

# Little Folk's Day at Kress'

"Next Best Day to Christmas"

## Holiday Toy Opening Tomorrow, Saturday!



**T**OMORROW we welcome the children of Charlotte. We want to see every one of 'em—and we want every one of 'em to see our Holiday stock of Toys, Toys, Toys—more toys and more kinds of toys than you ever dreamt of before. A Christmas Fairyland. The Santa Claus spirit is here, and there'll be Christmas goodies—interesting, beautiful and useful gifts to choose from without number.

Besides fun for the little ones, it will be a chance for parents to **get started right** in Christmas buying. **The big saving gained by buying at Kress' means a lot in these times.** Read the personal letter on this subject from Mr. R. H. Kress to the manager. It shows why a quarter here goes as far as a dollar elsewhere. It tells of your chance to

**SAVE MONEY ON CHRISTMAS PURCHASES**

Dear Mr. Townsend—  
Best wishes for your Holiday Opening which I know will be the biggest you ever had. I have just personally visited 34 Kress stores—good news and good prospects greeted me everywhere. The South and Southwest are the most prosperous sections of the country today.  
The slight stringency in the money market means that thinking people will buy more prudently; they will not pay two or three prices for an article just for the sake of spending money.  
They will go to the Kress stores where they can get the articles at 10c to 25c that they've been paying 50c to \$1.00 for.  
The wife of one of the largest wholesale jobbers in the South told me last week that a few days previously, her five year old niece came into the parlor with a very beautiful new yellow shaded hat and coat and when asked where it came from, Mabel replied: "I don't know, but I 'spec mama got it at Kress', she buys most everything there."  
Even at Kress' you can't buy a \$10.00 coat for 25c, but the exceptional bargains in imported and domestic toys you are able to offer should mean the biggest kind of success to you, the biggest kind of satisfaction to the little folks who do the enjoying and to the big folks who do the buying.

Yours sincerely, R. H. KRESS.

The Kress Santa Claus stock includes the choicest Toys, Candies, Dolls, Books, Dainty China and Glassware, Jewelry, Novelties, Post Cards, etc. There are gift suggestions for the whole family.

Buy Early and Shop in Comfort Don't Miss the Toy Opening Tomorrow

**"WATCH KRESS' WINDOWS"**

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### Too Much Greek And Hebrew

Time Devoted To These Dead Languages at Biddle Could Better Be Spent on Congress, Intimates Mr. Curtis.

Mr. William E. Curtis writes the Chicago Record-Herald that he found a friend of Biddle University who considers that too much time is spent there on Greek and Hebrew. He says: "In visiting Biddle University of this city, an institution that was founded by the Freedmen's bureau, shortly after the war for the education of young colored men and is supported by the Freedmen's board of the Presbyterian church, with headquarters at Pittsburgh, I was struck by the fact that more than half of the time of the students in the theological department is devoted to the study of Hebrew and Greek. And the catalogue says that such members of the middle and senior classes as are qualified for it may make a beginning in comparative Semitic grammar by reading the first chapter of Genesis in Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac and Arabic." A gentleman who is deeply interested in the institution declared this time might better be devoted to the study of the languages of the Congo Valley and of Timbuctoo.

Biddle University has four departments—industrial, classical normal and theological; and has an alumni number of 896. Of these 415 have been graduated from the industrial and normal schools, 270 from the classical department and 117 from the school of theology. During the last twelve years the classes have averaged twenty-one graduates, making a total of 254. Of these fifty-two have become ministers, thirty-three teachers, twenty-eight doctors, and the remainder, 123 in number, are engaged in other occupations.

For the first twenty-five years Biddle University had a faculty of white professors. About fifteen years ago it was thought advisable to substitute colored professors as vacancies occurred, and today all of the faculty are negroes. The office of president for ten years was filled by the late Rev. H. J. Sanders, D. D., LL. D., who, according to universal testimony, was a man of great learning and ability, and thus far the trustees have not been able to find any colored man competent to fill his place. Rev. H. L. McCree, professor of Hebrew and Greek, and dean of the theological department, is acting president.

By the latest catalogue there are nineteen students in the theological department, with a senior class of four. Two of them came from British Guiana, three from Virginia, six from North Carolina, six from South Carolina and two from Georgia, and they

obtained their academic education chiefly in the mission schools of those states. So far as I could ascertain they are all worthy and earnest young men, full of zeal and piety, who intend to devote their lives to pastoral work among the members of their race in the south, and desire as well as require a practical suitable preparation. But the instruction provided for them is based upon the old-fashioned curriculum of the days of Jonathan Edwards and the traditional courses of study that prevailed in theological seminaries a century ago, and has been gradually modified or discarded by progressive institutions.

