

THE HILLS OF VIRGINIA

News Notes and Social Flashes from the Classic Burg of Charlottesville.

Charlottesville, Va., Special—The annual election of officers of the Y. M. C. A. was held at the headquarters of the Y. M. C. A., Tuesday night, May 22nd, resulting in the following officers for the ensuing year: Mr. J. H. Dickinson, president; Mr. S. B. Logan, 1st vice president; Mr. J. H. Thornton, 2nd vice president; C. H. Bullock, secretary; Mr. Ernest B. Allen, asst. secretary; Mr. J. N. Baker, treasurer; Mr. A. F. Angel, chaplain. The executive committee is as follows: Messrs. S. B. Logan, S. H. White, A. F. Angel, D. A. Smith, O. H. Bullock. The men's meeting at the Y. M. C. A. was well attended Sunday and the Lord's prayer ably explained. The monthly meeting of the Sunday school union was held at the Shiloh Baptist church, Sunday evening at 8 o'clock, Mr. G. P. Iago, president, presiding. Excellent papers were read and the recitations, etc., were highly enjoyed by all present. The meeting of the Union showed that even the small children are beginning to think for their betterment. The annual sermon to the Good Samaritans was preached at the First Baptist church Sunday night by the pastor, Rev. R. C. Quales. The order turned out in a body, in full uniform, led by Mr. R. J. Ward, worthy chief. Mr. P. Y. Wyatt who has been sick at his home is able to be at his post of duty again. Mrs. A. W. Curtis and son left for Washington, D. C., Wednesday the 23rd, where she will spend a few days with her son, Dr. A. M. Curtis, surgeon in chief of Freedmen's Hospital, and thence to Chicago where she will reside with her son, Mr. A. W. Curtis. Hon. John H. Smyth, president of the Negro Reformatory of Virginia, was in the city last week. Dr. J. J. Quarles of Louisa, Virginia, was in the city last week. Mr. A. C. Mabrey has returned from Richmond, Va., where he has been visiting, his former home. Rev. Joseph Perry, missionary for Western Virginia, of the Home Missionary Society, has returned from a visit to North Carolina. Mr. and Mrs. Cephas Cosby are home from Richmond, Virginia. Messrs. S. L. Bundy and Henry Reeves have gone to Warm Springs, Va. Miss Rosalie Brown is home from New York. Mrs. Sallie Sellers Ray and daughter, Mrs. James Bias, are home from Pittsburgh, Pa., on a visit to their parents and friends. Rev. Clarence Martin is home from Virginia Union University. Mr. D. A. Smith went to Washington, D. C., on business this week. A high class concert will be given at the Mt Zion Baptist church Monday night, June 4th, for the benefit of the church. Among those who will participate are Mr. B. H. Baker, cornetist of Washington, D. C., Madame S. L. Lindsay of Philadelphia, Pa., Mr. W. H. Parago, of the Cable Piano Company, and other local talent. This entertainment promises to be a rare musical treat. The closing exercises of the city public schools will be held at the First Baptist church next Thursday, and the fifth anniversary of the Jefferson School Alumni at the Ebenezer Baptist church on Friday night, accounts of which we will give in the next issue. Mr. and Mrs. John B. Higginbotham of Lynchburg, Va., were in the city last week, stopping at the Maceo Cafe, Mrs. W. H. Dabney, proprietor. The American can be had at Pollard and Nobles, or from Mr. A. F. Angel at the University.

MONTICELLO

A GREAT INSTITUTION.

The True Reformers' Bank at Richmond and the Great Institution Which Supports it and the Many Tributaries Which Supply it—A Worthy Example of Negro Possibilities.

A representative of The Colored American was in Richmond, Va., a few weeks ago and among the many places and points of interest he visited was the True Reformers' building, which contains not only the bank, but all the main bodies of the institution. Being a True Reformer he was readily introduced to the principal officers and to the chiefs of the various divisions. He was the guest for a few hours of Grand Worthy Secretary, W. P. Burrell, who after giving him a most delightful hack ride in company with Mrs. Burrell and Miss Rosie B. Moody, a most brilliant and charming young school teacher, escorted him to the True Reformers' bank building at 604, 606 and 608 North Second street. He was turned over to Mr. R. T. Hill, the cashier of the bank. Mr. Hill is a factor in this institution and a veteran financier.

Mr. Hill showed us through all of the departments of the bank, opened the great vault of the bank and we had the pleasure of handling and looking at between \$85,000 and \$100,000 in currency. Besides this there were great sacks of gold and silver which were dusty and musty from want of handling. Leaving this department, Mr. Hill introduced us to Mr. J. C. Robertson, chief of the real estate department and attorney for the Grand Fountain. Mr. Robertson though youthful in appearance is learned in the law, a most gifted speaker and has proven himself a strong factor in the order and department. An idea may be gained of the magnitude of his responsibilities when it is told that the order owns fifteen haci, three farms, two dwellings and two hotels. The total valuation of the property is \$180,000.

