demonstration presented; for indeed it is an inspiration and an incentive for greater development in our respective fields.

The entire atmosphere has been so home-like, so permeated by the spirit of God that we bow in humble submission and pray his blessing. Now that we have a fuller knowledge we go forth feeling and caring more. Let us reconsecrate ourselves to giving our all and doing our utmost in bringing his kingdom on earth.

Respectfully submitted,
C. A. EDINGTON,
J. E. McMILLAN,
D. T. MURRAY,
RUBY B. STANBACK.

Johnson C. Smith University, March 11, 1938.

ANOTHER PARISH ORGANIZED

Mrs. W. L. Metz, Reporter

The Parish Council of the Adams' Run, Edisto Island, and Wadmalaw fields was organized in St. Paul's Presbyterian church, by our Sabbath School Missionary, Mr. F. R. Pinckney, Tuesday afternoon, March 22nd, at 8 o'clock, with Mrs. Marcia Marion as Parish Worker.

There were representatives from the different fields; namely: Adams' Run, 8; Edisto Island, 2; Wadmalaw Island, 5.

After the program of devotionals was carried out, the election of officers was entered into. Mrs. W. H. Paden was elected chairman of the Parish Council; Mrs. G. E. Henderson and Mrs. W. L. Metz, Vice-Presidents from their respective islands; Mrs. Dent, of Adams' Run, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Juanita Grimble, of Wadmalaw Island, Treasurer; Mrs. L. E. Whaley, of Edisto Island, was elected chaplain in her absence.

Dr. W. L. Metz emphasized the fact that this Parish Movement should not be spasmodic, and the interest should not soon lag; but that every effort should be put forth to make it a permanent institution and a success in Atlantic Presbytery. Each person present pledged his support to make this Parish a success.

Rev. J. M. Miller, D. D., of Walterboro, being present, made timely remarks concerning the organization. The officers were then installed by Rev. W. H. Paden, D. D., of Adams' Run.

Rev. G. E. Henderson, the third minister of the Parish, entered into the spirit of the occasion. He offered many helpful suggestions and discussed many things that will undoubtedly be beneficial to the Parish Council.

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" was sung and the meeting adjourned with prayer and benediction by Dr. Metz. Thus closed the first meeting and organization of the Parish Council of the Adams' Run, Edisto and Wadmalaw fields.

CLARENCE DARROW AND ROBERT G. INGERSOLL

By DR. KELLY MILLER

Clarence Darrow and Robert G. Ingersoll were champions of agnosticism and irreligion. They were both rugged, homespun individuals who dramatized atheism and unbelief by holding up the Christian religion to public ridicule and scorn. They were both, however, uncompromising advocates of justice and equal rights, which appeal powerfully to a suppressed people to whom these claims are denied. By precept and example they made agnosticism more alluring than orthodoxy as exemplified by many professing Christians.

As a student in Howard University I used to go furtively to hear Ingersoll's lectures on "The Mistakes of Moses" and other irreligious topics. The wit, wisdom, eloquence and human sympathy which flowed from this great soul, I confess, put a temporary dent in my orthodoxy. I fear that many of my school mates never recovered their religious composure. I shall never forget that Robert G. Ingersoll and Frederick Douglass roundly denounced the Supreme Court decision invalidating the Civil Rights Law, before a great mass meeting in the city of Washington.

Clarence Darrow was a noted criminal lawyer who devoted his legal talent to the defense of the under dog. Dr. Sweet, a successful colored physician of Detroit, Michigan, purchased a home in an exclusive white residential district. He was charged with murder while defending his home from the mob which sought to eject him from his premises. The current of race prejudice ran high, no Christian lawyer could be found who would jeopardize his future by defending the rights of a Negro to defend his home and fireside. All the professing Christian leaders in Detroit, lawyers and laymen alike, had run to cover. Clarence Darrow gallantly stepped to the front to plead the cause of this defenseless Negro. He not only saved his life, but established for the Negro the legal right to protect his home and his castle.