The study of Hebrew is now elective and is not required in a majority of theological institutions. At Yale it has been almost entirely discarded for a practical course in Christian sociology, ethics and modern methods of Christian activity. Chicago Theological Seminary has made a similar change. Hebrew and Greek have been made almost entirely elective, and the time formerly given to the languages is now devoted to courses in the English Bible, evangelism, missions and Christian sociology and to the practical work of the ministry.

In Garrett Biblical Institute, Northwestern University, Hebrew is taught during the second and third years as an elective course "intended for those who desire to read and understand the scriptures in the original."

At Colgate Hebrew is elective; at Union and at Andover it is required the first year and is elective for the rest of the course.  
At Biddle University more Hebrew and Greek are required than at any other theological institution in this country, and it would seem that its graduates need less of it than those of all other divinity schools. They go from here into the plantation villages of the south. Their congregations are humble and in many cases illiterate farmers; they require a great deal from their ministers, but it is difficult to imagine how a knowledge of Hebrew or Greek can be made useful in either preaching or pastoral work. Neither language would seem necessary for the instruction in righteousness of a log cabin congregation. All colored preachers ought to have a thorough knowledge of the Bible, but I cannot find in the curriculum of Biddle University any evidence of Bible study except two recitations a week for two terms in Biblical history.

Out of a total of seventy-eight recitations as given in the course of instructions the work is divided as follows:  
Hebrew ..... 18  
Theology ..... 12  
Church History ..... 8  
Biblical History ..... 4  
Christian Ethics ..... 1  
Greek ..... 18  
Homiletics ..... 11  
Church Government ..... 5  
Evidences of Christianity ..... 1  
Homiletics is the method of preparing and delivering sermons and should, of course, receive special attention.

But it receives only one-third of the time that is given to Greek and Hebrew, and there is no evidence that any instruction whatever is given in pastoral work. It would be a great deal better if the course of instruction given at Mr. Moody's school at Northfield in practical Christian work and the English Bible should be substituted for the antiquated curriculum at Biddle University.

The catalogue of the theological department of Howard University, which is also intended for the education of colored men for the ministry, says: "The work of this school centers upon the English Bible. The varied lines of instruction and training converge on the effective use of the Bible in meeting, prayer, pulpit, family and personal work. While Hebrew and Greek are offered as necessary to critical scholarship, it is the English Bible that the preachers and pastors and Christian workers will chiefly use; and it is this that is to be chiefly used in their training. At the same time, there is full instruction in church history and theology, in evangelizing, in missionary activities, in the theory and practice of preaching, and in church administration."

Several white clergymen of experience to whom I have spoken, agree that so much attention to Greek and Hebrew is not only useless, but harmful to colored pastors, because their preliminary preparation is so limited and defective that they can never get more than a superficial acquaintance with either and we all know that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. A North Carolina clergyman told me that one of the colored preachers in his neighborhood came to him one day to ask for several sentences in Hebrew, Greek, "or any other foreign language" that he could use in his sermons, because a rival preacher who had studied Hebrew at Biddle University was getting the advantage of him in the popular estimation by quoting the Bible in the original tongue.

The students who come to Biddle University are poorly prepared to undertake such difficult studies as Greek and Hebrew, and Aramaic, Syriac and Arabic are preposterous. They might as well be put into Sanskrit. And it would be difficult for anyone to explain what possible use a plantation preacher could make of the comparative Semitic grammar. I asked one of the professors how many of the students mastered Hebrew. He replied that during his entire experience with the institution he had never known but two who showed any proficiency in that language. He expressed it as his individual opinion that it was more difficult for the members of his race to acquire foreign languages than for whitemen. It could not be expected that young men from the cotton fields, whose parents were illiterate and whose ancestors were entirely without culture, would show a proficiency in the dead languages. Furthermore, their preparation was defective and insufficient. Most of them came from academies and other schools supported by the missionary societies, in which

the instructors, however zealous and faithful, were not so competent as they might be.

He did not wish to criticize the management of his own institution. On the contrary, he heartily approved of whatever the trustees proposed for the good of the students. He realized that they were wiser than he. At the same time he admitted that the demand for practical common sense and a knowledge of the English Bible among the colored clergy of the south was much greater than for a knowledge of the dead languages.

