

Pay Boost and read The Bystander

THE BYSTANDER

The Best advertising medium to reach colored people in the west

XXIII No. 32

DES MOINES, IOWA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1917.

Price Five Cents

THE SITUATION IN METHODISM

Joint Commission on Union Fails to Agree.

LENGTHY DEBATE IS HELD

Representatives of the Methodist Episcopal Church North and South Refer Whole Matter Relating to Status of 350,000 Members to a Special Committee.

Cincinnati.—The future status of the 350,000 colored people who are members of the Methodist Episcopal church north and south was one of the big topics for discussion at the meeting of the joint commission on union held at Baltimore from Dec. 28, 1916, to Jan. 3, 1917. No agreement, however, was reached on the subject, and the matter has been referred to a special committee, which will meet in Cincinnati April 10 in order to make further study of the question and make a report to the full commission, which will meet June 27.

The more important features of the difference of opinion between the two bodies find expression in the following:

First.—Powers and restrictions of the general conference, or should the general conference be sole interpreter of the constitutionality of its own acts, or should there be a tribunal outside of the general conference with power, in the nature of a supreme court, to decide upon the constitutionality of any act of the general conference.

Second.—Should the united church of 7,000,000 people be divided into jurisdictional or regional conferences for the conduct of the local church work and the handling of problems peculiar to sections and peoples?

Third.—What relationship should the 350,000 colored people in the Methodist Episcopal church sustain to the united church of 7,000,000 of white people? Should they be a jurisdictional conference having a voice and vote in the general conference of the united church along with the white people, or should they be an independent body holding only fraternal relations to the white body?

It is reported that the principal block to union is the colored membership of the Methodist Episcopal church. The southern Methodists insisted upon the colored people not being in the general conference with power to vote and make laws. The Methodist Episcopal church commissioners insisted that the colored people were a part of the church; hence no one could displace them in that right save the colored members themselves. Moreover, at the last general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church in the quadrennial address of the bishops this statement appeared:

"In the Methodist Episcopal church the colored members sustain precisely the same relation to the church that the white members do. Both laymen and the preachers share in all the rights and privileges, including immunities and emoluments guaranteed any other members, and we desire and expect them to continue in membership in our church."

That declaration is supposed to settle the status of Negro Methodist Episcopalians in the united church. The colored men on the commission, Drs. R. E. Jones, editor of the Southwestern Christian Advocate, New Orleans, La., and I. Garland Penn of Cincinnati, corresponding secretary of the Freedmen's Aid society, acquitted themselves in a most creditable manner. They engaged in all the discussions, and those who were loudest in praise of their addresses were the commissioners from the southern church, although the stand of the colored men was for representation in the general conference with voting power equal to any others.

The following committee was appointed to make further study of the Negro membership involved in the union question:

Bishop Earl Cranston, Washington; Rev. J. W. Van Cleve, Chicago, general secretary of commission on finance; Rev. J. J. Wallace, D. D., editor of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate; Rev. R. E. Jones, D. D., New Orleans, editor of the Southwestern Christian Advocate; George Warren Brown, capitalist and shoe manufacturer, St. Louis; Dr. I. Garland Penn, corresponding secretary of the Freedmen's Aid society, Cincinnati; Judge Henry Wade Rogers, United States district court, New York; the Methodist Episcopal Church South, Bishop Collins Denny, Richmond, Va.; Rev. W. W. Ainsworth, pastor of the Wesley Monumental church, Savannah, Ga.; Rev. W. J. Young, D. D., professor of the Chandler School of Theology, Atlanta, Ga.; Rev. John M. Moore, D. D., corresponding secretary of the home mission board, M. E.

Church South, Nashville, Tenn.; Judge H. H. White, Alexandria, La.; P. D. Maddin, attorney-at-law, Nashville, Tenn., and Dr. H. N. Snyder, president of Wofford college, Spartanburg, S. C.

True Reformers Are Making Progress. The Pittsburgh division of the Grand United Order of True Reformers is shaping its plans for larger work during 1917. The order is doing well under the leadership of Mrs. A. E. Goldston, chief of the division. The division will devote much of its time to the Rosebud department.



REV. McCRAVEN.

A Useful Citizen.

