

**Speech Of Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune In Springfield, Mass.**

(Continued From Page One)  
 She had been guided to Daytona, Florida, and was located in a section of the city, peopled exclusively by Negroes. Her vision as to opportunity was realized. The young life of the streets was apparently unconsciously waiting for an incentive to higher ideals than those to which they had been born. The young missionary was at hand ready for the beginning of her life's work. Wisely and prudently she first sought the approval of the parents to her plan to gather their children from their wild life into a school for instruction, first as to the essentials for the home. This presentation appealed to them. Her second step was to secure a place where a temporary home might be established and object lessons might be taught showing the value of refinement in manners, conduct and conversation. Application was made to a black man for the rent of a four-room cabin—the applicant saying to him: "I have no money now to pay, but you certainly shall be paid." After looking into her eyes for a moment, he said: "I will trust you." She secured boxes from the stores for seats and cast-off furniture from the white house-holders in the city, which gave somewhat the appearance of a tidy home. Her first class of five little black girls gathered from the streets into a black man's rented cabin was the beginning of the Daytona-Normal and Industrial Institute in 1904, with one dollar and fifty cents in cash, with prayer and great faith.

Continued next week.

**Mutual Relief And Benevolent Association Organized Here**

(Continued From Page One)  
 The program as published in The Leader last week was carried out. Addresses by Mayor Coleman, Insurance Commissioner J. J. McMahan, President A. W. Simkins, of Edgefield were pleasing features of the mass meetings. The address in response was delivered by Dr. J. W. Boykin, of Camden, was a treat.

Other companies of the state had their representatives at the conference to show the spirit of cooperation that is becoming to be a powerful factor of late in Negro life. Hon. C. G. Spaulding, head of the great N. C. Mutual of Durham came to Columbia to attend the conference and deliver an address. His State Agent W. H. Harvey of Columbia delivered one of the addresses. Other speakers among the writers were Mr. E. E. Cornwell, Mr. M. M. Dreher, Mrs. Julia Hart, of Columbia; Mrs. C. M. Finley, of Chester; Mrs. H. E. Albany, of Aiken; Mrs. E. E. Jones, of Greenville and Mr. M. J. Sanders of Sumter. The group meeting was presided over by Mr. Cornwell. One of the public addresses was delivered by Mr. N. H. Collins. Mr. Collins represents the Supt. of the National Benefit Insurance Company and a good mixer. Dr. William D. Chappelle spoke to the insurance writers on "Living Conditions of the Negro Race."

This was one of the best conferences they have ever had, Mr. Goode said yesterday, in discussing the phases of the meeting and making a retrospect of the past achievements. Every phase of the work was touched in the general and group meetings and the host of agents here will leave the city with broader visions, new resolutions and stronger determinations to "write up South Carolina."

The insurance field is not yet explored among our people. The Mutual Relief has a splendid chance with the other companies in educating us up to the point of valuing life insurance.

**The Liberty Life Founder Dies**

(Continued From Page One)  
 entered the real estate business with Mr. Oscar DePriest. For two years he engaged in that profession but he had not yet found his life work. Finally in January of 1916, he left to join the agency force of the Royal Life Insurance Company. With that organization he began his first real ascent on the ladder of achievement. He had found his calling. By August of the same year Gillespie was made superintendent of the company. He thus became the first colored superintendent of an Old Line Legal Reserve Insurance Company doing both industrial and ordinary business.

The success which attended Gillespie as superintendent of the Royal Life Insurance Company was phenomenal; so it happened that in the fall of 1917 he became organizer and officer of the Public Life Insurance Company of Illinois. This was the first time in the history of Life Insurance that a Negro had been elevated to a position of such responsibility. Gillespie made good. For two years he assisted in the development of the young institution, then he decided to organize a company among his own people. He saw the need clearly and knew that his own years of experience could make it possible. Such a company, he realized, would open the door of opportunity to thousands of his race. Liberty Life Insurance Company of Illinois is the result. Today it towers like a beacon light among the giant institutions of the race. It is managed by a group of the most competent men in the field of life insurance and stands as an everlasting monument to the genius of its founder and a bulwark against the misfortunes of an awakening people.

In 1903 Mr. Gillespie was married to Miss Edreanor Poree of New Orleans, Louisiana. To this union two children have been given, a son now of 20 and a daughter of 17. The beautiful home life of this group and the progress of Liberty Life Insurance Company of Illinois attest the success with which a master mind has met and solved the problems of his day.

**Negroes Start An Organization**

(Continued From Page One)  
 been advanced by these organizations the records show that some of the borrowers have returned the amounts in small installments and paid as much as ten per cent, additional. One of these Jewish organizations now has assets of over one hundred million dollars. It was this general idea which inspired the launching of the National Negro Finance Corporation.

**How It Will Operate.**

It has been interesting to Mr. Spaulding, Mr. Gomez and myself to note already the unusual amount of opportunities that the Finance Corporation even now has to serve. If this sum cannot be secured, there will be a loss of property which is easily worth eight or nine hundred thousand dollars. Another concern needs twenty-five thousand dollars for the expansion of its business and it has sufficient assets. Still another organization needs seventy-five thousand dollars; another one hundred thousand dollars. All of these enterprises are controlled by men of our race who have reputations for good business judgment, but who are having some difficulty in raising necessary funds.