Orthodoxy and agnosticism met in duel at the so-called "Monkey" trial to test the legality of excluding the teaching of the doctrine of Evolution from the public schools in Tennessee. Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan were the opposing champions. Bryan was the apotheosis of orthodoxy, as Darrow was of agnosticism. Bryan pinned his faith in the "Rock of Ages"; Darrow in the "ages of the rocks." Darrow laughed his opponent to scorn. Bryan died at the trial as the Defender of the Faith. Darrow survived as the champion of liberalism. Bryan won his case before a preconceived jury; Darrow won his cause in the enlightened opinion of the world.

I have always held William Jennings Bryan in great esteem, not more because of his adherence to the religious verities, than because of his devotion to the welfare of the man farthest down. I admire and extol Darrow and Ingersoll because of their intense human sympathies, notwithstanding their skepticism and unbelief. While it is true the noble impulse and humane sympathies may be exemplified by such examples as Darrow and Ingersoll, yet the Negro should not allow himself to let such intensity swerve him from his fundamental religious moorings. The essential mission and message of Christianity is to those who are overborne and heavy laden. A few noble examples like Ingersoll and Darrow are no adequate off-set for what Christianity has done and is yet calculated to do for the uplift and reclamation of the Negro race. Unfortunately, the wide margin between profession and practice of many Christians tends to discredit the value and advantage of Christian-

ity. Often agnostics act like Christians, while Christians act like pagans.

This lesson is of peculiar significance to the Negro race at this day and hour when religion is losing its emotional appeal faster than a deep understanding of its moral, ethical and cultural value is taking its place. The religious appeal has all but lost its efficacy with the intelligentsia or the talented tenth, and is confined to the mass life of the lower ninety. A few more talented and fortunate individuals may, indeed, think that they can get along without religion, but to the unschooled masses, it is in truth and in deed, the power of God unto salvation.

It may be true as Goethe says:

Who so has art and science found,
Religion too has he;
Who has not art nor science found,
Religion his should be."

The poor, humble Negro man and woman, who bear the burden of the world on bended back, have found neither art nor science, and therefore must rely upon the sure support of religion.

Let the Godless Negro Doctor of Philosophy in his impotent sophistication stop to consider the state of his parents and grandparents whose humble sacrifice, devotion and prayers enable them to step aside and let him pass. Notwithstanding the good deeds and human kindness of such noble agnostics as Darrow and Ingersoll, nevertheless the Negro would do well to ponder the lines of Robert Burns, "An Atheist laugh is a poor exchange for Deity offended."

ANTI-MEASLES SERUM

Raleigh.—Measles epidemics in many parts of North Carolina have brought to the State Laboratory of Hygiene in Raleigh numerous requests for anti-measles serum. Dr. J. H. Hamilton, the director, stated here.

"We are not prepared to make this serum at present, but it is one of the added things which we will be able to provide when the new laboratory is completed," Dr. Hamilton said.

"As an immunizing agency this new serum is about as effective in preventing measles as anti-toxin is in the prevention of diphtheria, but it does not cure measles.

"However," he added, "the period of immunization does not last more than three or four weeks, but this is sufficient to keep measles away during an epidemic such as now exists in various places."

Newspapers from some sections state that the serum is being imported from other States.

Not only will anti-measles serum be provided the people of North Carolina with the completion of the new laboratory, but several other important preventive agencies, Dr. Hamilton pointed out.

SENATORS' VOTING RECORD PREPARED

New York, March 25.—The record of votes by each senator on the anti-lynching bill beginning with the filibuster of May, 1935, and running through the vote on February 21, 1938, is being compiled by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and will be ready for distribution in about ten days. The tabulation of the N. A. A. C. P. shows how each Senator voted on the various matters to adjourn, to take up the bill, to invoke cloture, and to take up other legislation. This tabulation will be one of the features of the April number of The Crisis which will be devoted largely to the anti-lynching bill fight.