

COMMENCEMENT AT SOUTHERN COLLEGES

58th COMMENCEMENT AT CLAFLIN TO SURPASS ALL IN ITS HISTORY.

Alumni From All Parts of the United States to Attend. Great Program Arranged. Many Graduates. Exercises To Eclipse all Others. Huge Attendance Expected.

Orangeburg, S. C., May 19—Friday, May 15th marked the opening of the 58th Annual Commencement at Claflin University, one of the oldest Negro Colleges of the State.

This commencement is to surpass all previously held. Pres. J. B. Randolph, the first president of color of this institution has made special preparations to take care of the host of visiting friends and alumni who are expected to this great celebration. Already news has come that we will need extra accommodations to take care of the large crowd. Those attending from the various states will be surprised at the wonderful changes that have taken place under the successful administration of Pres. J. B. Randolph who is just completing his third year as president of the institution.

Assisted by a well prepared faculty of more than forty members, Pres. Randolph has been able to find a place for Claflin among the other large colleges of the land. He has done this thru persistent effort and undying devotion to see Claflin rank with the best. No college of South Carolina has received more recognition within the past few years for the type of work it has produced. Every student who has left for other colleges of the Nation have been received without reservations and have made enviable records for their Alma Mater. This together with many records in various other activities of school curriculum and student activities has heralded Claflin as the Ace of South Carolina. Applications from other states

have begun to overwork the authorities and attendance of college students next year is expected to double all in former years. These things have thus inspired our elaborate program for the 58th Commencement.

The program beginning May 15th, consist of the following outstanding features: Sunday, May 31, Dr. A. R. Howard of Sumter, S. C., District Supt. of the Charleston District of the Methodist Episcopal Church is to preach the Annual Sermon at Trinity Church of this city; Dr. W. J. King, Gammon Theological Seminary is to deliver the Baccalaureate Sermon on the same day at the University Chapel. The Commencement Address is to be delivered Wednesday, June 3rd, by Dr. L. M. Dutton, President Emeritus of Claflin University and former president preceding Dr. Randolph. The other events of equal interest include: High School play—"Happiness" Debate—Belles Lettes Association, May 22nd. Closing Exercises of the Domestic Arts Department May 25th. Primary School Exhibition—May 26. Grammar School play—"Sophomore" May 27th. Choir Operetta—"The Pennant" May 29th. Lawn Fete—May 30th. Class Day Exercises and Dunton Prize Contest June 1st; Annual meeting Board of Trustees; Industrial Exhibits; Alumni Re-union and Banquet, Annual Musical, June 2nd.

Thus the end of a commencement long to be remembered by all those who attend.

COMMENCEMENT WEEK WITH THE COLLEGES OF ATLANTA.

Hundreds to Graduate at Colleges; Many South Carolinians.—Clark Climbs.—Morehouse Wins Trophy.—Black Crackers Open Season.—Other News.

By W. F. WILLIAMS.

Atlanta, Ga., May 27.—This city, the Athens of America in Negro education, is in the midst of the greatest commencement season in its history. Students from nearly every state in the Union are winding up a year's work in the colleges and many are being sent away with sheep's skin to begin the various tasks which await them.

Of the "Big Five," Morris Brown will be the first to close. They close today. A large number of students will graduate from each department of the school.

Clark University and Spelman College will close on Tuesday, June 2. This has been a great year for Clark's first year under the direction of a colored president. A marked improvement has been made under President M. S. Dayage. This was Spelman's first year as a college. Herebefore the young women who desired college training took their studies at Morehouse.

Atlanta University and Morehouse College will close on Wednesday, June 3. These are two of the five most highly rated colleges of the race, the others being Fiske, Howard and Lincoln. Morehouse has 37 in the Senior College Class this year and they will hail from many states. Two South Carolinians will receive the A. B. degree at Morehouse. They are Mr. H. McMorris, of Columbia, and Mr. F. Rhodes, of Blacksburg. Other Carolinians in the College department at Morehouse are Azzie B. King (Junior) Columbia; Wm. Clyde Allen (Junior) Greenville; B. B. Williams (Sophomore) Aiken; Alva Carroll (Freshman) Aiken; Machon Garrison (Freshman) Greenville; Raymond E. Rector (Freshman) Greenville. The writer offers apology for not being able to get in touch with other schools for such information as given above.

Gammon Theological Seminary closed three weeks ago.

Sylvia Bryant Baptist Institute closed last week and Holmes' Institute

will close right along with the Big Five.

Each year A. G. Spaulding & Bros., well known sporting goods manufacturers, award the champion base ball team in the S. I. A. A. some kind of a trophy which is delivered at the final game of the season. After a hard fought sea-on Morehouse came out victorious with only three defeats and nine wins and was presented with the prize by Mr. Abbott Couch of Tuskegee Institute and President of the Association, immediately after the Tuskegee-Morehouse game last Saturday.

Among the progressive business men of Atlanta is numbered Mr. John L. Gibson, formerly of Columbia, S. C., and a nephew of Miss Letitia P. Harrison of Greenville street. He has purchased a modern shoe shop on one of the principal thoroughfares of the city, one half block from the court house, and is doing tremendously well. Most of his customers are white as his is the only Negro business in the entire section where it is located.

