

REV. DR. WILLIAMS SPEAKS.

He Uses Strong Language--The Queries of Rambler Answered.

A Church and Its Membership

IRREGULARITY IN BAPTIST BODIES--HE ARGUES FOR REFORM--AN APT COMPARISON.

Mr. Editor: In this your inestimable journal of the 3rd inst., the PLANET "Rambler" asks the following question: "How many colored ministers care tell the public in this paper or any other paper the status of his members, how many he holds legally, how many he holds illegally?"

A VETERAN IN THE CAUSE. I suppose I may be considered a minister or in the ministry, having been in the ministry when I was nineteen years old. Labored six years as a licentiate, forty-one years an elder. During my ministerial career I have been honored with the pastoral care of two churches. The second and present church, Gilfield Baptist Church, Petersburg, Va. I have had thirty-two years and nine months.

A SELECT MEMBERSHIP. In the two churches, I have and now look upon Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church; that it is his church, and the adherents to it such as shall be saved. As an under shepherd in union with Jesus Christ the Chief Shepherd, I have aimed and aim to have none to membership but those regenerated, born of water and of the spirit; for none but such can enter the kingdom of God. I have aimed for quality and not for quantity. Thank God, I hold no person illegally.

A LARGE FOLLOWING. The Gilfield Church when I took charge of her, reported to the Shiloh Baptist Association of which she is one of the founders in the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., in 1855 a membership of 1300. Last year she reported to the Bethany Baptist Association of which she is a member, a membership of 2612 as follows: 2488 by baptism; 110 by letter; 14 by experience. Each one of the experience, was not a member of any church. The church of which he or she was a member was destroyed by the late Baptist War. We have no person as a member by Christian experience who was a member of any Baptist Church when he or she applied to us for membership.

BUT THREE MODES. There are but three modes of admission into a Baptist Church of the regular Baptist denomination: 1st, By Baptism; 2d, By Letter; 3d, By Experience. The church which he is a member of giving him or her permission to join thereby and order. 3d, By Experience. The church of which the person was a member of, has ceased to be, or the person has been immersed, as the case of the Eunuch, Lydia, Cornelius, the Philippian jailer and others, but not a member of any church, or an immersed member of a Baptist Church, leaving it and seeking to join a Baptist Church because of conversion to the Baptist faith, doctrine and practice.

THE WAYS TO GET OUT. There are but three ways of getting out of a Baptist Church. 1st, by letter transferring his membership by permission of his church to another church of the same faith and order. 2d, by exclusion, the church withdrawing the hand of fellowship from him, he is no longer a member in the church, but is unto it, a heathen, a gentile, and by death, has gone out of this world. 3d, by the church of the Baptist denomination, that absence of a member from his church a certain length of time forfeits his membership therein. I have never found such a law written or unwritten of the denomination. Unscrupulous brethren in order to swell their membership, have made such a law unto themselves.

THE CHARGE AGAINST GILFIELD. Various excuses are made to justify taking members of Baptist Churches without letters of dismission, but they dwindle into insignificance, null and void. Some have said that the Gilfield Church refuses to grant letters of dismission to a member until he pays his financial dues. Such is a deliberate untruth: Our church books show that the church has granted letters of dismission East, West, North and South when properly applied for. Refusals have been when improperly applied for, or the parties' names could not be found upon the roll of membership.

THE EXCUSES OF THE BRETHREN. The excuse of some is, that they take Baptists to membership without letters of dismission, to keep them from going to the Peto-Baptist. I have always found that if a Baptist is disposed to join the Peto-Baptist, it is better for me to let him do so than for me to be guilty of breaking the command of God: "Thou shalt not steal." To steal is to take away from another's possession, without right, authority or permission. If I take away a pastor's membership, or the church's member without their knowledge or permission, no right granted to me to do so, certainly am guilty of stealing. Judas was a thief. Thieves shall not inherit the kingdom of God. "Let none of you suffer as a thief," saith God's word; therefore I am not disposed to take into membership persons, members of other churches without letters of dismission for such, and thereby suffer as a thief. I will not do so, if no person is ever added to the church.

NO STAIN UPON THE CHURCH. No such stain is upon me or my church and by the help of God shall never be. I am to stand before Jesus Christ and give an account of my stewardship, and not before men. A lodge receive a person to membership therefrom from another lodge without a transfer, neither will they receive an expelled person until he is

healed and has a transfer. Such is right, just and honest. Some ministers and laity, are more honest in their lodges than they are in their churches. They practice in their churches what they positively refuse to practice in their lodges, because it is illegal, unjust.