Rev. Henry McCraven has been a city missionary for a good many years. He was born in Mt. Sterling, Montgomery county, Kentucky, in 1856, July 4th. His early childhood was spent in Glasgow, Missouri, in slavery. He came to Des Moines in 1873, and entered school. After going through grammar school, he went to Missouri and taught school two terms among his people. He was ordained a minister in 1884 by Bishop Brown. In 1886 he was ordained as a deacon; in 1888 ordained as an elder; in 1884 he was elected as janitor in the house of representatives, and re-elected in 1886, and also as toll collector of the colored people of Polk county, Iowa. The 21st day of October, 1884, he was appointed as honorary commissioner of Iowa to represent the colored people at the cotton exposition in New Orleans, and again in 1903 he was appointed on the committee of arrangements to receive President Roosevelt as a representative of the colored people of Des Moines. He also canvassed the state of Iowa for President Garfield with P. D. Brown, and has also served several times as a juror of Polk county, Iowa, and is now a member of the Polk county republican central committee. He belongs to the Christian church, yet he works among all denominations.

CONDOLENCE.

Scandia, Iowa, Jan. 8.—Whereas God in His all-wise providence saw fit to send that grim messenger, death, into our Taborian chain and take a link out, we will miss her. Dr. Fannie Clayborn was a good member. She was past H. P. and loyal to all of her duties as a Christian and a true daughter of Tabor. We, the members of Auctic Tabernacle, No. 472, do extend to Brother Clayborn and family our heartfelt sympathy in this sad hour of their bereavement of their dear wife and mother. We, the members of Auctic Tabernacle, No. 472, commend them to God, who doeth all things well. We, the members of Auctic Tabernacle, have lost a true daughter. Our loss is heaven's gain. She can't come to us, but we can go to her. Now let us be true and faithful and we shall see her again. When we assemble around in our Taborian hall the vacant chair and a broken link which was broken on earth will be bound in heaven. We will say to the family and friends, She has gone; you will ever miss her in the home; wife and mother has gone.

We, the members of Auctic Tabernacle, recommend that a copy will go to the family, one be spread on our minutes and one go to Bystander.

We will say as the poet:

If I must die, Lord, let me die with hope in Jesus' blood, the blood that saves from sin and guilt and reconciles to God; if I must die, then let me die in peace with all mankind.

Farewell, farewell, farewell, dear daughter, Thy labor on earth is done, Thy soul is at rest in peace with God, Thy work is done; rest, rest, rest.

Dt. Mattie Brooks, G. H. P. of Iowa Jurisdiction.

MOBERLY, MO., NEWS.

This has been a warm Xmas. The weather was pleasant and the Xmas spirit prevailed.

Miss Onetta Carr is on the sick list. All the churches held Xmas trees and programs.

The Methodist church is progressing nicely under the leadership of their new pastor, Rev. Cross.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bartlett entertained at dinner New Year's day.



PASTOR RESIGNS.

Rev. M. W. Alexander.

Rev. M. W. Alexander, who has been pastor of Union Congregational church for about two and one-half years, has resigned to take effect February 1, 1917. Rev. Alexander is one

of the ablest and earnest Christian ministers in our city and has no equal in Iowa as an orator. He came from Meridian, Miss., although born in Texas. He and his amiable wife have made a host of friends since coming here by their high ideals and Christian character, who will regret to see them leave. They will locate in La

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY

A large number of the colored people of the city have felt somewhat keenly the condition in theater houses which compels them to be seated in a certain section when they pay the same price of admittance as other purchasers of tickets. A movement has been on foot for some time to secure a reputable down town picture house, and at this time I am pleased to advise that the colored people of the city of Des Moines have the opportunity to purchase their own amusement house, centrally located, and one of the best constructed houses in the city, the Strand Theater. This can be purchased by the colored people and remain under white management if they so desire. This is an opportunity for the colored people to secure the only exclusive colored house in the state. Stock can be purchased at \$25 per share. Now is the time to show your patriotism and send in your subscription. Pictures of the same grade as shown at all high class theaters will be shown here. The cost of operating will not exceed \$200 per week, including all expenses. The receipts will run at least \$500 per week, if every one takes an interest in this venture. With a profit of \$300 per week you can readily see what good dividends the venture will pay, and not only should we look at the dividends, but the thing which ought to appeal to us the most is the fact that we would have a place of amusement where we could go and pay our money and sit wherever we wished and not feel as though we were compelled to take any section of the house and stay there, like a whipped child. The success of the venture will depend upon your co-operation. Those desiring to join the company kindly fill out the enclosed blank, stating name and address Department D and mail to the office of this paper. Kindly do this at once.

Kindly consider me an applicant for stock.

Name

Address

When can you be interviewed.....

Those present report they did full justice to the sumptuous repast.

Miss Mattie Renfro of Jacksonville, Mo., was in the city New Year's, the guest of Mrs. Wm. Wells.

Mr. and Mrs. Lige Watts have recently closed a deal with hte Burlington Railroad company, selling their beautiful West Rollins street home for a neat sum.

Miss Lee Etta Owens is spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Williams.

We are glad to say at this writing Mrs. Henry Taylor is much better.