Mr. Gibson is married and is none the worse off as he has gained ten pounds since he fell for the fair lady just one year ago. His wife is a talented piecer, mender, washer and seamstress and aids him in that line and acts in the capacity of cashier for her Negro.

The season for professional baseball in Atlanta has opened and the first game to be played in this city will be the scene at the great Spaulder's Park Friday and Saturday between the Atlanta Black Crackers, and the Birmingham Black Bluffs.

The Crackers played Chattahoochee that city last Sunday and won in a slugfest. The team is composed of players from the colleges of this city, the ban having been lifted which prohibits college men from playing professional base ball.

PRESIDENT D. H. SIMS DELIVERS BACCALAUREATE SERMON AT STATE.

His Discourse Was Full of Thought and He Grippped the Attention of the College People for Forty-five Minutes. Commencement the Best Ever.

Orangeburg, S. C., May 24th—As your correspondent sits in the college Chapel at State College this beautiful and cheerful Sunday afternoon, he is listening to one of the best baccalaureate addresses ever spoken to young graduates. On an occasion like this in many days, President D. H. Sims by invitation, came to State College this afternoon to deliver the commencement sermon. His text is found in the 13th chapter of Psalms and the 14th verse: "He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighteth in me." His text was the power and expansion of Christianity.

Dr. R. S. Wilkinson, in introducing President Sims, said notwithstanding he is by point of service the youngest college president in the State, his good work already done makes him an asset with the group and a strong leader in educational, thought and usefulness.

Dr. Sims' discourse made a splendid impression on all and there was a tremendous crowd present to witness the exercises. He pointed the way that leads to greater things in

life showing how expansion plays an important part and that education without religion is not the kind that should be emphasized.

Dr. Sims is one of our scholarly men and he is a preacher. For 45 minutes he gripped the attention of the college people here and every time he opened his mouth he "said something." There were many of the best trained minds of our group in the audience. Several leading Lythians who heard the discourse, said that it would be a step forward if at the next convention the Knights would elect Dr. David H. Sims to the office of Grand Prelate.

There are eighty graduates of State College this year, who received their diplomas Wednesday after the address to the classes had been delivered by Hon. J. H. Hope, State Superintendent of Education. The attendance at the commencement this year went a head of previous year. People were there from all parts of the state which shows the interest they have in South Carolina's leading institute for Negro youth.

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T. B. WATKINS, MISSOURI ENTERED, ELKS GRAND RULER

Kansas City, Mo., May 22.—Theron B. Watkins, of this city, has been entered by a group of friends in Elksdom for the position of Grand Exalted Ruler. The election will occur at the annual convention in Richmond, Virginia, in August. The Wat-



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kins backers have entered their candidate only after a thorough canvass of the country, and in thier opinion the "Show Me" candidate has better than a fighting chance. There will be several other candidates, including J. Finley Wilson, of Washington, who is already serving his third term, and is seeking a fourth. There has been, for a number of years, sentiment in the convention favorable to one term and two at most.

T. B. Watkins is one of the most substantial business men

in the country. He has a large personal following, and has always been progressive in fraternal and business matter. Mr. Watkins is a native of Indiana, is 48 years old, and "came up from the bottom," in a business way, so to speak. He is strongly backed by the Midwest Lodge of this city, and they plan to tell the world that Elksdom is honored by having the opportunity to consider such a candidate. While he is Past Exalted Ruler of his home lodge, and has been several times a delegate to the national convention, Mr. Watkins has never been an office seeker, say his friends. He is preparing a platform, since giving consent to have his name used, that promises to be one of the most militant ever presented by a candidate for any office.

KLANSMEN NEVER "MEMBERS" OF ORDER BUT "CITIZENS OF INVISIBLE EMPIRE."

Representative of Negro Association Attends Initiation Incognito and Makes Report.

A representative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, recently attended initiation ceremonies of the Ku Klux Klan in a neighborhood state, and reports that Klansmen are given instructions for evading inquiries of judges, juries and officers of the law, when asked if they are members of the Klan.

According to the investigator for the Advancement Association, Klansmen are instructed that when asked if they are "members" of the Ku Klux Klan they are to reply in the negative, even under oath, since the Klansmen is a member of the Klan but all are "citizens of the invisible empire."

Victory Life Is Sued For Contract Breach

The Victory Life Insurance Company, with offices in the Overton Bank Building, were made defendants yesterday in a suit filed against them by Joseph Ballard, who alleges breach of contract. The sum asked is \$25,000.

According to Ballard who is a former employee of the Afro-American Insurance Company of Jacksonville, Florida, he came here at the instigation of officials of the company to take over the development of insurance agencies in the west part of the city.

He stated that in his contract was a clause which allowed him a weekly drawing account of \$25, payable in advance, with which he was to carry on his work of company expansion in this district. He was also to be allowed all first year commissions. Said advances were to be given "for a reasonable length of time," and were to be terminated, according to Ballard, only upon a thirty day written notice.