OPEN TO INSPECTION. The membership of Gilfield Church is open to inspection. I am not ashamed of it. I have wronged no pastor, no church by taking his or her member without a letter of dismission. I have not defied the independence of a Baptist Church to say when the membership of her members shall cease. I hope what I have said will satisfy "Rambler" and all persons who love justice, truth and righteousness. HENRY WILLIAMS.

Ordination of Brother White. The ordination of Brother Thomas H. White will take place at the First Baptist Church next Wednesday, 14th inst., at 8:30 P. M.

FROM HUNTINGTON. A Out at the Shows--Home for the Incumbent--Personal Items.

HUNTINGTON, W. Va., Sept. 6, '98. Messrs. Ralph Hill and Bill Thomas are back from their pleasure trip to the East. Both gentlemen report an excellent trip and are looking fine.

Miss Bessie Hicks of Barboursville has been in the city for the past week, the guest of Willie Taylor.

The C. & O. shops had a regular out last week in order to catch up. Many of our people were laid off.

Miss Estella Cary of Winfield is in the city to spend a few weeks. She is stopping at Mrs. S. Manson, 8th Ave. Miss Cary has been away for sometime. Her friends are glad to see her.

Huntington is to have a home for incurables. Work is rapidly being executed on the buildings near the cemetery. It will be a great addition to our city.

Invitations are out announcing the marriage of Mr. G. W. Winston and Miss Belle C. Turner Wednesday, September 7th. They are a very highly respected young couple and their host friends wish for them a successful career in the world and with them Godspeed. Before this issue of the PLANET is read they will be in Richmond, Va., as they leave Wednesday on their bridal tour.

Dr. R. J. Perkins is in the city at this writing.

Sam Hill went over the road last week on a short trip.

Miss Wilson of Gallipolis, left Tuesday for her home after an enjoyable trip here among friends.

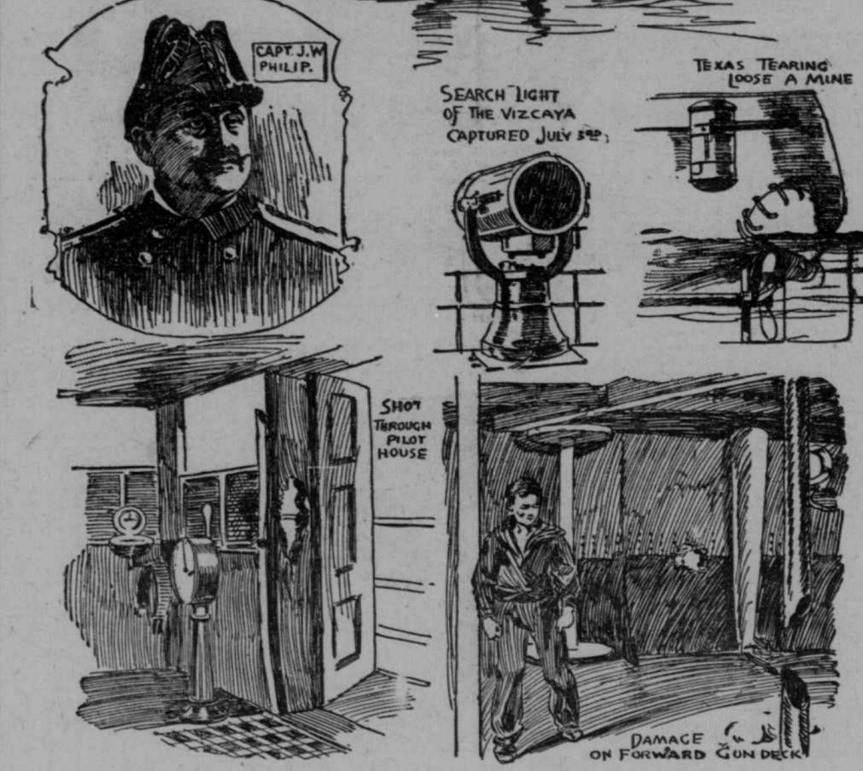
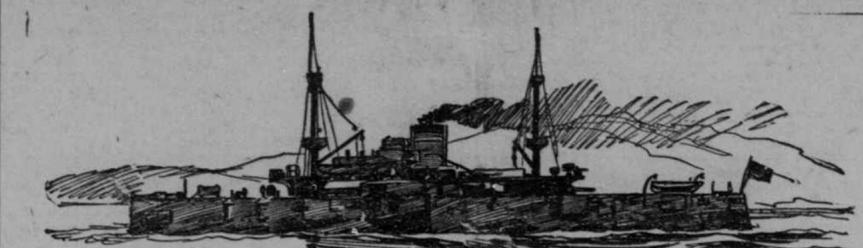
The supper given on the 26th of August for the benefit of the church was largely successful. An interesting program was rendered and refreshments were served. Quite a handsome sum was netted.

