

# Africo-American Presbyterian

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

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## OSCAR DEPRIEST IN RETREAT

By DR. KELLY MILLER

Political fame is ephemeral. But yesterday the word of Oscar DePriest reverberated throughout the nation; today there are few so poor as to do him reverence. We scarcely see his name in the press or hear it pronounced from the public forum. There had been twenty-one Negro members of Congress before the advent of Congressman DePriest. But it is not unfair to his predecessors to say that he made a greater political impression upon his day and generation than any one of them, and indeed than all of them put together.

There had been a lapse of more than a quarter of a century between the Swan Song of Congressman George H. White and the arrival of Oscar DePriest on the floor of Congress. During that barren interval the Negro's political fortune under Taft, Wilson, Harding, Coolidge and Hoover, reached a new low. The race passed through the shadow of political despair. When Oscar DePriest was catapulted into Congress from the first Illinois District he was the first fruit of segregation in its political aspect. As a member of Congress he was the Negro's Congressman-at-large with a race-wide constituency of twelve million. No other member of Congress attracted wider notice than he throughout the three terms of his tenure. He was the Negro's Congressman par excellence. Oscar DePriest sprang from the people, and remained with the people. The humblest and the highest alike found favor with him. He was blunt, straightforward, un-schooled and unpolished. He was no orator and spoke like the young Demosthenes, as if his mouth was full of pebbles; but his words attracted attention and carried weight by virtue of their simplicity and blunt directness.

If he had any one commanding quality, it was his absolute fearlessness and courage. He missed the timidity and restraint which too often spring from education and culture. He did not hesitate to rush in where school-taught caution dared not tread. He stood for every right of his race with all the might of his rugged nature. In this attitude he was respected even when he ruffled the most passionate dogma of race prejudice. No Negro from Frederick Douglas to Walter White has yet forfeited the respect of the American people by standing up manfully for the rights of his race.

DePriest was universally honored and extolled by his race, as their political exponent. He went up and down the land—North, South, East and West—proclaiming the doctrine of equality set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. His race overwhelmed him with feasts, banquets and testimonials. I, myself, sponsored a nation-wide testimonial in his honor after he had been defeated for Congress.

But so swiftly passes the glory of this world! "Out of sight, out of mind," expresses the philosophy of the politician. DePriest's local constituents turned him down for a substitute who up to that time was unknown and untried. Arthur W. Mitchell took the political tide at flood, which lead on to fortune; Oscar DePriest was the victim of its ebb. The Negro vote South of the Mason and Dixon line is potentially Republican; North of that line it is dynamically Democratic. DePriest could not reverse this tendency.

May this great tribune of the people enjoy the peace and comfort of his retirement to the end of his days. After all, Oscar DePriest is not the victim of racial ingratitude but of political events.

## N. C. PUBLIC WELFARE INSTITUTE

More than three hundred North Carolina social welfare workers concluded their annual meeting in the nineteenth session of the Public Welfare Institute held at Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina last week.

National as well as State officials were present to instruct the assembly in the latest viewpoints of social work and the new approach to the social welfare problem.

Concerning the future of the welfare situation in North Carolina, Mrs. W. T. Bost, State Welfare Commissioner, at the opening session said that "public welfare is vitally interested that each individual attain his full stature and strength" and that it concerned itself with community resources such as clinics, schools, recreation centers and with employment and wage rates.

"For more than 20 years," she said, "North Carolina has been building a philosophy of public welfare, and two and a half years ago, through federal funds, the State department was enabled to broaden its scope of activities and be better prepared to administer two phases of the social security program in old age assistance and aid to dependent children."

Speaking at the assembly were Kenneth Pray, of the Pennsylvania School of Social Work, Dr. Isabel Gordon Carter, of the same institution, who was instructor of the assembly throughout the meeting, and Miss Lavina Keys, regional representative of the Federal Social Security Board at Washington.

Prof. Pray told the State workers that the problem of social work is approached today from a viewpoint that public aid is considered as an act of enlightened self-interest and not as an act of charity.

