

EDITOR'S OBSERVATIONS.

Wealthiest Colored Man in Iowa.

This will be the last observation that I shall write this collection year. We first stopped at Folger, a mining camp of a few hundred people. The colored miners are doing well. We next visited Buxton, Iowa, which is the king of mining camps in Iowa and perhaps the country. Until recently it has been the mecca for the colored miners. However, in the last few years, since Mr. Buxton has left, several hundreds and perhaps thousands of miners have left and many of their places taken by white miners. It seems to be the policy of the new superintendent to supplant many of the colored miners with white. However, Buxton is not what it once was, nor will it ever be. I think last year in my observations I stated that one-third of the 1,000 company houses were vacant. This year fully one-half are vacant. It tells the story in brief. The cause I am unable to state. And those who are here are not working on full time. Therefore the great mining and commercial interest of Buxton has constantly decreased, and added to that the many fires that have recently occurred makes Buxton look like a deserted village. I think I might state that Buxton has had fires amounting to \$10,000 worth of damage. Covering most of the colored people who were in business and all the residences belonging to colored, and in nearly every case the fire was a total destruction to whatever burned, for there was no water protection. We mentioned several months ago of the burning of Coopertown, which was a part of Buxton, where perhaps one-half dozen stores, business houses and the only hotel was burned, and but few of those houses will ever be rebuilt. Many of these business men have gone elsewhere. Some have gone in business in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Chicago, Kansas City, Milwaukee and Detroit, and still more are planning to leave soon. Those who are still in business are J. Lucas & Sons, who run a large bakery; London Bros., second hand store; Mr. Roberts, blacksmith shop. There are three barber shops. Mr. Hobe Armstrong still operates the meat shop. He is reputed as being the wealthiest man in Monroe county, either white or colored. He owns 12,000 acres of land and the county treasurer informed me that some of his land was the highest assessable land in the county. No other land was assessed as high as some of his. Atty. Geo. H. Woodson still lives here, although he is spending a vacation in New Mexico, taking a much needed rest. He owns several pieces of property here and lost one of his fine houses in one of the recent fires. Dr. Carter and Dr. Robinson attend to the sick. They are splendid doctors and are doing well. Dr. Willis is the dentist and has a good trade. He has added one more to his family and some day will be of great help to him in his work. There are several colored miners who own small farms and are doing nicely. Among them are Messrs. Bates, Chatman, Tate, Armstrong, Reuben Gains, one of the wealthiest men of the camp, Harvey, H. H. Harris and Johnson. The schools are taught by mixed teachers. The colored teachers are Mrs. W. H. London, principal; Miss Findley of Oskaloosa, Georgia Blackburn of Des Moines, Gertrude Lucas of Bedford, Iowa, Grace Harris of Mt. Pleasant and Lulu Hart of Muscatine. Mr. Ed Mills is the secretary of the Y. M. C. A., a young man who was raised and educated in Buxton and has a bright future before him. The Y. M. C. A. is progressing under his management and is assisted by Mr. Potter. We wish for these young men success. The band is moving along as well as could be expected under the superintendency of Mr. Oliver. They have the finest colored musical organization in the state and it is a credit to any city. The churches are doing well and the religious life is keeping pace with the progress of the age.

CLARINDA, IOWA. (Special to Bystander.) (Last Week.)

The ladies of the A. M. E. church are preparing for a bazaar and supper to be given at Masonic hall on December 28th. The ladies of the Needle Craft club gave their luncheon at the home of the president, Mrs. E. B. Cook, last Thursday. The table was beautifully decorated in the club colors and foliage of green and yellow as a centerpiece. Twenty members were present. Our pastor, Rev. D. W. Brown, is in Bedford this Sunday. Mrs. Johnson and daughter, Mabel, of Gravity were over to attend a meeting of the O. E. S. on Friday. Mrs. L. W. Williams entertained the Ladies' Crochet club to a two-course luncheon at her home on Water street. The Rose of Sharon Chapter, No. 16, elected officers for the ensuing

year as follows: Mrs. Laura Heady, W. M.; Miss Mabel Johnson, A. M.; Mr. R. T. Lane, W. P.; Mrs. Laura Jones, Cond.; Mrs. H. Johnson, Asso. Cond. Mrs. Della Johnson and son, John, went to St. Joe, Mo., Friday morning to attend the funeral of her brother. Rev. W. Mitchell has been a little indisposed, but is able to fill his pulpit Sunday. Subscribe and pay up for Bystander before new year. If you have any news for Bystander kindly call Bell 339 R.

