

**NOTES FROM BEAUFORT.**

On last Monday night, The First African Baptist Church was filled to its capacity with the people of Beaufort, both colored and white, who went there to attend the annual Slabtown convention which met at that place. It was declared to be the greatest entertainment feature of the season. The entertainment which was given by the Missionary society of the said church, was a complete success, financially as well as otherwise. It is to be repeated next Monday night down at Port Royal. Many from Beaufort are anticipating seeing it again.

On last Wednesday night, the Tabernacle Baptist Church was packed with both colored and white people to witness the most remarkable musical recital given this season by the Voorhees quintette. The recital was one that the people of Beaufort will not soon forget. We hope for their soon return here.

Thursday and Friday nights of last week the Ladies' Aid Society of the Wesley M. E. Church had impromptu concerts at its church. The programs both nights were indeed instructive as well as interesting. The program consisted of solos, duets, recitations, readings and short talks were made by Prof. Jas. Riley, Dr. M. P. Kennedy and Attorney Chas. E. Washington.

The most pleasant and enjoyable social feature of the season was the first annual reception given by the Calendar club, at the Odd Fellows Temple on last Thursday night. After the order of dances was completed, a menu consisting of five courses was served. The music had been specially arranged for the occasion was furnished by the famous Bryant's orchestra.

Mrs. Adele Flemming carried ten of her music students to Allendale last Monday to render a musical recital. The recital was a complete success, and the small children enjoyed much their trip through the country. The people of Allendale expressed themselves as having thoroughly enjoyed the concert, which was evidenced by the continued applause during its rendition.

Dr. Williams, the National evangelist of Louisiana, is in the city, conducting a series of meetings at the First African Baptist church.

The Odd Fellows and Household of Ruths had their annual Thanksgiving sermon preached to them on Sunday, the 10th. The church was filled to its capacity. Rev. John Gifford delivered a very inspiring sermon.

The people of Beaufort were shocked on last Sunday morning when the news reached here of the unfortunate drowning of Prof. Harry Cook of Penn school. It appears that the professor went out to take a morning swim, but went too far out, and on return took a cramp and before aid could reach him he went under. This was Prof. Cook's first year at Penn school but he, because of his wonderful personality, had a host of friends in Beaufort as well as on the Island. Prof. Cook came from Virginia and was book-keeper at Penn school. We feel the loss as keenly as his relations.

Miss Etta Washington, who has been teaching in the High School department at the Blackville Training School, has returned to the city. Miss Washington reports a most successful school term.

Mrs. Florence C. Sanders is visiting the county schools in the Bluffton section this week.

Those who motored to the closing of the Sheldon school last Thursday night were: Mrs. Florence C. Sanders, Mrs. Mamie Beamer, Misses Maude F. Ford and Marion Grayson, Mr. St. Clair Grayson and

Charles E. Washington. The exercises were exceptionally good for a rural school.

Miss Ruth Quick of Orangeburg is in the city for a short visit. While here she is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Jenkins.

The Beaufort County Training School, of which Prof. J. S. Shanklin is principal, had its closing exercises on last Friday noon. Rev. Belling of Alabama made the commencement address. It was indeed a masterpiece. Many of the white friends were present.

**VOORHEES NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL**

**Ends Successful Year's Work. Sixteen Young Men and Women Receive Certificates and Diplomas—Dr. D. H. Sims Delivers Commencement Address.**

Denmark, S. C., May 13, 1925.—The 27th annual commencement exercises of Voorhees N. & I. School, located at this place which ended today, marked the close of a very successful year's work for this well known institution.

The closing exercises were begun on Friday night, May 8th, when a very entertaining program was rendered by the pupils of the Model School (Grades 1-5) of which Mrs. J. E. Blanton is the capable and efficient principal.

The Commencement Sermon on Sunday, May 10th, by the Rev. R. E. Brogdon, Pastor of the A. M. E. Church, Orangeburg, was wholesome and helpful. Patron's night was observed May 11, when an excellent program was rendered.

The Class day exercises on the afternoon of May 12th were very enjoyable. Tuesday evening the Oratorical Contest was held. The three young men and three young women contestants all spoke quite well. The winners were Charlotte Hunter, Victoria Chapman and Rosa Brown.

Long before the hour scheduled for the program to begin on Wednesday, May 13th, an overflowing crowd of relatives of the graduates and friends of the institution had assembled on the Campus.

Promptly at 2 o'clock the school's excellent brass band sounded the strains of an appropriate tune and the grand procession headed by Principal Blanton and Treasurer Menafee, marched up the avenue and into the chapel.

The ten minutes industrial display at the beginning of the program gave the audience an insight into what the students do in the various shops of the school. The following members of the class were speakers: John H. Cochrane, Salutatorian, Subject: "Lest the People Perish." Reather M. Gibbs, "The Negro Woman as a Community Builder," Martha E. Carolina, "Stepping Stones to Greatness," L. G. Barnwell, "Veterinary Science an Asset to Our School," Valetorian, Ruth O. Bailey, "Education for Efficiency and Efficiency for Service."