"In this way," he said, "the community is enabled to conserve the strength of all its members, and in public welfare service today we see the essential genius of democracy, acknowledging that need for aid is not a personal failure, but rather a social weakness that must be remedied through mutual aid."

Speaking of the child welfare situation, the State department head said it was very gratifying to note the banning of children in interstate industry by the federal government by means of the wages and hours act.

"This," we believe, will eventually lead to raising the age of compulsory school attendance to 16," she commented.

Mitchell, Hyde and Chowan counties have recently closed their county homes, and within the next three months Greene, Carteret, Cherokee, Yancey, Swain and Macon will follow suit, their county commissioners having already endorsed the action.

"Many of these boards are welcoming the opportunity to reduce the population of their county institutions or abolish them altogether and make suitable plans for the inmates on the outside," Mrs. Bost reported.

"Regional hospitals crossing county lines and planned under State direction, afford the best solution to the problem."

On the question of general relief, Mrs. Bost raised the question as to whether or not the State should be asked at the next legislature to assist the counties on a 50-50 basis in taking care of these cases.

"The federal government now makes no contribution whatever for general relief, and indications are that it is not planning to go back into the business of direct relief."

"It would be well to get the

thinking of State leaders, county officials, welfare boards and various social agencies and work out a plan that would not work too great a hardship on the State," she concluded.

## RELIGIOUS EXHIBIT AT THE GOLDEN GATE EXPOSITION

San Francisco, July—Religious leaders of all creeds and denominations from all over the West will meet on Treasure Island Tuesday, August 23, to take part in groundbreaking ceremonies for the Temple of Religion and Tower of Peace at the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition.

This was announced by William Unmack, managing director of the religious organization, which plans to present the greatest combined religious and peace program in history. Governor Frank F. Merriam, honorary president, will turn the first spade of earth on the building site, and President Leland W. Cutler and other Exposition and city officials, including Mayor Angelo J. Rossi, will take part.

Known as Temple of Religion and Tower of Peace, Incorporated, the organization has opened offices at 240 Montgomery Street, and announces appointment of the following officers; Dr. Rudolph I. Coffee, President; Fred D. Parr, First Vice President; Joe N. Barn-dollar, Second Vice President; Mrs. A. F. Hockenbeamer, Third Vice President; Hon. Curtis D. Wilbur, Fourth Vice President; Dr. Aurelia H. Reinhardt, Fifth Vice President; E. V. Krick, Treasurer; Dr. Herbert P. Shaw, Secretary; Dr. Edgar A. Lowther, Assistant Secretary; Mrs. M. C. Sloss, Director; Hugo D. Newhouse, Director; and Arthur A. Newhouse, Director.

A blanket invitation has been issued to all religious groups in the eleven western States to send delegates to the August 23 ceremonies, which will take place on Treasure Island at 2:30 in the afternoon.

On the evening of the same day a huge mass meeting of religious groups will be held at the civic auditorium in San Francisco at which Governor Merriam and distinguished members of the clergy will speak.

Architectural plans for the Temple of Religion and Tower of Peace are now being prepared and details of construction will be made public within the next few weeks, according to Unmack.

"We believe that we are undertaking a project which has never before been attempted on so great a scale," Unmack declared. "With the joining of all sects and creeds in a universal pageant of peaceful worship and worshipful peace in a country where religion is free and peace reigns, we will attempt to bring home to the millions of visitors at the Exposition a full realization of our blessings."

Unmack revealed that religious exhibits from the earliest time of recorded history, including the first known Bibles, will be brought from every corner of the earth to the Temple. World religious leaders will be invited here to lecture, as well as international figures, in the cause of universal peace.

"Details of exhibits and daily programs are now being worked out and will be made public as they are approved," Unmack said. "The Temple of Religion and Tower of Peace will be free to the public and our religious and peace pageants, held daily, will be made dramatic, colorful, and singularly appealing."

Humanity desperately needs today a moral and spiritual rebirth—a revitalization of religion. There is no sure way to this supreme goal save through adherence to the teaching of the Bible.—Secretary of State Hull.

A fool and his money never make a good argument.