BUXTON, IOWA. (Special to Bystander.) (Last Week.)

Some more valuable Negro property destroyed by fire. The big eight-room dwelling in South Buxton belonging to Hon. Geo. H. Woodson was totally destroyed this morning about 12:30 or 1 a. m. Mr. Wm. Harper, ex-grand master of the G. U. O. of O. F. of Iowa, lived in this residence. He lost every stitch he possessed, household goods and all clothing. Mr. Harper is one of Buxton's old men. He has lived here for fifteen years. He is well known throughout the state. He recently underwent an operation for appendicitis in the Albia hospital and has not been able to return to work in the mines yet. Any of his friends who can and wish to help him will please send to his address, Box 401 Buxton, Iowa, clothing or anything else.

GALESBURG, ILL. (Last Week.)

The Thimble Circle was entertained at the home of Mrs. J. Hazel on Friday, December 22. The P. W. club was entertained at the home of Miss E. Hurley on Tuesday, December 19th. The Garrison club was entertained at the parsonage Friday, December 22. The M. L. D. club was entertained at the home of Miss L. Benton on Thursday. All report a fine time. D. T. No. 92 were called Tuesday afternoon to meet the grand master, Rev. T. L. Scott of Chicago. Mrs. J. Mitchell and son of Missouri are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Mitchell of W. Knox street. They will spend the winter here. Rev. Garrison and wife, Rev. T. L. Scott and Mrs. McGill were entertained at dinner at the home of Mrs. Z. Mason. Revival services closed Sunday at the A. M. E. church. Rev. T. L. Scott of Chicago conducted the services. The meeting closed with nine joiners. Rev. T. L. Scott will meet the S. M. T. on Tuesday afternoon. He will return to his home in Chicago on Tuesday evening. Mr. Braxter Harmon, who has been ill for the past four years, passed away at the home of his parents on Wednesday night at 8:20. He leaves to mourn his death a wife, two children, mother, father and sister and a host of relatives and friends. Funeral services were held at the A. M. E. church Friday afternoon. Pall bearers were Mr. Andy Anderson, Clarence Carter, C. Schotts, B. Harris, W. Webb. Burial was in Linwood cemetery. Mr. Chas. Anderson has been confined to his home for ten days with a bad case of lumbago. The E. R. club was entertained at the home of Miss M. King on Saturday, December 23. Mr. Franklin of Clarinda, Iowa, is visiting relatives and friends. Mrs. J. Smalley is confined to her home with lumbago. Mrs. S. Johnson left for Chicago to visit her brother. Mrs. Logan and Mrs. Bolder are Christmas shopping in Chicago. Imperial orchestra met at the home of Miss F. Fletcher on Tuesday, December 19th.

CLINTON, IOWA. (Last Week.)

Sunday was quarterly meeting at Bethel A. M. E. church. All services were well attended and were full of interest. Rev. N. J. McCracken, P. E., was present. This being the first meeting of the year, it was therefore his inaugural visit. Already he has endeared himself to the people, making a favorable impression. Rev. W. W. Williams is not so well this week, having an attack of the grip. The members of the Second Baptist church are arranging for their annual Christmas tree on Sunday evening, December 24th. Mr. F. F. Jackson and others were the donors of a nice pair of shoes to the Rev. F. J. Nott, pastor of the Second Baptist church, for which he is very proud. Subscribe for the Bystander. Mrs. Price Elligan suffered a stroke of paralysis at her home on Maple avenue on last Friday. Her friends hope that the stroke is only temporary and that she will suffer no ill effects. In our last items sent to the Bystander in the mention of the election of officers of the Allen League

the following names were omitted: Mrs. M. J. Holliday, recording secretary; Anna Johnson, assistant secretary; Fred Douglass, librarian; M. O. Culberson, reporter. Invitations were received in Clinton this week to a leap year party in Davenport on Wednesday evening, December 20th, with Mrs. C. Cain as hostess. The Christmas tree and program of Bethel A. M. E. Sunday school will be held on Friday night, December 22.

WATERLOO, IOWA.

