



BISHOP ALEXANDER WALTERS.

Zion's Distinguished Prelate. Founder of the Afro-American Council.

ALL FORCES NOW IN LINE.

Bishop Walters Accords Washington First Place in Race Leadership—Discovered Long Ago what is Universally Conceded Today.

Among the most distinguished visitors at Tuskegee Institute August 11, just following the Atlantic Congress, was Bishop Alexander Walters, one of the strongest men the Negro race has produced, and whose influence is potent in the vital issues of both Church and State. He has always been an enthusiastic admirer and loyal supporter of Dr. Booker T. Washington. After being shown through the various departments at Tuskegee, Bishop Walters being called upon for remarks, spoke as follows:

Honored Sir, Members of the Faculty, Students and Friends: I am delighted to be here to-day, as was said by the old maid, on getting married, when asked by the minister, what shall we sing?—for it was the custom to sing something at the closing of the marriage ceremony at that time. "It's somewhere in the hymn book, I can't tell just exactly where. It reads like this, "This is the way I long have sought, and mourned because I found it not." I have been trying to visit Tuskegee for a long time, and only through the efforts of our good friends Dr. Bowen and Mr. Penn, is the opportunity provided for me to visit you.

I am glad to be here, and I am glad to be here to commend this great work. I have a friend in Philadelphia, who in conversation would say, when you asked him how he liked anything, "wonderful, wonderful! no matter how insignificant the thing. But, this is wonderful, truly, and as I went from building to building, as I went from this campus to that, I said to myself, this is wonderful! wonderful! wonderful!"

Now, for a long time—some eight or nine years it has been—in my heart, and with my pen, and on the platform, I have tried to accord Mr. Washington the place rightfully his, the first place among all the leaders, among the Negroes of this country. And I did that when things were not as they are to-day, but when it was just a little different. When Mr. Washington was swinging into line the financiers of this country, the statesmen of this country; when he was gathering the white forces of the United States, and when the Negroes sat looking on wondering what it all

meant, at that time a number of us were farseeing enough to see that this man had won the first place.

Christ said upon one occasion, "If you do not believe me as coming from God, believe my works, they stand for me." And this man, because of his works has first place. If statesmanship gives a man first place, he has it. When I sat on last Saturday in the great auditorium in Atlanta, Georgia, and saw the Principal of your School swing into line by the most noble speech ever Negro in this country made, I said, of a fact, he deserves first place. He had the white folks already, and now he has won the Negroes to a man. This work, sir, I am delighted with it.

FIFTY GREATEST AMERICANS

"Success," a leading magazine, recently offered a prize to determine who are the fifty greatest living Americans. The winner was Oscar M. Morten, of New York. His list included statesmen, commercial magnates, clergymen, soldiers and sailors, editors, educators, inventors, explorers, artists, literateurs, scientists, and philanthropists. High upon the list was the name of Booker T. Washington, who was placed among the educators, being ranked only by such eminent scholars as the presidents of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, John Hopkins College and the University of Pennsylvania. The disinterested opinion of the masses who participated in this contest is an indisputable evidence of the strong hold Dr. Washington has upon the admiration of the country.

MT BETHEL BAP. ASSOCIATION

This association was in session all last week at the Second Baptist Church. The exercises were conducted by Rev. W. Bishop Johnson, G. H. Harris, of Georgetown, J. McKenny, of Baltimore, and C. W. Lee. Rev. W. H. Hickson, of Comorn, Va., was elected moderator for the coming year; Rev. Jones Watkins, of Baltimore, vice-moderator; R. B. Page, of Oak Grove, secretary, and Basset Bumray, of Mathias Point, treasurer.

WANTS TO FIND BROTHERS

Mr. J. R. W. Johnson writes from Rapid City, South Dakota, inquiring the whereabouts of his brothers, William H. Clinton, and Edward Johnson. He has lost his wife and two sisters in recent months, and is in straitened circumstances, his health having failed. He would be glad to receive any information that may lead to locating his relatives.

OUR PATRIARCHIE WINS.

The competitive drill of the patriarches of the G. U. O. of O. F., took place in Baltimore on Monday, Sept. 1st, between the following commands: Newport News, Norfolk, Wilmington, Del., and Washington, 18, and Georgetown, 42. Competition was between the Georgetown 42 and the Washington 18. The Washington percentage was 725; Georgetown 500. The officers Washington Patriarchies 18, are as follows: Capt., William P. Gray; 1st Lieut., W. C. Gray; 2nd Lieut. Morris M. Dean; 3rd Lieut. James E. Ennis; Quartermaster, Jas. W. Jones; Chief of Staff, J. B. Askins; Chaplain, Jesse Barnes. This organization has won the pennant for three years in succession. The next competitive drill will be held in Washington, on the first Monday in September, 1903.

DEATH OF MR. H. C. BRUCE.

The community was shocked on Sunday, August 31st, to hear of the death of Mr. Henry C. Bruce, which took place at his family residence, 1926 11th street northwest. The deceased had been ill only two weeks, and no serious results were apprehended. He was a native of Virginia, but of late held a legal residence in Kansas. He was an elder brother of the late Senator Blanche K. Bruce, of Mississippi, and was a man of high character and unusual ability.