When our organization shall have opened for business, we would in each case send experts to make the proper investigation of the assets before the loans are made. We find that it is not always money that our business men need in their organizations. More often it is merely advice and instructions as to how they should proceed. Frequently they have gotten into difficul-

**STRAY LEAVES**

**A Department of Current Poetry**  
 By WILLIAM D. ROBINSON.  
 (All contributions to this Department must be typewritten, "real poetry," accompanied by stamped and addressed return envelope, and sent to 1501 1/2 Taylor St., Columbia, S. C., to the Editor of this column. Allworthy manuscripts will be printed under your own name. Amateurs and poet-aspirants, this is your chance to develop that talent, if you have it.)  
 The Editor of this Department offers his services to anyone desiring poems on any subject for any occasion, such as epitaphs, memoriams, expressions of friendship, or topics for programs of all kinds.

Fifteen years ago I lost my angel mother. Mother's Day means more to me than any other Memorial Day. It is fitting that this department should be devoted to all mothers everywhere.

**TO MY MOTHER**  
 By William D. Robinson.

**I. A GRATEFUL HEART THROB.**  
 Too late for thee to hear, my angel-mother,  
 I breathe this token of my gratitude  
 For thy great love,—second alone to His  
 Who is the father of the universe:

All that I am, all that I hope to be,—  
 Young, hopeful, climbing ever t'ward the stars,  
 Though I attain life's dearest height to fame,—  
 Receive the thund'rous plaudits of the world,—  
 Or triumphant o'er life's evils here below,  
 reach at last Truth's land,—the better land,—  
 I owe it all to thee,—to thy great love!

Take then this token of my gratitude,  
 As calmly sway these pines above thy couch  
 Of earth, where thousands wait the great reward  
 Of faithful souls, swept from life's battleground:

With God's help, I shall strive to live so true,  
 That when at last, I come to wait with thee  
 In death's great slumber room, glad tongues may say:  
 "Worthily he lived, worthily he died,  
 Of his dear mother's faithful love and care."

**II. A WHITE ROSE.**

Can ever I express in words, or deeds,  
 The gratitude that memory revives,—  
 The deathless love that in my soul revives?  
 Forget the care that answered all my needs?  
 Upon my heart this lovely white rose pleads:  
 Within my heart, rekindled memory drives;  
 And grateful love for fit expression strives;  
 And I impassioned, follow where it leads.  
 White Rose! fit symbol of her matchless love,

Whisper this answer to her soul sleeping:  
 Within my heart I feel her pure blood flow.—  
 I'll be true to it, her honor keeping,  
 And answer living love by living love,  
 Until this white rose gains a living glow.

**III. A RED ROSE.**

I wonder if always I have expressed  
 The grateful love that struggles in my breast,—  
 So often claimed but not always expressed,  
 So often felt but not always confessed.  
 Mother's care's a thousand times expressed:  
 Who can forget the comfort of her breast?  
 Who ever knew maternal love repressed?  
 No love is beautiful that's unexpressed.

O Red Rose, lovely with life's ruddy glow,  
 Express with all your beauty, my deep love  
 And gratitude for mother's tender care,  
 And all th' imprisoned passions that can move  
 Me to a life of love by which to show  
 The love that answers to my mother's care.

Ten of which are living today.  
 She was converted and joined the church in 1885, and has lived a consistent christian since that time. To know Mrs. Thompson, was to love her. In the home she was a devoted wife, and loving mother, in the community quiet and conservative.  
 For five months she was a patient sufferer, knowing that her Savior would take care of her. She bore her afflictions with christian fortitude, until Saturday, April 25th, when the end came. It can be well said that her death was "The End of a Perfect Day."  
 The funeral services were held at Sidney Park C. M. E. Church, Tuesday, April 28th, of which church she was a faithful member.  
 The floral tributes were many and beautiful.  
 She leaves to mourn her loss, a husband, Mr. Anderson Thompson, ten children, Mrs. Mayme McGarter, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. A. W. Smith, Atlanta, Ga.; Mrs. J. H. Clifton, Mrs. Harvey Williams, Columbia; Mrs. J. E. Chestnut, Mrs. Henry Baxter, Jacksonville, Fla.; Messrs. Ivy & Anderson Thompson, New York; Mrs. Hattie Geter, Columbia; Dr. Wm. S. Thompson, Dentist in Georgetown, S. C. and thirty-one grand children, one great-grand.

**Block-Bill Inimical To Lodges**

Continued from Page 1.  
 exist. The bill declared it a felony for any organization to operate body which had a similar name or one nearly resembling any body having priority in the state. Mr. Griffin who is active in lodge life spoke against the measure on the open floor with the result that every member of the house who had voted in its favor reversed his vote.

**Mrs. Hattie Giles-Thompson Passes.**

On Saturday, April the 25th, the spirit of Mrs. Hattie Giles Thompson took its flight back to the God who gave it. She was born in Wilmington, N. C., April 6th, 1849, but has been a resident of Columbia on East Taylor Street the major portion of her life.  
 She was married to Mr. Anderson Thompson of Columbia, S. C. in 1867. Sixteen children were born from this happy union

**GETS LARGE CONTRACT HOME FROM FLORIDA.**

Messrs. Beachum & Calhoun, local contractors here, have been awarded the contract for the plaster boards, corner heads, plaster, metal laths and all other materials required to complete plastering of the Dormitory building being erected for Paine College, Augusta, Ga., according to plans and specifications as prepared by Messrs. Tisdale & Stone, architects. This speaks well for these young men who are really making good in their business.  
 Mr. J. W. Beachum, contractor of this city, and Messrs. Walter and Harry Morris have returned to the city from an extended motor trip to Miami and West Palm Beach, Fla. While in "the land of flowers," they were the guests of Mrs. Amanda Brown and Mrs. Mena Jordan, both formerly of Columbia. They report a very pleasant and enjoyable trip.

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