Dr. C. A. Eigner, Atlanta, Ga., a former graduate of the school and a successful druggist, made a very interesting speech. A special feature of the program was the charming rendition of "Creole Love Song" by Victoria V. Chapman, a member of the graduating class.

The Commencement Address, by Dr. D. H. Sims, President of Allen University, Columbia, on "The Fine Art of Living," was indeed a masterpiece. Dr. Sims is one of our most pleasing and convincing platform speakers, and one of the race's foremost educators.

Pres. R. S. Wilkinson of State College in choice and fit-

**::: 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.

**THE JOY OF LIFE.**

By William D. Robinson.

Is there no balm to heal the broken heart?  
No magic touch to bid life's sorrows flee?  
Shall Grief forever pierce us with his dart?  
The soul from bitterness be never free?

And Death, the grim, dark gate of the Unknown,  
Shall it be never shut, or never ope,  
To hide its horrors or release the flown?  
Shall we forever sigh the dead sans hope?

Of this sweet hope, the abstract, airy vision,  
The Christ has left us of the life reborn,—  
Why does it not remove the horrid vision,  
And flood earth's darkness with its brighter morn?

Here in my soul, torn now by many sorrows,  
Taunted by tasted joys soon snatched away,—  
I beg a healing balm,—unborn tomorrow's  
Sweet promise cannot answer for today!

I listened to a bird that perched and sang  
In wildest ecstasy upon a bough;  
And from its soul—sent song suddenly sprang,  
A sweet philosophy that heals me now.

A flower bloomed in beauty at my feet,—  
Stooping, I saw within its lovely face,  
Life's deepest meaning, in a dream so sweet  
That even Death its touch could not erase:

"Be happy," breathed to me the soft spring breeze,  
Sweet with the kisses of the new born flowers:  
"Be happy," sang the birds aloft the trees;  
I knew the secret of life's weakened powers.

And like the birds, I heard Life's sweeter call,  
In living joy like to a pulsing stream  
That purged my heart of sorrow, and withal,  
Turned life into a happy, living dream.

The Joy of Life! Why e'en the mighty stars  
Sparkle with its sublime and holy glow,—  
And play like children,—free from sorrow's bars;  
And thru th' eternal cycles dancing go!

The Joy of Life! Within your love-lit eyes,  
It calls to me, and answering, I laugh  
At Death, and mock Sorrow's gloomy skies;  
Crush you to my wild beating heart and laugh!

For all the beautiful in life is mine!  
The birds, the flowers, and ev'ry living thing!  
I'm son of Earth,—my Father is divine:  
I crush you to my heart,—and I am King!

This new philosophy has mighty wings,  
With which my soul is armed to flee away,  
When Sorrow's gloom about its dwelling clings,—  
Flee to a happier place,—a sunnier day!

**TO MRS. CORA S. BOYKIN.**

By William D. Robinson.

Mere words can never eulogize the great.  
The pen is powerless to magnify  
The glory of a soul that masters fate:  
Her name is writ in gold in honor's skies!

And yet 'tis fitting that the pen should strive  
To gather all the wealth of harmony,  
And let poetic beauty keep alive,  
To its own glory, her life's melody!

Though dead, she lives,—lives in the grateful hearts  
Of all who knew her or once heard her name;  
She lives in golden deeds; and such departs  
But from the field of labor, pain and blame.

She lives,—lives in the soul of womanhood,  
A shining ideal that by heavenly vision,  
Was taught the loftiness of sisterhood,  
And with her life, interpreted the vision.

She lifted woman to her proper place;  
And with the cords of love, she made strong bands  
Of Christian service for her needy race;  
And Christ was glorified by her helping hands.

In vain are tributes written on the tomb:  
In vain are flowers cast upon the grave:—  
Let each who loved her strive to fill the room  
That she has left,—excel the life she gave.

ting language presented Dr. Sims to the audience. Mrs. S. L. Collins of Bettis Academy, made a short talk.

Prin. J. E. Blanton and Prof. Moore, head teacher, presented diplomas and certificates to the sixteen members of the graduating class, who completed both industrial and literary courses.

The musical programs rendered at all of the exercises by the choir and glee club were of a very high and entertaining order, the solos, trios, etc., were especially good.

At this point, Prin. Blanton explained that the affiliation of

even more possible than it is today.

A number of prominent visitors attended the Commencement exercises, among whom were Mrs. J. Dorsey Green of Detroit, one of the first teachers in the institution; Rev. and Mrs. W. W. Chappelle and Rev. and Mrs. Isaac Myers, Bamberg; Prof. F. M. Staley, State College; Rev. I. E. Lowery, Columbia; Rev. and Mrs. T. A. Robinson, Rev. H. H. Matthews and Rev. J. H. Coleman.

The 1924-25 school year at Voorhees was a great success. Both teachers and students worked hard in class rooms and shops and on the farm. Prin. J. E. Blanton and Treas. M. A. Monafee are two stalwart, hard-working, efficient men, who are really putting over a big job at Voorhees. Associated with them is a faculty of 32 well trained earned men and women who are helping to put Voorhees over the top.

London, England, expects soon to have a garage with a revolving floor. Thus a car parked on the floor can be brought around to the door by the rotation of the floor.

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