We were next introduced to Mrs. M. A. Brown who has charge of the Regalia Department. As the day of our visit was the closing of the week, Mrs. Brown did not have time to give us any facts and figures. But her department is an important one. We were then introduced to Mr. E. W. Brown, the editor and financial business manager of The Reformer, the official organ of the order. Mr. Brown has with a small beginning run the circulation of The Reformer up to more than six thousand papers weekly, and has put the paper on a paying basis. To those who are acquainted with the struggles and tribulations of race journalism, the work of Mr. Brown is highly commendable. Mr. Edward Ellis, Jr., is the accountant. It is his duty to visit the chiefs of the different departments and to get a statement of their receipts and expenditures and of the amount of work done, so that at the weekly meetings he makes a separate and distinct report from each of the different chiefs. But their accounts must tally with his.

Mr. T. W. Taylor is chief of the Old Folks' Home. This department is one of the most important as well as the most commendable feature of this great order. It consists of 634 acres, known as Western Farm, in Henrico County, within six miles of Richmond and cost the order \$14,400. It is now on a paying basis and under Mr. Taylor's direct supervision is doing a great work. The Hotel Reformer is a new feature of the order and is under the direct charge of Mr. A. W. Holmes. It is first class in all of its departments, and in addition to serving the public, it furnishes a home for all of its unmarried employees. It is spick-span, clean and worthy of a large amount of patronage.

One of the brightest young men it was our pleasure to meet was Mr. R. J. Kyles, President Taylor's private secretary. Mr. Kyles is not only an expert stenographer and typewriter, but as an orator is known as a spell-binder. Washingtonians will remember his magnetic speech at the Vermont Ave. Baptist church in the early spring. We met President W. R. Taylor in the afternoon who invited us to attend their weekly meeting. These meetings are held Friday of each week and all of the chiefs, clerks and employees assemble in one of the fountain rooms and either make reports or hear the reports of the different departments. At this particular meeting without

going into details the receipts of the various departments amounted to some \$26,000 for the week. The expenses of the different departments including death benefits, etc., amounted to some \$6,000 leaving a net balance and profit of more than \$20,000 for that week's work. These figures may seem a little steep but the writer examined them personally and verified them. After this meeting we were the guests of the main officers for a while and in a five minutes talk at the meeting said to them as we are saying to the readers of The Colored American that the Grand United Order of True Reformers is a magnificent demonstration of what the Negro can do in a business way, of what he can do by organization. Those who read of the work of the True Reformers cannot get a full idea of the great scope of the work done. One must visit the fountain head as it were, and see the "living picture."

A large first class grocery store has just been opened up; a new site purchased for a big dry goods store as well. The grocery store is now in successful operation. In addition to this large six story building is being erected in the rear of the large hall and bank building to accommodate the new departments and to install a large and first class printing outfit. The writer is under obligations to Grand Worthy Secretary, Mr. W. P. Burrell, for the many courtesies shown him and to President Taylor and other officers of the order. Hurrah, for the True Reformers!

Hoffman's Big Musical Festival.

All is in readiness for Hoffman's Second Annual Musical Festival June 23rd next at the Academy of Music. The following magnificent program will be rendered:

- PART 1.**
- Symphony Orchestra 25 musician in grand orchestral numbers as follows:
1. Overture, Music, Rollinsor.
 2. Selection, The Ameer, Herbert.
 3. Valse the Viceroy, Herbert.
 4. Intermezzo, from Cavalleria Rusticana, Mascani.
 5. March, Up Broadway Toler.
 6. Idylle Hearts and Flowers, Tobani.
- PART 2, VOCAL.**
1. Solo and chorus, Gounod's Gallia, Gounod, Mme. Martina Irving and Washington Permanent Chorus 60 voices.
 2. Tenor solo, Come Back Dear Heart, Arnold, Mr. Wm. Goodrich.
 3. Chorus, The Gallant Troubadour, Watson, Washington Permanent Chorus 60 voices.
 4. Medley of 80 minutes in Operatic chorus under the direction of assistant leader Nathaniel Bowles.
 5. Violin Cello Solo, Awakening of Spring, Bachr, Mr. Alexandria Lee.
- PART 3.**
- The appearance on the stage of Hoffman's Concert Band of forty musicians handsomely uniformed celebrating their first anniversary previous to their trip to the National Republican Convention to be held at Philadelphia.
- PROGRAM.**
1. March, Singing Girl, Herbert; 2.

Overture, Lustpiel, Keler-Beler; 8. March, The Man Behind the Gun, Sousa. 4. Cornet Solo, Russian Fantasia, Levy, Mr. William Robinson; 5. Valse, Wedding of the Woods, Hall; 6. Comic, The Patrol of the Boers, Schleiffarth.



REV. CHARLES S. MORRIS, The Eloquent African Missionary Who Captivated an Arkansas Baptist Convention.

The well-known Unity Pleasure Club, No. 1 will give their first grand Moonlight Excursion to Notley Hall, June 8th, 1900. There will be a grand concert given by Misses Sarah Price, Ida Day, Bessie McCoy and Mamie Lewis. The Unity Pleasure Club quintette will render some of their choice selections. Prof. Holmes and orchestra will also assist in some of their latest compositions. The Unity Pleasure Club quintet is as follows: Richard Newton, Jas. Budd, Fitzhugh Marshall, John Johnson, and Will Lemons.



REV. P. A. HUBBARD, The Dollar King—Elected Financial Secretary of The A. M. E. Church.

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