He was an author of note, having produced a work called "The New Man," which met with favorable comment at the hands of the literary critics. He was an enthusiastic advocate of a great national Negro daily, feeling the necessity of a defender that could compete in editorial and news features, as well as mechanical equipment, with the papers that refused to state our cause justly. At the time of his death he had another book in preparation, which he intended to be called "The Colored American," presenting the new Negro in an original light before the country. He was sixty-six years of age, and leaves a widow, who is herself a prominent factor in the social, literary, and religious life of Washington.

The funeral services were held on Wednesday afternoon, September 3, at the Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church, of which Mr. Bruce had been a member for a number of years. Rev. F. J. Grimke delivered a touching discourse, expatiating upon the virtues and admirable qualities of the deceased as a man and citizen, and drawing a profitable lesson for the young from his life of usefulness, of patient self-denial and devotion to duty. The active pall bearers were, Wilson Wood, George W. Wood, Chas. H. Peters, Henry Grant, John Scott, and W. S. Montgomery. The honorary pall bearers were Dr. F. J. Shadd, Dr. G. D. Williams, Warner Hurley, Aaron Russell, O. A. Williams, W. D. Montague, William T. Sinclair, T. A. Jackson and Dr. J. H. N. Waring.

5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED.

(Philadelphia, Pa., Special.)

Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Lacy, of 754 South 12th street, gave an enjoyable birthday party a few evenings ago, at their cosy residence, in honor of their adopted son, Master Russell Wheeler Lacy, from 5 to 9 p. m. The occasion being the fifth anniversary of his birth. The little gentleman was liberally remembered by friends of his parents who sent handsome presents. A fine colation was served and games were indulged in by many of the younger, and some of the older guests. The dining room was very handsomely decorated with potted flowers and two immense candelabra placed on each end of the well laden table. One of the features of the entertainment was five beautiful Chinese lanterns which were lighted and suspended over the table, while the candelabra contained five candles. Mr. S. S. Lacy is Philadelphia's leading Real Estate agent, and treasurer of the Philadelphia Industrial Bureau, with offices at 414 South 11th street. Among the guests present were Edith Banks, Bertha Johnson, James Fishburn, Juliette Artope, Louisa St. Clair, of Washington, D. C., Walter St. Clair, Alvenia Town-

send, Inonas Sterett, Edwin Fisher, and Master Russell Wheeler Lacy.

Black Patti's Troubadours.

The Black Patti Troubadours... The visit of the Black Patti Troubadours to Washington is always an event which calls out the people en masse to pay tribute to the race's greatest singer and best-rounded theatrical organization. Their two performances on Labor Day, drew audiences of both races which packed the commodious Convention Hall to the doors. Fully 8,000 people were in attendance during the troupe's stay here. The program was fresh and breezy, the songs were new, the "horseplay" was proportioned in excellent taste, and the operatic selections were accepted in place of the old favorites with equal enthusiasm. Mme. Sissieretta Jones (Black Patti) was, of course, the bright and particular star of the occasion, and she surpassed even the triumphs formerly achieved here, being called upon to



Mme. Sissieretta Jones,
(Black Patti.)

respond to hearty encores. Her "Suwanee River" was rendered only as Black Patti can render it, and the Caucasians in the audience regarded it as her best number. However, her repertoire is so varied that she never fails to offer something satisfactory to all tastes,—except "rag-time," which she discreetly leaves to the comedians of the show. The fun-making fell to the lot of John Rucker, Bobby Kemp and Slim Morgan, while Will Cook's vocalization on popular themes gave him an opportunity to "make good," which he improved to the utmost. The best vaudeville feature of the entertainment was the startling performance of Mack Allen upon the slack wire. His feats of balancing have never been excelled by any artist seen here. The show is clean and well put together, evidencing careful rehearsal and experienced stage management. It is regretted at all hands that this company cannot secure a booking at one of our regular theatres, for they would pack our largest houses for a full week without difficulty. It may be that arrangements can be made for a return engagement when the True Reformers' Hall is completed, as we understand the stage will be ample for the usual dramatic or musical production.

SEASON DRAWS TO AN END.

(Narragansett Pier, R. I., Special)
Narragansett, in its declining days, dies hard. To have been a guest at the luncheon given by Messrs. L. U. Grigg and J. J. Jackson, to Misses Mary M. Grigg, Sarah Fields and Mrs. Irwin, (of Newport), would have reminded one of the Pier in its bloom. After a well cooked and elegantly served luncheon of seven courses, the ladies were driven in rubber-tired runabouts to some of the famous places nearabout. Among the places visited were the "Wrecked Ship," Point Judith, a clear commanding "Matunich Beach." On the rocks at Point Judith, a clear commanding view of the ocean is had, which is intensified in grandeur by a pair of field glasses. After this congenial party had returned from their highly enjoyable drive, an informal reception was held, that they might meet some of the Pier's people. After this they were driven to the boat wharf and started for home.