

The Palmetto Leader

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

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REMITTANCES

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COLUMBIA, S. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1930.

DR. J. J. STARKS

Any community should be pleased to have added to its population citizens of worth, character, and integrity. Columbia has just cause for such pride in the taking up by Dr. J. J. Starks of his residence in this city.

Dr. Starks for many years more than a decade was a resident of Sumter where, while president of Morris College, he was a moving spirit in the life of the community. He was welcomed at every gathering where constructive matters were considered.

Since coming to Columbia as president of Benedict College—first Negro president of the school's history—Dr. Starks has made his presence felt by his magnanimity of spirit. Although he is a Baptist minister, he is much broader than his denomination. He has lent his influence in aiding Methodist churches as well as Baptist. It strikes us that his is such a nature that believes in humanity, and anything that he can do to lessen the ills of human kind he will gladly do.

It is a pleasure to note that the student population at Benedict has suffered no diminution since Dr. Starks became president. It is reported that the Colleges of Arts and Science at that school have the largest number of students in its history. If it is true that a man's past performances are a good measuring rod with which to judge his future Dr. Starks' term of the presidency at Benedict should be fraught with the success that is to be found in doing good. We offer our belated greetings to him in behalf of every person who admires a good fellow.

A MIGHTY LOSS

In the death of Dr. George P. Phenix, late principal of Hampton Institute, education suffers a mighty loss. There are few white people engaged in the education of the Negro today who meet with the approval of a great percentage of colored people. Dr. Phenix was among the few.

He had labored for more than a quarter century at Hampton and was thoroughly conversant with the educational needs of the Negro. He was largely responsible for the influence exerted by that school throughout the nation. Especially is he responsible for the growth and development of the Hampton Summer Schools in quality of training given.

The Norfolk Journal and Guide speaking of Dr. Phenix said in a splendid editorial in the issue of Oct. 11, "Dr. Phenix will be missed because he was one of those rare souls who believe that in dealing with students they are not dealing with disembodied intelligence, separably measurable by tests, but the complete and disturbed psyche of groping and disordered youth; who seek to develop centers of education rather than machines of instruction; who are scholars of intellectual liberality and enthusiasm; and who wear their learning with imagination."

The Journal and Guide has indeed pictured a rare soul in this description of Dr. Phenix and we sincerely lament the passing of such a one, and feel sure that in this expression we share the feelings of the many South Carolina teachers who have felt the magnetic touch of Dr. Phenix' personality.

THE STATE FAIR

The 1930 State Fair which is soon to take place should be representative of the progress made by South Carolina Negroes to an unprecedented degree. Negroes have better educational facilities than they have ever had and should be more intelligent. Exhibits showing what is being done by South Carolina's colored population should come in from every county of the State.

We have every reason to believe that whatever causes there may have been for dissention in former times have been done away with and that the personnel of the State Fair Association is concerned only with putting over a program worthy of a noble people, such as the Negroes of South Carolina have a right to be. South Carolina Negroes have occupied a prominent place in the Nation's history, and if succeeding generations are not to evaluate us as being of far inferior quality to our forbears we must begin doing worthwhile things.

The annual State Fair affords a splendid opportunity for the denizens of this Commonwealth to come to know each other better thus making for that mutuality of understanding that is so essential to our welfare. There are far too few opportunities afforded for the Negroes of the State to meet where some tangible evidence of his productive contributions is shown. The State Fair will permit us to show what we are doing in business, the professions, in industry, agriculture, education and the household arts. Thursday will occur what should be a classic drawing thousands of people—the Benedict-Allen football game. This Fair can be made a real asset to the Negro's self-respect in South Carolina. The President is Dr. A. J. Collins, a progressive farmer and practicing dentist. He is working arduously to put it over and is being ably assisted by his associates.

economic and social endeavor. The economists put it this way: A man receives low wages because he is poor, and he is poor because he receives low wages. A poor man therefore has little hope of rising unless someone breaks the circle. This accounts in large measure for the large numbers of poor in all generations in all the nations. Because a man is poor he has few opportunities to overcome his poverty. Because a man is wealthy he has many opportunities to remain wealthy or to accumulate greater wealth. This is borne out by

our knowledge of the affairs of life about us! Reduced to its last analysis, if a man is born on, let us say, class "C" level he tends to live and die there, and what is more, his children also tend to live and die there unless some stroke of fortune breaks the circle. In rare instances such strikes, but in most cases it does not and as proof thereof the poverty-stricken masses everywhere. The late Alfred Marshall, eminent British economist of Cambridge University, carried the analysis further and found that poverty was cumulative. That is, the poor tended to get poorer and the wealthy wealthier. This was in keeping with the earlier teachings of Karl Marx. Reduced to its simplest analysis Marshall's fundamental thesis was simply this: If a man is borne on level "C," he not only tends to remain there, and his offsprings with him, but there is a tendency that poverty will become cumulative and drive the said man to level "D." It must be borne in mind that the working out of these tendencies is always contingent upon some stroke of fortune to break the vicious circle. The poor man that has a son to achieve economic and social success must not look for the cause of that son's rise in his childhood surroundings, that is, his social heritage; but every such phenomenal rise has its explanation in some unusual circumstances such as a friend or some accidental fortune.

