

A NEW ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. R. W. Thompson Becomes President of Second Baptist Lyceum—Prof. Lawson's Valuable Services Highly Indorsed—"Field Day."

On the first Sunday in the new year an audience gathered at the Second Baptist Lyceum that crowded the spacious lecture room from the rostrum to the doors. It was "field day," so to speak, the program taking wide range. President Jesse Lawson delivered a stirring address reviewing the progress



MR. R. W. THOMPSON.

of the race since emancipation, stating that the Negro like any sensible business man should, at the end of each year take an inventory of stock on hand, balance his books, and find out whether the year has resulted in profit or loss. He referred to the report made by Dr. H. B. Friswell, of Hampton Institute before the Industrial Commission in which the latter declared that the Negro people might properly be divided into three classes—one third who had retrograded since the dawn of freedom; one third who had remained at a standstill, and the other third who had made some progress. He asked if Dr. Friswell's testimony could be regarded as reliable. It is, he said, the legitimate function of our lyceums to inquire into these matters and before accepting any evidence as true, call for papers and statistics. He felt confident that our thirty-seven years of journeying through the wilderness had brought substantial returns and that perhaps at the end of forty years we might, like the Children of Israel, come within sight of the Promised Land. Prof. Lawson then introduced Mr. A. Wendell Scott, of the District bar, who in eloquent style gave a comprehensive summary of the paper on "The Negro as a Citizen and soldier," read by him on the preceding Sunday. An interesting discussion followed, after which, by request, Lieut. R. E. Toomey recited an original poem entitled "The end of the Year." Prof. Lawson, in a speech full of feeling announced that his labors as president were at an end, and that a new administration would be installed. He heartily thanked the old officers and members for the strong and uniform support given him during his term of seven years, and urged that the organization use its best endeavors to maintain the standard toward which he had aimed.

The officers for the new year were reported from the executive committee and their election ratified by the lyceum as follows:

President—Mr. R. W. Thompson,
1st Vice President—Mr. R. S. Smith,
2nd Vice President—Mr. C. L. Marshall,
Recording Secretary—Miss Emms E. Tolliver,

Financial Secretary—Miss Almira Crutchfield,
Corresponding Secretary—Miss Bessie Miller,
Treasurer—Miss Evelyn Carey,
Chaplain—Mr. T. H. Norman,
Director of Music—Mr. Benjamin Washington,
Pianist—Miss Lillian V. Green.
Cornetist—Prof. B. T. Holmes,
Ushers—Mr. Thos. Ware, chief; Messrs. Tazewell Towles, Clarence Davis, J. E. Slaughter, Robert Lee, Jerome Jenkins and Robert Dodson.

The retiring president introduced Mr. Thompson as his successor, paying a high tribute to his worth and ability. The new president expressed his thanks for the honor conferred and accepted it as a sacred trust recognizing fully the many responsibilities which the post carries with it. He asked the support and co-operation of the strong forces that had stood by Prof. Lawson and had combined to make the Second Baptist Lyceum an organization of national repute and a powerful agent in the work of civilization.

After installing the other officers the committee on resolutions reported a memorial enlarging the character of Prof. Lawson, unreservedly indorsing his splendid administration and expressing regret at pressure of other interests rendering it impossible for him to further serve them as president. The resolutions were unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

The next meeting of the lyceum will be held January 28, at which time Prof. Robert H. Terrell, principal of the Washington High School will be the speaker of the day.

Prof. McGee at Bethel.

Prof. W. J. McGee, president of the Anthropological Society, in charge of the Bureau of Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, delivered a scholarly lecture Tuesday evening of last week before Bethel Literary and Historical Association on "Our Aboriginal Landholders." He gave a vivid and accurate account of the origin, distribution and characteristic of the red men who roamed over this land long before the advent of the Caucasian. Prof. McGee's address was a scientific treat and the full text with an analysis of the phases of anthropology, was enjoyed by a distinguished audience. Questions were propounded by Attorney R. S. Smith, J. W. Cromwell, George W. Cook, Register Lyons and others. Prof. Kelly Miller and Recorder Cheatham highly approved the address as a masterly presentation of a most interesting historical subject. Prof. W. H. Richards presided, and Messrs. Lyon and Cheatham occupied seats with the speaker of the evening on the platform.

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