Everybody work for Christ and the church is the motto of the A. C. E. League in Waterloo. Rev. H. C. Boyd sermonized two righteousness sermons Sunday. Both were well attended. The P. E. G. club gave a gleaner drill and entertainment Thursday evening. The drill made a hit with everyone. Mrs. Sadie Hopkins underwent an operation for appendicitis last week at St. Francis hospital. Those on the sick list are Miss Vivian Smith, Mrs. L. C. Cheers, Mrs. Ina Walker and Mrs. Wm. Pearson. Mrs. Dorothy Laurence will lead the A. C. E. League Sunday, Xmas meeting. Everybody should be out. The Mite Missionary society met Thursday afternoon at the residence of Mrs. Etta Aman, 92 N. Barclay street. After the business was transacted, cocoa with Waterloo dips were served, after which postlude. Louis P. Mosley, class leader of No. 3, and Geo. E. Smith, assistant, will entertain class 3 at a dinner party Xmas day in the parlors of Bess chapel A. M. E. church. We hope to receive every member. The leap year party given by the Helping Hand was a success. They had a large attendance out. Everyone enjoyed themselves to the highest. Mrs. Maudie Shields is able to be in our midst again and is doing nicely. Mrs. Sarah Cooper returned home Sunday morning from Dooneville, Mo., where she was called to attend the funeral of her mother. The services were well attended both morning and evening at Antioch Baptist church Sunday. Two were received into the church. Don't forget the B. Y. P. U., which meets at Antioch Baptist church every Sunday.

MISSOURI-WEST NEGRO FARMERS TENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

At Dalton, Chariton county, Missouri, January 11-12, 1917, at the Bartlett Agricultural and Industrial school. "Preparedness—How?" is the general topic for this year. (a) For larger crop yields, and better preservation of our lands. (b) To earn, deserve and get more earnest attention by the state and national experts who are aiding neighboring farmers all over the state. (c) To better our home life, houses, barns, fences, gates, care of stock

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and tools and implements. (d) For more voluntary aid to lessen our mud tax by better roads: We helping more. (e) To exercise ourselves more effectively in lessening the number of the race's loafers, idlers and petty criminals by giving our unemployed more work to do with more congenial conveniences. (f) To work out our salvation—back upon the land, raising more food products to help lessen the high cost of living. (g) For better church and school conditions. Farming women and mothers and daughters' session Friday, January 12th, at 2-4 p. m. Subject, "To Stop or Moderate Our Over-reaching." (1) By helping husbands to live within their means and sphere. (2) Renewed efforts to gain friendships. (3) Poultry raising and helping girls at busy work. (4) By providing happy, healthy recreation and play times. Farmers H. Jackson, Andrew Clay, Lewis Drappen, Sr., Cooper county. James Hill, Howard county. Squire Blackwell, Pike county. Charles Martin, Robert Childs, Carroll county. Ephraim Rucker, Buchanan county. I. N. Nunelly, Lincoln county. Rube Dameron, Nathan Thornton, Chariton county. The potato king, Hon. J. G. Groves, of Kansas, and Henry Kirklin, the world's champion truckman, Columbia, Mo., are this year's conference guests of honor. All who are doing, or want to get to doing helpful, worth while things will be welcomed entertained while here. Come the day before. Bring any products for exhibition by both sexes and by the children. N. C. Bruce, Principal.



The above is the true likeness of Rev. James E. Roberts of this city, a Baptist minister of experience, who has been a successful pastor in Ohio, Missouri, Michigan, Iowa and Canada. He is a member of the Iowa-Nebraska Association and a member of the Minister and Deacons' Union of this state. He received a part of his education in the common schools at Independence and Booneville, Mo., and in Trinity college in Toronto, Canada. His first charge was in Fulton, Mo., at Pilgrim Rest Baptist, Abundale Baptist church of Cincinnati, McDougal Baptist church, Windsor, Canada, the Second Baptist church in Detroit, Mich., and East Side Baptist church in East Des Moines, also at Scandia, Iowa. He is not now actively en-

gaged in pastoral work, but hopes to re-enter soon. He lives in his own home at 2710 Sixth avenue and has an amiable Christian wife. He now lectures on the subject of "Race Ideals and Effects." See this subject in our next week's issue.

IOWA STATE CENSUS, 1915.

Table with columns: Counties, Colored—All Natives, Male, Female, Total. Lists counties from Adair to Wright with corresponding population figures.

ROCK ISLAND, ILL.