Mrs. Charley Woods of Parkersburg, has been the guest of Mrs. C. Hardy for several weeks.

Mrs. Alex. Winston, Sallie Shields, Charley Scott, and others will make a short trip to Cincinnati this week to attend the G. A. R. meeting.

Rev. Robert Steele, pastor of M. E. Church occupied his pulpit Sunday giving his hearers two powerful sermons.

Rev. A. M. Fuller, the old war horse, preached a heart-stirring sermon at the Baptist Sunday morning.



CAPTAIN JOHN W. PHILIP AND THE BATTLESHIP TEXAS.

An object of great interest at the Brooklyn navy yard recently was the battleship Texas, which played such a conspicuous part in the destruction of Admiral Cervera's fleet. Three of the Spanish shells did considerable damage. The aperture in the port bow, made by an 8 inch shell, looks almost like an extra porthole. Just within is a stanchion cut in two. The missile exploded, and its fragments, striking the starboard side, caused the plates to bulge for several inches. This shell killed the only man the Texas lost. The shot through the pilot house was a small one, probably a 6 pounder, and it passed through about ten seconds after Captain Philip stepped out of the house. It was soon after this episode, at the close of the battle, that Captain Philip called his men together and said: "I wish to make confession that I have implicit faith in God. I want to ask you all to uncover your heads with me and silently offer a word of thanks for his goodness toward us all." On the quarter deck stood a contact mine, which the Texas tore from its moorings in entering Caimanera bay on June 15. The mine was supposed to explode at a touch, but it dragged under the Texas for the full length of the ship and received a terrific thump from a propeller blade. The mine contained gun cotton enough to blow the ship out of water. It is believed the escape of the Texas is due to the fact that the mine had been planted so long that barnacles had formed about the levers so thickly that they wouldn't work. Lieutenant Bristol of the Texas was asked if it was true that he first sighted Cervera's fleet coming out of the harbor. "That distinction," he laughingly replied, "belongs to men on every ship. I am the selection of the Texas. As a matter of fact, a lookout on each ship saw the fleet coming out at the same time. It is an honor which belongs to many officers, and I suppose each is enjoying the distinction alone on his ship." Four of the men on the Texas had their eardrums broken by the concussion of the big guns during the fight.

FROM ATLANTIC CITY.

Many Visitors--The Baptist Ministers' Congress--A Fine Time--Rev. Dr. Lewis Preaches--Social Items.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Sept. 7, '98. Although the tide of humanity has turned and this week has been a week of farewells, the large number of persons remaining at this resort is a subject of general comment. There are hundreds of visitors to come here yet, and added to hundreds who have postponed their departure.

The crowds during the month of September promises to be very favorable towards making up at the end what it failed in during the early part of the season. The people of Atlantic City have a right to feel proud of the season just on the eve of being closed, as they have entertained their visitors royally from all parts of this country, for the short term vacationists are returning and it has been for them days of farewell, and tearful ones.

Brother J. R. Griffin offered a most fervent prayer for the prosperity of the union. The solo of Mr. C. O. Williams was well rendered.

At 8 p. m., Rev. John Fauntleroy preached a very instructive sermon.

Next Sunday 11th inst., at 10 a. m., Sunday School. At 11:45 a. m., Meeting of the organ. Mr. C. O. Williams, the chorister rendered excellent music.

The following divines made short and pointed speeches full of good sense. T. S. Eppes, D. L. Cosby and R. I. Gaines.

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FROM HOKKENSACK.

Sunday was a pleasant day, still the churches were poorly attended on the account of camp meetings in different parts of the state.

Mt. Olive Baptist Church was disappointed last Sunday as it was Communion Day. The pastor, Rev. J. L. Marston, failed to be present according to promise. We had no one to break the bread for us, and supper was postponed until the 2nd Sunday in September, still we had a sweet prayer-meeting.

Mrs. Mary Marrow is somewhat better.

William Russell left town last week for Hampton, Va., to engage in a stirring business.

Mrs. Maggie Gott is out again.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Hire spent last Sunday in the mountains. They report having a good time.

The pew clubs will endeavor to have their seats put in the new church this week.

