

Missionary Record,

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SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1871.

Our Paper.

To the friends of progress and intelligence we present this first issue of the *Missionary Record* under a new direction—and management, while it continues the same name, and the same Editor as Chief of a new staff and new organization. It will now be under the auspices of the Publishing Association of the A. M. E. C. Conference of S. C. The need of a medium of communication, among the ministers of that denomination, as well as the need of a means of defence of the rights and wrongs of the colored people of this country so far as that portion of them in this State is concerned, demands the establishment, and continuance of a paper that shall speak their sentiments, and disseminate such truths as shall enlighten the masses, while it shall guide to a higher, moral, social, political, and religious development of the race. The Pen and the Press are the two great modern levers which are lifting up the masses of humanity from degradation, to a noble, progressive civilization. The Negro, being an integral part of this humanity, must take part in this civilization, and the same appliances which mark the development of other races, must be his only means. The peculiar circumstances of the Southern people, [for there are two peoples in the South, by the very nature of things.] demand a peculiarity of treatment, unlike any other, they are decidedly, prejudice, to race, cast, and political interest; these often conflict, and become a source of mistrust, and retardation to the whole. These divisions cannot be broken down in a day, because there is such a disparity between the two people, the pride of race on the one side, will ever prevent the present generation of the Saxons of the South, recognizing the full meed of justice to their former vessels and bondmen, a common interest, ought to bind these two races together, dwelling upon the same soil, breathing the same air, basking beneath the rays of the same congenial, fructifying Sun, bounded by all the sacred relations of life, there ought not to be a barrier, to their complete unification as a great, happy, prosperous people; the differences which now divide them, are the results of the systems of education which have been allotted each, in their different sphere of activity, one has been educated above the other, upward; the other educated downward, far beneath the other; Each have acquired, habits and sentiments, opposite to the other, and now in the new condition of things they do not understand each other, by reason of their past conditions.

The work of the present age and the duty of the instructors of the public are to un-educate, the educated, instruct the ignorant, moulding and fashioning the former into harmonious, beauty and grandeur, keeping pace with the march of christian charity, and truth; while they lift up the latter to the high

comprehension of their sublime relations to the people, and the age in which they live; and thus uniting, these seeming discordant elements, and giving a new impetus to the rising—South, and perpetual reunion and peace to the country, binding the whole into a mighty army invincible in human development; such shall be the effort and work of our little messenger, under its new direction. Every interest which affects the the people of the South as well as the nation at large, shall receive our earnest efforts. As those into whose hands have been placed the moral, social, and religious training of the people of our Church in this State, we shall feel it our especial duty to watch that interest, untiringly. The educational work and the training of the youth shall be a speciality of this paper, while the social and material prosperity of the masses shall be guarded with sleepless vigilance. Politics will not be left out, and honesty and integrity in government shall have a large consideration; with these declarations, we launch our Craft upon the great and troubled Sea of Journalism, with full spreading Sails, we take our chances.

Educate the Masses and aid Civilization.

The safety of States, depends on the intelligence and virtue of the people; on these two central principles, rest, the whole structure of society. The most renowned nations of antiquity, boasted of their powers and progress, through the mighty development of intelligence among the whole people, and the consequent virtue, through that intelligence. All modern nations who stand forward in the progress in human affairs pride themselves on the continual progress, being made through Educational measures. It has been, and still is, the boast of America, that they devote much time and means to the Education of the masses, their common school systems are proverbial. This applies to the north and west; the south prior to the war had no common school system that deserved the name.

The result is, that she has now a vast hoard of illiterates, of both races, who are the most ready material through which to make paupers, thieves, jail birds, rowdies, blackguards, ruffians, assassians and foot pads. The report of the City Council of New York, on compulsory education, gives the following facts and statements, relative to that subject:

"The American doctrine is, that the property of the State shall educate the children of the State." This benefits equally the rich and the poor. It decreases crime, reduces taxes, improves labor, increases the value of property, and elevates the whole community. One of the first and decisive questions asked in seeking a permanent location for one's family is: What are the means provided for education? A village, town or State, with good free schools, is the resort of families; without them it is the home of criminals.

In this city it costs more to support police and police courts to restrain and punish a few thousand criminals, nearly all of whom became such from want of education, than to educate our 250,000 children.

CRIME THE CONSEQUENCE OF IGNORANCE.

In France, from 1867 to 1869, one half the inhabitants could neither read nor write; and this one half furnished ninety-five per cent. of the persons arrested for crime, and eighty seven per cent. of those convicted. In other words, an ignorant person, on the average, committed seven times the number of crimes that one not ignorant did.

In the six New England States of our own country only seven per cent. of the inhabitants, above the age of ten years, can neither read nor write, yet eighty per cent of the crime in those States, is committed by this small minority; in other words, a person there without education commits fifty three times as many crimes as one with education.

In New York and Pennsylvania an ignorant person commits on the average seven times the number of crimes that one who can read and write commits, and in the whole United States the illiterate person commits ten times the number of crimes that the educated one does.

The above facts are derived from official statistics.

The above is a fair statement of facts as it relates to South Carolina to-day. Three-fourth of all the criminals, who fill our jails and penitentiary to-day are the offsprings of ignorance, the result of slavery and its concomitant evils. If our legislators and the political parties would give more attention to the general education of the masses by compulsory education forcing every child into the school house, they would do more to save the enormous expenditures, and lower taxation, than anything in their power.

The General Conference.