We have had two very destructive fires recently. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Brown on the East Side was totally destroyed by fire last week. Mrs. Brown is an invalid and barely escaped being burned. Mrs. Hartley Davis lost her beautiful home Friday night. Everything was lost even to her beautiful diamonds.

Mrs. Anthony Williams and daughter spent Thursday, Friday and Saturday visiting relatives in Jackson-

ville, Macon and Bevier.

Mr. Raydell Collins of Chicago spent the Xmas with his aunt, Mrs. Fannie Davis.

Miss Nannie May Erickson is spending a few days in Columbia.

Lincoln school opened Tuesday morning with a good enrollment.

Mrs. Kate Derrick has a lady friend visiting her from Bloomfield.

Pay your subscription to the Bystander.

Mr. Ovel Carter of Buxton was in Moberly a few hours Wednesday, calling on school friends and on his way to Jefferson, where he is attending school.

Mrs. Loss Quinn entertained the Embroidery club Friday night.

Stomach Trouble Cured. If you have any trouble with your stomach you should take Chamberlain's Tablets. Mr. J. P. Klote of Edina, Mo., says: "I have used a great many different medicines for stomach trouble, but find Chamber-

lain's Tablets more beneficial than any other remedy I ever used." For sale by all dealers.

BUXTON, IOWA.

(Special.)

Mrs. Ellen Welch was born in St. Charles county, Missouri, A. D. 1837, and died at the Monroe county home December 28, 1916, being at the time of her death 79 years old. In 1866 she was married to Mr. Perry Welch, who died in 1902. Mrs. Welch was the mother of two children, who are dead. After emancipation she became a member of the Baptist church (colored) at St. Charles, Mo. From there she moved to Warren county, Missouri, and became a member of the Hopewell Baptist church. Mrs. Welch moved to Iowa in 1892 and became a member of the Union Valley Baptist church of Muchakinoek. She came to Buxton in 1901 and became a member of the Mt. Zion Baptist church, to which she belonged at the time of her death. She was a faithful member and lived a consistent Christian life. She was a charter member of the G. A. Hackett Tabernacle, No. 64. She leaves to mourn her demise four grandchildren, ten nieces and nephews and other relatives and a host of friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ashby wish to thank the good people of Buxton for their deeds of kindness during the illness and death of their aunt, Mrs. Ellen Welch.

DAVENPORT ITEMS.

Miss Otie McGaw passed away at her home, 944 Grand avenue, last week, after an illness of ten months' duration. Miss McGaw was a charming young lady, beloved by all who knew her.

Mrs. Alberta Carter has been on the sick list, but is slowly recovering. The friends of Miss Nellie Buckner were surprised to hear she was united in marriage to Mr. Leonard Lewis of Centerville. Mr. Lewis is to be congratulated.

Miss Elizabeth Redd of Washington visited several days last week with Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Johnson.

The E. L. D. club is taking on new life and much interest is shown in their meetings.

Rev. F. K. Nicholson has been seriously indisposed for nearly two weeks. He was able to attend church and preach last Sunday.

Bethel A. M. E. church will have a new rally Sunday, January 28th.

There will be a benefit entertainment given by prominent dramatic artists at Calvary Baptist church for the benefit of the Third Baptist church. Date to be announced later.

MT. PLEASANT, IOWA.

Mrs. G. M. Harris, a well known resident of this city, passed away very suddenly at her home on East Madison street Sunday morning. To mourn the loss of a loving wife and devoted mother she leaves a husband, one son, William, and four daughters, Nora, who is teaching at Atlantic City, N. J., Grace of Buxton and Bertha and Viola at home.

Mrs. Jeanette McCain passed away at her home on Cherry street Monday morning. To mourn her loss she leaves a son, Ross, of Minneapolis, and two sisters, Mrs. H. Foster of this city and Mrs. E. Wallace of Monmouth and three brothers, Daniel of this city, Charles of Washington and Edd of Denmark.

Mrs. Hodge of Chicago is visiting her mother, Mrs. M. Adkins.

Mrs. Ethel Williams of Chicago and little son, Eugene, are visiting relatives.

Mrs. Beatrice Williams of Chicago has returned, after a short visit with relatives.

Master Louis Hubbard is on the sick list.

Miss Etta Searcy, who attends Iowa Wesleyan, has returned from her home in Ottumwa.

Mr. Harold Gooch of Ottumwa has returned to resume his school work at Iowa Wesleyan.

Mrs. Lula Topp was called to Layton, Mo., on account of the serious illness of her mother.

Rev. Thomas is in Centerville assisting in revival meetings.

Mrs. Pearl McGill of Fairfield visited at the home of Mrs. G. Foster on Sunday.

