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REV. JAMES GRISWOLD MERRILL, D. D.,
President Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.

The fine commencement exercises of Fisk University, accentuated very strikingly the policy of the school and the character of the man who is now its president. Of course, Dr. Merrill is blessed with a strong faculty, who exert their splendid abilities harmoniously with that of the president (a thing devoutly to be hoped for in all schools), but the South, and particularly the Negro, both are to be congratulated that such a man as James Griswold Merrill is giving his life as president of Fisk University.

Dr. Merrill came to Fisk in 1899 as Dean of the College Faculty and upon the death of that great and good man, Erastus M. Cravath, was made president. The qualities that appear most strikingly in him are his rugged manhood, his courage, and his strict adherence to the principle of the "Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man."

From the principle of action, which seems clearly set forth by his life, he has not deviated since he took up the work here in Nashville, and the result is shown in the progress the University has been making. True it is, that some of his utterances have brought him into controversy with some of our Southern friends, but it is to his eternal credit, that he stood the test like a man, and by the deepest and best people of the city he is held in high esteem a man.

Taking up the work just after such a masterful personality as Dr. Cravath

was enough to overwhelm almost any man. It must be remembered that Dr. Cravath established the school and was largely responsible for what it was. The faculty, students, graduates, and the Negro race loved him, and the public honored him, and justly so, for nature never made many men like Cravath.

Then, Dr. Merrill was entirely new to the work of education of the Negro, having spent more than a quarter of a century in the pastorate in the West and New England, but his good sense and right-heartedness solved the situation. He was willing to learn, and always tried to be fair to everybody. There are more expert educators technically speaking, that President Merrill, but there are no fairer ones.

As far as we have been able to learn, Dr. Merrill's interest in the education of the Negro springs not from a love of the Negro as a Negro, but from the love of the Negro as one of God's children; and this is simple Christianity.

His life is a benediction upon us, and it is rather unfortunate that he cannot spend more time at the University, but it seems necessary at present that he spend much time seeking funds for the school. It would be a greater help to our city folk if when the president is in town he could spend more time preaching and speaking among our churches and other gatherings.

We hope for a long, long life for President Merrill and his work at Fisk.

SMYRNA NOTES.

Rev. C. Gardner preached for Rev. B. G. Strong in the rally last Sunday. A goodly number of people were present from far and near.

Mr. J. B. Ridley was with us Sunday and conducted the review in the Sunday school.

Mrs. Mary Baker professed religion at home last week.

Mrs. Eliza White Eskridge was buried near Laverne last week.

The remains of Mrs. Wallace Owen were brought up from Nashville Sunday morning and buried by the M. A. Society of which he was a member. The funeral sermon was preached by the pastor of the M. E. Church, Rev. Mr. Floor in the presence of a large crowd. Mr. Owen had been taken to the city a few days before to have an operation performed. He leaves a wife and two grown sons.

Mrs. B. A. Darden and Miss S. L. Battle, of Sand Hill, have been quite sick but are improving.

Miss Isabella Beaty returned to the city Monday to spend a few weeks.

Mrs. J. I. Wade and Miss E. M. Perry were elected by the Sunday school last Sunday as delegates to the Sunday School Convention to be held at Eagleville in August.

Mrs. Amanda Jones and little daughter are visiting relatives near Jefferson this week.

DICKSON NOTES.

The Dickson County Institute closed Friday after a two weeks' successful session. There were about thirty-five teachers in attendance. Examination was held Friday by the County Superintendent.

The teachers rendered an excellent program Friday night at St. James A. M. E. Church.

Miss Lottie Roane was given in marriage Sunday to Mr. Ernest Watkins. Messrs. Emerson, Gentry Bell and Theodore Grant Walker are spending this week near Pinewood fishing.

Mr. Herby Childress, who has been attending school at Wilberforce University, returned home yesterday.

Mr. Henry Rainey and son have returned from Indianapolis.

Miss Easter Lowe, of Centerville, is visiting friends here this week.

Hugh Hardin's "Hustlers" will cross bats with the Southern Lightweights of Clarksville, July 5, on the local diamond. And with Chas. Allen's team on July 6th.

Elaborate preparations are being made for the Fourth of July celebration.

Dr. J. A. Jones, President of the Turner Normal, will lecture here Tuesday night in the interest of his school.

Miss Flora Hardin, the charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Hardin will entertain a few friends Thursday evening at her home on Charlotte avenue.

COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS.

The cooking demonstrations by Miss Elizabeth Moore for the Nashville Gas Co., at 1509 Church street, came to a very satisfactory close last Friday. There had been given to each one who attended these demonstrations a numbered ticket, there being one of a corresponding number placed in a box. Last Friday at the close of the demonstration the prizes were awarded. There was called from the audience a little girl, Miss Connie Mai King, of 1616 Patterson street, who drew from the box the prize tickets. The first prize, a gas oven, was secured by Miss Pattie Dawson; the second, a gas iron, by Mrs. C. V. Roman, of Hardee street; the third, a drop gas lamp, by Mrs. Oglesby.

The demonstrations have been going on all this week at the Lea Avenue Christian Church. The Gas Company intends giving demonstrations at the different churches of the city.

VISITORS ENTERTAINED.

Miss Beatrice Hudson and Miss Mary Lou Clowder, of Birmingham, Ala., while en route home from Oberlin, were the guests of Miss Lady Emma Louise Phillips, were entertained at the residence of Mrs. C. G. Lampton, of Sylvan street, East Nashville, last Thursday evening. Previous to the social the young ladies, accompanied by Misses John D. Thompson and Lady Emma Phillips, Messrs. A. T. Landers, J. O. Battle and Henry Allen Boyd, were treated to a ride to the points of interest about the city in a trap.

While the guests were indulging in games they were favored with a graphophone concert. Light refreshments were served. Those present were Mrs. C. H. Phillips, Misses John D. Thompson, Edwina Smith, Mabel Scott, the Misses Phillips, Messrs. A. T. Landers, J. O. Battle, I. B. Scott, Jr., and Henry Allen Boyd.

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