The approaching General Conference will sit in Atlanta Ga. May 1st making the Sixteenth Session, marking seventy four years, of the organization of the General Conference, during these long years—great has been the work accomplished by our Church—in evangelizing and enlightening our race, it would be a pleasant review, to recount the victories, and sorrows, of those who labored, fought and suffered, in this glorious cause, if we could make pass in review all those noble warriors, who, for the cause of Christ, were willing to suffer for humanity and exemplify their faith in truth, it would, indeed, be an encouraging effort. We must content ourselves, with contemplating the present great progress, which is now the just boast of the Sons Daughters and successors, of the first founders of our connection, and make such advances, as will be commensurate with the demands of the age. The work accomplished, is the result of a conflict, successively waged by the votaries of the cause of Christian Liberty, and Human Progress, as applied to the Colored race under our guidance. The question is now propounded; are we satisfied with the progress already made? have we accomplished as much as could be, under the circumstances? and can we make any improvement on the foundations, laid by our predecessors? whoever, looks over the vast field of the Church to day will conclude at once that there must be other measures more advanced, and comprehending the wide ranges

and mighty strides of national development, which this country is making daily. The fact, that the colored people of this country, have been enveloped in the great nation, by law, and human interests, precludes the possibility of their ever being separated, from all the interest, which belong to the whole people; this being true, whatever advancement is made by the nation must effect, the African in all his interests. The General Conference, being the law making power of the Church, must lay foundations in harmony with the work before us, that work is the perpetual unfolding of our race, out of the night of ignorance and degradation, into which two hundred and fifty years of abject slavery and outrage have imposed upon the race, we are to co-operate with all other agencies, under God, to lift up, and mould this great body of humanity into that harmonization, necessary, to a full, and equal recognition of manhood, this will be accomplished, in proportion to the wise legislation of that august body.

It will be apparent, through the measures adopted for our future guidance, financially, and the wise direction of our Book Department, our Publishing interest, our Educational work, and the choice of men to carry into successful operation all of our measures adapted; the regulations in the past, have been good in themselves, but the complete fulfillment, of the design by those who have been appointed to make them a success, has been in some instances, a failure, then there have been, misinterpretations of the law in some instances, which have led to, inertia on the part of some whose duty it was to push on a resolution work committed to their care. Our new Hymn Book has been prepared over four years, and yet we are waiting for its appearance from the Book department, there is a "hitch" somewhere that prevents, its appearance, that work done properly put upon the church market, would bring to the connection one hundred thousand dollars properly managed, to us this is a criminal neglect on the part of some party, or parties whose duty it is to control our Publishing department; then there is the Sunday-school department of our Church, which should be a mighty power, it is almost entirely neglected so far as the direction of a great enterprise and an important auxiliary to the prosperity of our connection, we should have this part of our work thoroughly organized and in operation, a church with three hundred thousand members, and an army of ministers, stretching their lines of operation from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Rocky mountains to the gulf of Mexico, should not neglect the vast work of Sabbath schools, in the literary department, a vast revenue, would flow into the Church and enable it to move in solid columns toward success.

Then there is the Educational work still lingering by the way, demanding renewed efforts on the part of the church, Wilberforce still waits the more substantial and which the connection should give it, Cokesbury is crying for aid in Florida, we have lost a golden opportunity, for lack of means. Every Southern State demands a High school under the control and interest of Education

in our Church, we shall be called on to educate the ministry, young men are now crowding our Conferences asking aid to educate themselves, we cannot let these demands pass unheeded, this demand must be met by the wise action of the General Conference. The work of missions looms up before us as a mighty sea wave, claiming every care, the question of Bishops will demand far less attention than all of these great measures.

Let the General Conference look these great subjects in the face and prepare to do all they can to meet them as best they can, with a broad comprehensive policy, and we shall have accomplished a worthy work in our day.

Church Work.

We call the attention of the ministry to the great importance of a renewed energy on their part, in extending the power and influence of the church work. The world's progress in morality depends on the higher religious culture of the people. The moral and religious trainings are inseparable, and the one is dependent on the other. The efforts of religious teachers, are to be made on all, and every field where they may accomplish any good for mankind. There are thousands of persons, who do not visit churches—who live beyond the influence of Sabbath services. Yet these ought, to be reached, they have immortal souls, for which the saviour died; now shall they be reached—and influenced? How shall they be made to feel the need of a savior's love? They will not visit the church, then the church must go to them, go, where they are, and demand a hearing, for the divine master. This can be done by the more efficient organization, of visiting committees in the church whose duty, shall be to visit families and read the Holy scriptures, and instruct those in the way of life, who now, neglect the duty of church service—and this interest them in the work of religious improvement, and of moral, worth. The members of the church, have not looked into the great importance which is attached to their calling as members of Christ's Body. These subjects must be urged by the ministry—constantly until it becomes a part of the life work of the whole church to be co-workers with Christ and the ministry, in saving souls. Each member has a neighbor, or friend possibly, who do not come to church, whose circumstances, of discouragement are such, that they have no heart to come to service, go, speak to them, words of encouragement, console them in their desolation, and help them to rise up above discouragements; you may thus, save a sinking sinner, you may aid a longing saint to overcome surrounding troubles, and honor God. Society will thus be—benefited. Homes will be made cheerful and happy.

Then there are the hundreds of children, who are out of the Sunday school, who never receive its benefits, These are to be cared for and instructed.

This is the ministers work—no less than his labors in the pulpit. He should—with the members of his church seek the children of the distressed and needy, and bring them into the pale of the church, and under its happy and cheering influences. The instructions of the Sabbath School are of vital importance to the