Suddenly, he says, he was dropped from the company rolls without due notice, as contained in contract, being given him, for alleged discourtesies to a director and his daughter. The suit followed. He had been in the employ of the company for more than 10 months.

—Chicago Whip.

The above is of interest to Columbians as Mr. J. S. Ballard at one time reside in this city being at the time a teacher in Allen University. Mr. Ballard is well known over the state. The Vice-President and General Manager of the Victory Life Insurance Company is also a former Columbian, Mr. I. J. Joseph, who was the first president of the Victory Savings Bank of Columbia.

Booker Washington High School Graduating Exercises

The graduating exercises of the Booker Washington High School Department will be held at Columbia Theatre, Thursday night, June 4th, 1925, at 8 o'clock. The address to the class will be delivered by Dr. J. C. White, Pastor of Zion Baptist Church.

The present graduating class is the first to complete the course since the school has been placed on the accredited high school list. The class roll is as follows:

Harry Bruce Adams, Ollie Blackman Furry, Morris William Lee, Wayne Edward Lee, Henry Albert Lindsay, Harvey Dorsey Myers, William Dennis Patterson, Marion Romeo Robertson, Theodore Joseph Sumter, Jay Brutus Van Wright, Joseph Alexander Walker, Richard Thomas Williams, Beatrice Ethel Brown, Ruby Vergella Bailey, Wilhelmina Dorothy Caldwell, Lillian Lorinne Campbell, Alta Othello Clark, Gladys Lucile Curston, Edith Margaret Daniels, Ruth Orabelle Fair, Alma Gladys Forrest, Catherine Mae Froderick, Natalie Corine Frederick, Blanche McTeigue Grant, Gladys Perry Harvey, Lorine Elizabeth Ibrin, Grim Gertrude Jones, Julia Leticia Jones, Frances Anita Mack, Inez Ora Belle Mangum, Catherine Enelle McCollough, O'Dell Catherine Nelson, Alberta Edith Reynolds, Ora Belle Nellie Sanders, Amanda Hammond Starnes, Lillie Estella Sullivan, Sara Rachel Thompson, Susan Elvina Veal, Malinda Blanche Washington, Geraldine Price Williams, Agnes Williams.

The first honor is held by Alma Forrest, the second by Gladys Harvey, and the third by Inez Mangum.

The close of this school year marks a most successful and progressive period in the development of the High School Department. In the science department this progress has been es-

LEAP FROM CAR HAS FATAL ENDING

Negro Minister Jumps When Seat Catches Fire

The Rev. W. P. Blackwell, a colored minister living on the Blair road was fatally injured when he jumped from a moving coupe when the seat caught fire the minister striking his head and receiving injuries so serious that he died at the Good Samaritan Hospital where he was taken for treatment.

From information received at the hospital, it seems that he left his home on yesterday afternoon and was driven to Blair road in a passing coupe. In some way the seat in the coupe caught fire and the minister jumped from the moving machine.

He was seen to be severely injured and was carried to the hospital in an unconscious condition. An operation was performed in an effort to save his life, but he died after a short time.

Blackwell was about 36 years of age and is survived by a widow and six small children. His wife was notified of the accident and taken to the hospital soon after it occurred.

ALLEN STUDENTS VISIT SPARTANBURG

The members of "Ephraim" at the Bar of Justice" of Allen University along with the Base ball team went to Spartanburg to render the play, at which time the games between Allen and Chulio. The play was rendered at Trinity A. M. E. Church under the auspices of Rev. Witherpoon. The church was packed and could not hold all who wanted to witness it, as the church is being remodelled. We along with the base ball team wish to thank the kind hostesses who lent us so muchly entertainment. We thank Mrs. Stacy Whitmy for showing us around her beautiful city and Misses Nettie La Oxnar and Ha Fair, also Mrs. Lillie Oxnar, and of Miss Sara Perry who so highly entertained us at their spacious and palatial home.

KATHERYN SHARPER, Reporter.

LET US LOOK FOWARD AT INDUSTRY

Let us look forward, but in looking forward have the past in view, and if history in the United States is what the American Negroes are capable of making it, the realization of the future will make you smile at the accom-

COLORED WOMEN IN WAR MOTHER'S PROGRAM

Washington, D. C., May 1.—(By The Associated Negro Press) The National Association of Colored Women's Clubs under the leadership of the President, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, and the state Presidents and delegates who were attending the Quinquennial International Council of Women and also the executive board of the N. A. C. W. shared in the celebration of Mothers' Day exercises at Arlington Cemetery and placed a wreath upon the tomb of the Unknown Soldier and one upon the grave of our race's greatest soldier, the late Col. Charles Young.

Two honorary presidents, eight officers, eighteen state president and nineteen heads of departments assembled also in an executive board meeting of the N. A. C. W. during the week. Important business considered was a more intensive prosecution of the policies and program of N. A. C. W. already under way—the Douglass Home and the Educational Scholarship. The National President, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, setting forth the need of official headquarters for the association, offered the recommendation that the association add to its program a campaign fund for a building for such headquarters. It was unanimously adopted, and \$5,500 was pledged by individuals and by state presidents.