Rev. Marib reports that he will be back next Sunday.

D. H. Hassell left town Monday evening for Richmond to attend the Grand Fountain United Order of True Reformers. He left as a delegate for the Backensack Fountain. We will soon find out who will be the next G. W. M.

FROM ATLANTIC CITY.

ing which time the score was: the first game, 3 to 5 in favor of the Atlantic City; 2nd game, 2 to 3 in favor of the Atlantic City; 3rd game, 3 to 4 in favor of the Cuban X-Giants. Quite a large number of people witnessed the game each day.

Damon Lodge, No. 2, K. of P., meets in the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings in each month met on last Tuesday evening. A large attendance and the rank of knight was conferred on Brother Ferdinand Motley.

Misses Lucy B. Corbin, Edyth M. Cooper, Mary A. Bailey, Sallie B. Hatchett, very prominent school teachers of Baltimore, Md., after having enjoyed a week of pleasure here at the sea shore left for home on last Saturday very favorably impressed, also Misses Jennie Boston and Ida Wilkins, of Baltimore, Md.

Among the noted guests of the Clinton Cottage is Madam Jettetta Doyle, prima donna soprano, of Philadelphia, who is here for a week's recreation.

Mr. Wm. A. Dabney, who has been here for several months, left last week for New York, after spending a week at the cottage on last Sunday. After spending a delightful day left for home in the afternoon.

Ripple Villa guests from Baltimore, Mrs. Virginia Benjamin, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. M. F. Benjamin, Philadelphia; Miss Alice Hazel, John H. Brown, Charles N. Brown, Joseph M. Bibbly, E. H. Upsher, W. A. Upsher, James J. Nottingham, Camden, N. J.; Dr. H. Thos. Johnson, Thaddeus Manning, Martin Teshman, Richard G. Baker, D. S., Shippingburg, Pa.; Mrs. J. E. Jones, J. E. Jones, Jr., Memphis, Tenn.; J. P. Settle and wife, Miss Richmond, Philadelphia; M. J. Sattelfield, Misses E. B. Williams, A. H. Pierce, Mr. Wm. Shields, Chester, Pa.; Mrs. Dr. Curtis, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Mary Hargers, San Francisco, Cal.; Miss Hattie Curtis Nancy Brown.

At the Clinton Cottage: W. Chester, Pa., Lina Brown, Emma V. Amber, York, Pa., Celia Flippin, Germantown, Pa., Mr. and Mrs. Ascor Billups, Mr. Francis Hodgers, Mr. John Billups, Chester, Pa., Miss Hattie A. Parker, Philadelphia, George A. Clinton, R. L. Edwards, Alfred Brooks, Washington, D. C.

G. Mitchell Doyle, of Philadelphia, and the following members of Stetson's Uncle Tom's Cabin Co., who played at the Academy of Music here this week to crowded houses, Tod Peterson and wife, Gus Collins, Florence Henry, Duane Kellep, Ohas. Smith, Bill Yeger, Mrs. Brown, Annie Mitchell, Maggie Mitchell, Ben Davis.

The reception by Mr. Thomas Hammond's dancing class in honor of the guests of the various hotels and cottages last week was a great success. About 250 were present by invitation. C. C. J.

COLES' MEMORIAL HALL.

Who Will Help? A much needed house for the redeemed slave boys of Rev. R. L. Stewart's Training and Industrial Mission School, Liberia, W. U. Africa, will be erected just as soon as the sum of five hundred dollars has been contributed by generous friends of missions for this specified object. This house will be memorial to the late Rev. J. J. Coles, missionary to Africa. It is our sincere wish that every pastor, church, Sunday-school missionary society, association and individual contribute something to the erection of this memorial house in Africa. Any amount will be thankfully received and promptly acknowledged by Mrs. Lucy A. Coles, 1821 Dance St., Richmond, Va. e-o-w-4t.

\$1,000 REWARD. DR SHEA, MARVELUS MEDIUM. Gives the names of dead and living friends, tells who and when you will marry, also of business journeys, lawsuits, absent friends, or anything you know, no matter what it is. He can tell you your friends and show them to you. Can make them rap all around the room. He asks no questions, don't ask you to write names for him. Don't try to pump you in any way, but tells you right off. He is thoroughly endorsed by leading spiritualists every where. Received from them a gold medal and special license to practice his wonderful powers. He can tell you on one day who can give thousands of references to him. He can do all that he can tell of. Can tell what business is best for you and where, how to win success in any line. He can tell you what to do. He succeeds when all other mediums fail. Positive satisfaction or no pay. Call and see. You will find it lucky to consult this Christian gentleman. He has a medicine that will cure drunkenness, or give patients not knowing it. Thousands through him are now

BUSINESS MEDIUM.