Professor George E. Davis, dean of the faculty, explained that the reasons for teaching Hebrew and Greek were first, a desire on the part of the students to be able to read the Holy Scriptures in the original; and, secondly, the need of educating a few members of his race to be leaders in thought and action. He did not advocate general instruction in the dead languages, but it would do no harm, and he believed it would do a great deal of good to have a few scholars and linguists among the colored race.

Rev. J. E. Moorland, D. D., a colored man, a graduate of Howard University, and one of the international secretaries of the general Y. M. C. A. recently delivered an address on "The Practical Training of the Negro Minister," in which he gives the results of the observations of many years' traveling among the colored churches of the south.

"The average course of study in the theological seminaries provided for both white and colored men is not calculated to bring young clergymen into touch with the problems which are to confront them, as it should," he says. "There is not very much in their courses of instruction that inspires men with the gravity of the problem of human salvation and various other doctrines which are of little or no value. It is unfortunate that many of our ministers had no systematic training at all, and it is surprising that so much has been accomplished with such poorly equipped men as many of them have been. Usually the theological seminaries have been very slow in utilizing the most improved educational methods and have been very strong in maintaining the old order of things. What we need today for our ministry is a training that will put them in possession of the knowledge of human society, just as it is; a training that will do for the minister what our medical schools are doing for the physicians; it will bring them in daily contact with the conditions which he must meet in the world. Thorough instruction in sociology will make it possible for the young men in our theological seminaries to get a practical knowledge of human relations and conditions. Greater care will be taken of the poor and the orphans and more energy will be spent in building up the moral character of the young men and young women of the community.

"It is encouraging to note a new de-

parture in two leading theological seminaries. The Yale Divinity School has changed its course very much. It has strengthened the old course, leading to the degree of bachelor of divinity, known as historical; also adding a philosophical and a practical course, both of which lead to the B. D. degree. The practical course will emphasize the relation of the minister to the problems of modern society, giving special attention to Christian sociology, ethics and methods of Christian activity.  
"The Chicago Theological Seminary has made a similar change, and says, in its latest catalogue: 'The subjects for instruction are those directly relating to the work of the ministry, and courses in the English Bible, the psychology of Christian living, religious pedagogy, evangelism, missions, Christian sociology and citizenship are in both the prescribed and elective work.' Hebrew and Greek have been made almost entirely elective, and much that is traditional in systematic theology, church history and other departments has had to make room for new subjects. This is most encouraging, and, no doubt, before a great while other seminaries will follow the same course."

### Prof. Holt Confident Of Being Nominated

Special to The News.  
Greensboro, Nov. 29.—Prof. J. Allen Holt, senator from Guilford, president of Oak Ridge Institute, and prominent candidate for the democratic nomination for congressman from the fifth district, was here yesterday on his way to Durham to make a public address at a Junior Order celebration. Senator Holt said that his nephew, Harvey Holt, son of Hon. M. H. Holt, who has been critically ill for several weeks was improving and would in all probability recover. This news will be glad news to the many friends of Harvey all over the state.

Senator Holt talked unreservedly about his "prospects" politically. He is extremely optimistic, and if his information is correct, reasonably so, he says he expects to carry Guilford county, his home county, where his record as a working democrat and a public officer for many years is known to all men by a "decided majority."

A \$40,000 Fire at Charlottesville.  
Charlottesville, Va., Nov. 28.—The Jefferson Auditorium, Charlottesville's only opera house, and a colored Baptist church in the rear, were destroyed by fire last night. The Hotel Gleason was saved after a hard fight. The loss was \$40,000; insurance \$10,000.

WONDERFUL ECZEMA CURE.  
"Our little boy had eczema for five years," writes N. A. Adams, Henrietta, Pa. "Two of our home doctors said the case was hopeless, his lungs being affected. We then employed other doctors, but not benefit resulted. By chance we read about Electric Bitters; bought a bottle and soon noticed improvement. We continued this medicine until several bottles were used, when our boy was completely cured." Best of all blood medicines and body building health tonics. Guaranteed at Woodall & Sheppard's Drug store, 50c.

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The hall should be furnished neatly, as there are so many people, who, by chance, see into the hall, who may never see into any room in the house, and in this way a nicely furnished hall will make a good impression on the mind of the caller, or a neglected hall will surely have the opposite effect.  
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