OTTUMWA, IOWA.

Mrs. Minnie Bibb entertained a number of friends at a 7 o'clock dinner party Wednesday, January 10th. Elaborate four-course refreshments were served.

Quite a number of Ottumwans are on the sick list. Mrs. J. H. Weeks has been quite ill since Xmas, but is improved at this writing. Mrs. John McClellan is improving, also Mrs. Milton.

Miss Etta Searcy has returned to Mt. Pleasant to resume her studies at Iowa Wesleyan.

Mrs. Jordon on Ash street is seriously ill at her home.

Esther chapter, No. 4, O. E. S., held its election of officers in December. The following were elected and installed: W. M., Emma Smith; W. P.,

Geo. Bailey; A. M., Cleo Thompson; treasurer, Mary F. Bailey; secretary, Anna McClellan; conductress, Mattie Weeks; assistant conductress, Cora Hennington; warder, Mary Taylor; sentinel, F. W. Smith; Ada, Mary Wilson; Ruth, Mate Clark; Esther, Daisy Cason; Martha, Sue Harris; Electa, Flossie Williams.

Mrs. Nellie Ross has returned from Minneapolis, where she has been visiting friends.

Quite a number of our young men are taking advantage of the ice for skating.

WASHINGTON, IOWA, NOTES.

The Misses Cordelia and Marie Whaley are visiting relatives at Memphis, Mo.

The Rev. Greer of the Reformed Presbyterian church preached at the A. M. E. church on last Sunday evening.

Mrs. Walter Williams was a guest of relatives at Muscatine a few days last week.

Miss Edna Jones of Oskaloosa was a guest of relatives a few days last week and Miss Luba Gwim entertained a small company of friends in her honor on last Saturday evening at her home.

At the quarterly conference held at the A. M. E. church last week A. L. Hall, W. H. Rhodes and Thos. Lewis were confirmed as stewards.

Those who were sick and convalescing: Mrs. Chas. McKain, Mrs. Henry Campbell, Mrs. Emma Black, Mrs. Eliza Haines, Mrs. N. L. Black, and the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Ballew is not getting along as well as it is wished for.

Word from Albert Greenway, who is at Denver, Colo., for his health, is to the effect that he is holding his own with a good chance for the betterment of his health, which his friends will be glad to hear.

Walter Williams went out hunting one day early this week and had the misfortune to break through the ice on the creek and got his foot soaking wet, and being some distance from any house his foot was frozen before he could get to a place of comfort, and consequently is suffering some from the accident.

J. D. Daniels contemplates making a business and pleasure trip to Chicago in the near future.

Word from Howard Motts, who is wintering in Minneapolis, is that he is enjoying the winter sports of the frozen north.

Robert Crump, of North Dakota, has written to friends here that he is contemplating returning to Washington to make this the home of the family in the future. We welcome him and his good family.

Mrs. Jessie Turner is the new chorister of the A. M. E. church senior choir, and the choir seems to be taking on new life.

OSKALOOSA, IOWA.

Miss Edna Jones left Thursday for Quindora, where she resumes her school work, after spending the Christmas vacation with relatives here and Ottumwa. She went by the way of Washington, where she visited a few hours with her sister, Mrs. Theodore Turner.

Rev. J. S. Woods, pastor of the A. M. E. church, left Monday, January 9th, for Chicago, where he will visit with his family.

Under the management of Henry Allen an excellent program was rendered Sunday night at the A. M. E. church.

Mrs. Cora Jones was called to Burlington on Saturday by the illness of her sister, Mrs. Sarah Watkins.

Miss Irene Mitchell is suffering with a cold.

Mrs. Effie Weeks of Chicago is a guest in the home of her mother, Mrs. Fannie Wilson Smith. She returns the last of the week, accompanied by her daughter, Miss Bertha.

Carl Moore has a touch of pneumonia.

This is the week of cottage prayer meetings, preceding the A. M. E. revival meetings.

The next meeting of the Mothers' club will be held at the home of Mrs. Cora Jones on Thursday, January 28. Bible study. Come.

Geo. Jones is suffering with pleurisy. Dr. Johnston is the attending physician.

Mrs. Robt. Johnson planned and carried out a most successful surprise on Monday night for her pastor, Rev. I. J. Penney, the occasion being his birthday anniversary. Many beautiful and useful presents were presented. After refreshments were served by Mrs. J. the crowd departed, proclaiming her a wonder.

Rogee Jones has accepted a job with the Ford people.

Mrs. Isabelle Allen Brown and son, Robert Henry, of Indianapolis, are guests in the home of her mother, Mrs. Henry Allen. The little fellow is suffering from a severe cold.

Thomas Brown is numbered among the sick.

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