MRS. MARTH, the world renowned and highly celebrated business and test Medium reveals everything. No imposition. Can be consulted upon all affairs of life, business, love and marriage a specialty. Every mystery revealed, also of absent, deceased and living friends. Removes all troubles and estrangements and challenges any Medium who can exceed her in startling revelations of the past, present and future events of one's life. Remember she will not for any price flatter you; you may rest assured your husband facts with you as affairs of Life, Love, Courtship, Marriage, Friend, etc., with description of future companion. She is very accurate in describing missing friends, enemies etc. Her advice upon sickness, change of business, law suits, journeys, contested wills, divorce and speculation is valuable and reliable. She reads your destiny--good or bad; she withholds nothing.

MRS. MARTH tells your entire life past, present and future in a DEAD MEDIUM, has the power of any two mediums in one sitting. In tests she tells your mother's full name before marriage, the names of all your family and business of your present husband the name of your next if you are to have one, the name of the young man who now calls on you, the name of your future husband, and the day, month and year of your marriage, how many children you have or will have; whether your present sweetheart will be true to you and if he will marry you; if you have no sweetheart she will tell you when you will have and his name, business and date of acquaintance. All your future will be told in a clear and plain manner and in a dead trance. Mothers should know the success of their husbands and children about their sweethearts or intended husbands. Do not keep company, marry or go into business until you know all, do not let silly religious scruples prevent your consulting.

Madame is the only one in the world who can tell you the FULL NAME of your future husband, with age and date of marriage, and tells whether the one you love is true or false. There are some persons who believe that there is no truth to be gained from consulting a Medium, but such beliefs are contrary to the truth. It is only from the lack of discrimination that such a conclusion can be reached. It is not every one who placards himself or herself as a medium that can stand a test of what he or she claims to be. And a person of an enquiring mind may ask the reason why. It is simply that these advisers do not take the trouble to study human nature. They do not spend their thoughts for a moment with acquiring the art of phasing and kindred faculties that will have a tendency to make the way to the road of the business clear and devoid of all obstacles.

It is an undeniable fact that persons will come for advice in full knowledge of what they want to know, and yet as soon as they confront a medium they try their utmost endeavor to dispel from their minds what they know so as to hear if it will be rehearsed by the Medium. To get the secret out of a person by "pumping" in no few cases is the art used by many unprincipled mediums, but to take hold of the head and gain control of a mind thereby is a matter of impossibility to most of them. And yet this can be done and by consulting Mrs. Martth the seeming mystery becomes a realization.

This subject has received no little attention by eminent men and even clergymen that although there are infingers in our midst with only tongues perhaps the gates of wisdom have not been closed to the entire profession. It takes a great deal of study to become an accomplished medium and by a continuous and untiring effort, the key to the well of apparently unfathomable mysteries has been secured by MRS. MARTH for the benefit of humanity.

ADVISE BY LETTER, \$1.00 HOUS FROM 10 A. M. TO 9 P. M. MRS. M. B. MARTH. 202 West 81st Street, New York City. Enclose stamp for reply. Please mention the PLANET. Camp Corbin Going to Knoxville, Tenn.

The Colored soldiers now at Camp Corbin will go to Knoxville, Tenn., and Ohio excursion trains leaving Richmond, 9 A. M., 11 A. M., 3 P. M., 4:30 P. M. and 6:10 P. M., on Sunday Sept. 11th for Poplar Springs will give the people of Richmond a last opportunity to see the soldiers before they leave. Rate twenty-five cents, round trip.

We carry a fine line of INVITATIONS FOR CLUBS Societies, and other organizations, also wedding stock.

Advertisement for Dr. Shea, Marvelus Medium, offering a \$1,000 reward and providing contact information for Mrs. Lucy A. Coles in Richmond, Va.

Advertisement for Business Medium Mrs. Martth, detailing her abilities to reveal the future, including marriage, business, and family matters.

Advertisement for Albert Ayers, 287 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y., offering a fortune teller's services.

Advertisement for Dr. Shea, 121-83 Street, Brooklyn, N.Y., describing his medical expertise in various ailments.

Advertisement for OZONIZED OX MARROW, a health product, with details on its benefits and where to purchase it.

Advertisement for OZONIZED OX MARROW, featuring a testimonial and a list of distributors, including locations in Chicago and other cities.

JOB WORK A SPECIALTY.