## NEGRO WOMEN ATTEND SCHOOL

Junior Woman's Club of Marion Sponsors Two Weeks' Course

By Mrs. Jane McKimmon, In The Charlotte Observer

The Junior Woman's club of Marion, McDowell county, sponsored a two-week cooking and training school for the Negro women of Addie's Chapel. "One afternoon," said Miss Annie Tucker, Home Agent, "I gave a demonstration on 'How to Set a Table and Serve a Meal.' The larger part of the group was in service and the women were much interested. They were attentive and seemed to quickly get the rules and technique of table setting and service."

Meetings were held at night, with a different speaker each time. Preacher Burge, who was in charge of this part of the program, came to my office and asked if I would talk to his people on "Building Better Homes." He said he thought they had been preached to death about their heavenly home and now they needed some help on what kind of earthly home to have.

"It was the first time I had ever been 'Preacher' in a pulpit," continued Miss Tucker, "but the audience was so attentive and eager that it was a real pleasure."

**Audience Responds**  
"I was admonished to wake them up and these were the things to which that colored audience responded:

"The effect of your surroundings on home life.

"Clean up, rake up, and repair.

"List of practical improvements to be made.

"Train your children well—feel secure by working hard to care for them well.

"Make your family life safe and its keep.

"Save something for a rainy day.

"Buy wisely.

"All women attending the training school were interested in improving their homes and Pastor Burge wishes to enter his community in the 'Better Homes Contest' next year.

"I really believe they will do something, too," said Miss Tucker, "as I have driven through the village twice lately and have seen improvements already under way."

When a county with its communities sets to work to make a better and more beautiful place in which to live, it means that all the forces available must be brought into action and Orange county, in its plans and accomplishments, furnishes a fine example of what co-operation can do.

The mayor of Chapel Hill, John Foushee; Editor Louis Graves; Community Club President Mrs. D. D. Carroll; P.-T. A. President, Mrs. Guy Johnson; Chapel Hill Health and Welfare President H. D. Crookford, and Secretary George Lawrence; and Prof. Snipes, principal of the Negro school, all came together to plan and work with county and village people in accomplishing results.

Chapel Hill is perhaps the most beautiful village in North Carolina, at least I have seen no other so lovely, but it appears that there were still some sore spots to be looked after. Village officials helped with a general clean-up; and in the Negro section particularly, with the strong support of the school principal, all of the yards were cleared and load after load of trash removed.

In Hillsboro, Mayor Ben Johnson and ministers of the churches, with Editor Thompson of the News, announced plans for cleaning up the cemeteries which are conspicuous places and their beautification means improvement of the town.

In the farming communities over the county presidents of the Home Demonstration clubs were chairmen of the Better Homes Campaigns and many telling things were done.

In Mt. Carmel, as in Hillsboro, it was the cemetery that first received attention. Cleaning, hauling, and planting were started early in the spring and the community is so much interested that it plans to continue work through the year.

At Cedar Grove Corners an old unsightly building was torn down and rubbish hauled away.

Schley concentrated on cleaning the Grange Hall and grounds. As a Negro church was a near neighbor, the congregation was appealed to and the members set in with a will to make its church yard a part of the general improvement.

The neighborhood is so proud of its new front that it is contemplating constructing a community playground.

Murphy is one of the youngest home demonstration clubs in the county but it has planned school ground improvements that will stretch over the year and which include changing a county road that runs through the place where children play.

"Home owners individually played an important part in the general improvement," says Miss Grace Holcombe, Home Agent, "and I could not begin to tell you how many trees and shrubs were planted."

"I am especially proud of the back yards, one in particular where the family is struggling to maintain the farm but where the back yard has for years given the whole place a discouraged look. There was the usual accumulation of old pans, old tires, a child's broken wagon, two dog houses and not a blade of grass anywhere. Now the rubbish is gone, but the yard is still bare of grass, and we do not know when there will be any. Nevertheless, the family has a new appreciation of beauty and order, and our faith is strong that that yard will have a good covering of green by next spring."

