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A POPULAR DIVINE.

Rev. Walter H. Brooks of This City in Great Demand—Virginia His Mother State Wants Him Back—Talk of his Going to the Late John Jasper's Church

It has been rumored that the name of Rev. Walter H. Brooks, D. D., has been freely used by some, who are thinking of filling the pulpit made vacant by the recent death of Rev. John Jasper of Richmond, Va. But this rumor is doubtless due to the fact, that, of late, the name of Rev. Brooks has been in the minds of the committee, who are charged with the duty of nominating a few distinguished divines, in order that the pulpit made vacant by the death of Rev. James H. Holmes, D. D. the father-in-law of Rev. Brooks, may be filled at an early day. Neither of the churches in question, however, has yet extended a call to any one. But as the nominating committee of the First Baptist church of Richmond, Va. have publicly announced the names, which they will submit, and Dr. Brooks' name is on the list, the people of Washington are naturally interested.

Dr. Brooks is no stranger in Richmond, although twenty years have passed since he was the popular pastor of the Second Baptist church of that city. He was twice called to the pastorate of the Second Baptist church, and has made frequent visits to Richmond, during the last score of years to speak in different churches in compliance with the wishes of pastors and people.

While pastor of the Second Baptist church, in 1880, Dr. Brooks addressed the white Baptists of Virginia at their state association, which met that year in the city of Petersburg. The white papers of the state, religious and secular, spoke of the address, and of the speaker, in high terms of commendation. Thus The Richmond Commonwealth spoke of him as an "orator of mean pretensions" and referred in particular to his great fluency, grace and accuracy. The Richmond Dispatch, referring to the address, and to the speaker, said: "Mr. Brooks is a fluent, pleasing, even eloquent speaker. The State of Richmond avers that "His address was fluent, and, at times, eloquent," while the Religious Herald of Richmond records the fact, that when Dr. Brooks closed his address, Rev. W. D. Thomas, D. D., then of Richmond College, exclaimed: "There are precious few of us who could make such a good speech as that." The peculiar thing about this address is that it was



REV. WALTER H. BROOKS, D. D.,
Who has been invited to Take Charge of the Church which the late Rev. John Jasper was pastor for so many years at Richmond, Va.

born of the occasion, not a line of it being written.

Within a year or more after making this address at Petersburg, Va. which touched so deeply those who heard it, and made such a favorable impression for the speaker. Dr. Brooks delivered at Indianapolis, Ind., an address in the presence of northern Baptists at their May anniversary, which was spoken of in high terms of praise and printed and circulated by the American Baptist Publication Society of Philadelphia, Pa. It was as Sunday school missionary of the above society, that Brooks addressed a similar audience in Philadelphia in 1875 and aroused such interest in himself and in his work, by his courage, his eloquence and his cause, that, a little later, he was invited to spend several weeks in New York state in visiting the white churches of that commonwealth in the interest of the Sunday school work of the American Baptist Publication Society.

Rev. Brooks was in the employ of the American Baptist Publication So-

ciety, when, in 1882, the 19th Street Baptist church of this city called him to fill their pulpit, and become their pastor. Here he has been ever since, and The Colored American does not hesitate for a moment to say, that Dr. Brooks is as acceptable to the people of Washington today as he was nearly nineteen years ago, and we would regret to see him leave 19th Street church and the Nation's Capital. Nevertheless we understand that very many of the members of the First Baptist church of Richmond, Va., feel that they have a high claim on Dr. Brooks, as Richmond is his native home; as his father was a deacon, and at one time the treasurer of the First church; as it was with this church Rev. Brooks united by baptism in the fall of 1873; as it was in this church Dr. Brooks and the eldest daughter of Mrs. Holmes, were united in marriage in the year 1874; as it was this church which licensed him to preach; this church, which in 1876 had him ordained publicly to the work of

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THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS.

A Leading Chicago Divine is Charged With Violating All the Tenets of the Decalogue—The Friendship Club's Last Entertainment for the Season—Notes.

Chicago Ill, Special—Bethel A. M. E. church, located on one of the four corners of Thirteenth and Dearborn streets is the largest, and perhaps the most fashionable church in the city of Chicago—that is to say, if a woman has a new "front" or a Raglan on and wants to show it off to advantage she can find no better place than Bethel church in which to make the display, provided of course the time be on Sunday night—any Sunday night will do.

But be that as it may the church itself has come into quite an unusual prominence lately; indeed I might say an unenviable prominence, and all by reason of a series of articles being published in a local newspaper charging the pastor, Rev. A. L. Murray, with an assortment of bad conduct—in fact with all the conduct that can be brought under the head of either bad, badder or baddest.

The articles appear over the name "Philipino," and the sort of dust "Philipino" is heaving at the doctor is of a strong quality indeed. For instance, he charges the doctor with doing things to men's homes, with using swear words that would make General Egan blush and with tanking up on bad State street barrel house whiskey. And he should have ended right there, for State street whiskey has a reputation the world over. It will make a man do almost anything, if he drinks it, even to polluting a pulpit. Men have been known to get themselves on the outside of a drop or two of it and straightway become convinced that they owned the world.

And in the doctor's case who can tell but that he, too, was actuated by some such notion? If he drank the whiskey he had a chance to be; for as I said before State street whiskey is no respecter of persons. It will tangle a preacher's foot or lighten his brain just as quick as it will any other man's. However that may be, if "Philipino" could have knocked the Reverend doctor's socks off without dragging his church into the melee the people of Chicago would have felt better. But unhappily he could not. So every time he swung his left he landed full and square on the doctor's solar plexus. And the blows had so much force behind them they jolted the whole church—knocked the cherubims and seraphims into a cocked hat. Indeed he

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