Dr. Slaughter, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, will continue his medical studies at the University of St. Louis. Dr. Slaughter is president of the Kansas City interms. He is also an all-American football player of the best caliber. Rev. A. Boyd preached the Thanksgiving sermon in the morning of that day at the McKinley Baptist church. Mrs. B. R. Penn is able to be about again, after an illness of several weeks. Dr. Davis was her physician. Mrs. B. R. Penn's cousin from Chicago is here visiting and expects to make Rock Island her home. Sunday was quarterly meeting at the Wayman Chapel A. M. E. church. Rev. McCracken, the recently appointed presiding elder of this district, preached the morning sermon, Rev. Lewis of Moline preached the afternoon sermon and the presiding

elder preached in the evening. Monday night was official board at Wayman Chapel A. M. E. church. Rev. McCracken presided.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Stoner and daughter, Glee, have arrived at Rock Island. They have made Bloomington their home during the past year. Their many friends are glad to see them back. Mrs. Golden is still in Chillicothe, Ohio. The Fiske Jubilee Singers were at the Y. M. C. A. recently. The white paper declared editorially that their singing was very unique and wonderful. The Misses Deborah Stewart, Luretha Jackson, Lorraine Coleman and Celia Reynolds were Christmas shoppers in Davenport on Saturday.

MONMOUTH, ILL.

Mr. Herbert Birdett of New Orleans, Mo., is visiting here with his brother, Chas. Birdett. The Willing Worker society met Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. Lillian Abel. John Peoples of this city has gone to Kewanee, where he is employed at a jewelry store. Mrs. Bernice Metlock has the agency for the Herolin hair pomade. Mrs. Ernest Bassett was in Galesburg this week attending the funeral of a cousin. Miss Clara Taylor has returned to her home in Canton, Mo., after an extended visit here with her uncle. Mr. William Wallace, who has been having trouble with a fractured limb, is much better at this writing. Mrs. Dayse Lash has the agency for the Overton toilet cosmetics.

DAVENPORT, IOWA.

Rev. M. J. Burton, for ten years Iowa state missionary for the Baptist churches, was in the city last Sunday and occupied the pulpit at the Third Baptist church. Rev. Burton has accepted a call to pastor a church in Kansas and will leave the mission field to take up his pastorate about January 1st, 1917. The funeral services of Francis Skurlock, aged 3 years, was held at Bethel A. M. E. church Sunday afternoon, conducted by Rev. C. R. Waters, assisted by Rev. M. J. Burton. Mrs. Skurlock, the mother of the deceased, and two of her other children are sick and could not attend the funeral. Last Tuesday evening the members and friends of Bethel A. M. E. church formally received Rev. N. J. McCracken, P. E., and their pastor, Rev. C. R. Waters, and family. Words of hearty welcome were given from a number of the church auxiliaries, which were responded to by Rev. and Mrs. Waters and Rev. McCracken. The honored guests were then escorted to the dining room, where light refreshments were served, and a social hour enjoyed. Rev. F. K. Nicholson was in Cedar Rapids last Sunday and occupied the pulpit for Rev. Northcross. Constellation temple of S. M. T. held their annual election Monday, which resulted in Mrs. Emma Brooks, W. P.; Mrs. Emma Strauthers, V. P.; W. S., Mrs. Alberta Carter; assistant secretary, Mrs. Carrie Baker; W. T., Mrs. Bettie Davis; chaplain, Mrs. Jennie Proctor. Mrs. Nettie Brown, who has been confined at the hospital for several weeks, passed away this morning.

WASHINGTON, IOWA, NOTES.

On Thursday, December 14th, hte W. S. C. was called to order by the worthy president. A very interesting program of music, papers, recitations and solos was rendered by the members of the W. S. C. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Turner, after which a three-course luncheon was served by the host, Mr. Paul Greenway. The guests of the evening were Mr. and Mrs. George Burkley, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Turner and Mr. N. L. Black, who gave the W. S. C. some very encouraging remarks on the work that the W. S. C. is trying to accomplish. After a very late hour the W. S. C. adjourned, each wishing the host many returns of the evening. Monday, December 11th, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Rushing. All concerned doing nicely.

ANOKA, MINN., NEWS.

(Special to Bystander.) Mrs. D. Waters received the news from her mother, Mrs. R. L. Martin, of Creston, Iowa, that she wasn't expected to live. Rev. Stovall of Minneapolis is trying to start a mission in Anoka. There is several families of colored people of many denominations here. Anoka has had some severe zero weather for the last three weeks. Miss Helen Waters was the guest of Georgie Jones of Owatonna last week. Nervous Women. When the nervousness is caused by constipation, as is often the case, you will get quick relief by taking Chamberlain's Tablets. These tablets also improve the digestion. Obtainable everywhere.