## PSYCHOLOGICALLY SPEAKING

To carry out life's program you need more friends. Your circle of friendships is too limited and your thinking too shallow and selfish. You must start by broadening your minds and including others, both friends and foes, to share in the good things you ask God for yourselves. In your efforts to hold back from your neighbor, you have shut out God's abundance from yourselves, for He sends to us that which we appreciate for others—"With what measure ye meet it shall be measured to you again." More and more does the above happen—and become a habit—when you rely too much upon your conscious selves in your petitions. You seek too much your way in getting things, and your way is the selfish way.

You have thus been left poor in substance and your dim lights have not reflected leadership. You are thus complaining because your leadership is failing, but the cause is at your own door. You cannot get any following because you have ceased to contact God. You want money and many other things, but you say money is so scarce. That is untrue, for there is no scarcity in God's abundance. When you carry out the law, abundance will be yours. If you would have your wishes fulfilled through God's abundance take to God in prayer your neighbors' needs and wishes along with yours. Asking thus in a broad way opens your capacity to hear God's answer abundantly, just as giving in a broad way opens your capacity to receive. People who pinch and give to God's cause never have much to give. They are giving narrowly out of a narrow mind and it follows

that there will be a narrow inlet.

Do you not know that all the money and every other good thing you have come from God? Do you realize that when you are asked to help a struggling church and you give a check for \$5.00 when you could as well give one for \$20.00 without being hurt, that you are pinching God's bounty and closing your capacity to receive? Many of you have seen God's cause suffer, have pinched his abundance when asked to give, and are wondering why you don't have anything. You are the cause. Narrowness, that's the trouble! Let your mind, heart and life extend to those around you. Include them in your program and your prayers, and note how God's abundance will flow to you in spirit and substance.

A few weeks ago a woman was going down the street to buy some shoes. She had only five dollars and a few cents. She had been worried because of a note for \$500 she had to meet in a few days and had no knowledge of where to get it. While the thought of this note was bearing upon her mind she passed a woman sitting on the corner begging. Finding she had no feet and was left there by a girl who had gone to buy bread, she gave all the money she had and returned home feeling she had acted Christlike and looking to Him. In just four days, and in time for her need, a check for \$1,000, an old debt which she had ceased to hope for, came in the morning mail.

God surely rules in the affairs of men.

J. J. SHEPPERSON.

Bristol, Tenn.

## FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ABERDEEN

The Daily Vacation Bible School closed last week, with a wonderful program which was witnessed by a large congregation. There were exhibits of many kinds, and two weeks of successful operation and cooperation. Rev. O. J. Hawkins, the pastor, had the Rev. R. E. Peters, pastor of St. Joseph A. M. E. church, and Rev. T. R. Owens, pastor of Shiloh A. M. E. Zion church, associated, and the following faculty list: Mrs. Chas. McNeil, Seniors and Intermediates; Mrs. O. J. Hawkins, Juniors; Miss Annie B. Grice, Primary No. 1; Mrs. Robt. H. Beatty, Primary No. 2; Miss Cleo Clark, Primary No. 3; Misses Alberta Fairley and Armetria Whitaker assistants. Special activities were Handwork, Mrs. Irene White and Rev. T. R. Owens; Music, Mrs. Chas. McNeil and Rev. R. E. Peters; Recreational activities, Rev. O. J. Hawkins. This was a community affair that hadn't been put over before, but nobody has any doubt as to the success of its operation.

We want to make mention of our pastor being joined in wedlock, though we have been delayed in writing. He recently returned from his honeymoon, in Texas and Alabama. A surprise shower was given the bride by the Missionary Ladies.

We are hoping to get started on the manse soon. Arrangements are being made. Pray for our success.

J. B. L.

## SANFORD MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club of Blandonia Presbyterian church held their July session July 8th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Robinson, 508 Wall Street. The meeting was largely attended by the members. After the usual routine of business was disposed of a committee was elected to arrange for a Stag outing to be given for the club at Cole's Lake, August the 3rd, after which a delicious two-course luncheon was served by the hostess, assisted by her daughter, Mrs. O. A. Alston. The meeting was enjoyed by all present.

THOS. U. TIMBERLAKE.