By reason of the Negro's place in American life due to the circumstances of his enslavement and emancipation, the Negro found himself in a vicious circle! He gets all kinds of "bad breaks" because he is the submerged group and he is the submerged group because he gets so many bad social and economic "breaks." This is true in the very nature of things according to Marshall. Such success as the Negro has attained has come largely through a set of circumstances which tended to break the vicious circle. In Negro business this principle is illustrated. Such progress as Negro business has made is due for the most part to circumstances which broke the vicious circle. Insurance is a case in point. Had there not been segregation of the Negro, it is doubtful if Negro insurance could have survived. Behind almost all of the large fortunes accumulated by Negroes is this same principle of segregation. The monumental fortunes acquired by the late Madame Walker and Mrs. Malone, can be accounted for upon the segregation nature of such business as they built. The wealth accumulated by the Negro professionals can be explained the same way. The Negro has achieved most wonderfully in those fields in which he had a monopoly and he had the monopoly because of prejudice and this prejudice tended to break the vicious circle; hence some business progress of the Negro. If there were some way in which all the Negro business could be segregated, Negro business would flourish. But it has come about that the enterprising white business man is attempting in a hundred ways to blot out such segregation as carries with it considerable trade. More and more, the white man is tending to "cut in" on such Negro patronage as the Negro business man enjoys.

Negro business is in a vicious circle! It cannot compete because of a lack of capital, it suffers from lack of capital because it cannot compete. The tendency is not for this condition to be relieved but for it to become more necessitated. The problem therefore that the Negro must solve is how to break the vicious circle. Race loyalty is the only way it can be broken. That Negro who holds that Negro must offer just as good as the white man before he should expect Negro patronage is speaking beside the point and is asking that the Negro lift himself by his boot-strings. Because of the long start which white business has over Negro business and with the greater capital accumulation, it is simply impossible for the Negro business man to meet the white

Even cooperation on a strictly business on equal terms and survive. ness basis will not do it. Even our chain stores in a "cut throat" trade war could not survive unless Negroes supported our chain stores out of race loyalty and race loyalty thus becomes the only way to break the vicious economic circle of Negro business. "Appreciation trade" then is the only hope of Negro business in its initial stages. Those who oppose "appreciation trade" do so from a fault of reasoning. It is true that Negro business can not be built upon "appreciation trade" but it is true that Negro business can be begun on it. Whosoever expects Negro business in its initial stages to compete on equal terms with white business of long and large development is committing Negro business to doom everywhere, for there is no remunerative business that the Negro can run anywhere that the white business man cannot out-strip him because of capital accumulations and larger patronage. Even if Negroes were to give to Negro business the entire trade of the Negroes of this country, such business could hardly compete with many whites. "Appreciation trade" is the key whether we are willing to try it or not! It is the only way to break the Negro's vicious circle!

Let us then say that Negro business must necessarily pass through three stages, namely, the segregation stage in which segregation breaks the vicious circle, the "appreciation stage" in which we trade with Negroes for no other reason than that they are Negroes; the economic stage, when the Negro can give our money's worth. This is the last stage and must be arrived at via the other two. There is of course the danger that if we trade with Negroes because they are Negroes we are doomed so far as efficient services are concerned. This will be true so long as men "take up" business but not a day longer. When our institutions of learning turn out trained young men and women we can reasonably expect

to see advantage taken of "appreciation trade" as a stepping stone in business. The only hope for "appreciation trade" is trained Negro business men!

POINTED POINTS

George A. Singleton

The weekly text: "I may speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but if I have no love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." Sir Paul.

The weekly thot: "The aim of the true college is not to carve meat, but to know the end and 'aim' of the life that meat nourishes." Du Bois.

Personality is a unique thing. No body can explain it. It defies scientific analysis. Test tubes, and microscopes fail to reveal its deep-secrets. The old-fashioned psychologists used lots of words but in the last analysis left us in the air. The modern behaviorist psychologists have us look at the way an individual behaves. That is about as far as one can go. More than that is mere poetry and delightful prose.

Who can account for the peculiar genius of the Reverend T. M. Boykin, of Union Baptist Church? Twice during the past week your servant heard Dr. Boykin preach in a revival at Nazery Baptist Church, in Waverley. The house was packed each night. What did the shoals of people come for, why did they hang onto his every word, and did they get that for which they came?

Dr. Boykin, held his crowd. People will go any where to get what they want—the secret of John's popularity in the Judean wilds. Dr. Boykin is unassuming, pleasant of disposition, affable, kind. He has a towering physique, a good strong voice and stands fully six feet in his shoes. He always wears a red rose bud in the lapel of his coat. He professes not to be a scholar but he is a preacher.

Some choirs in Columbia may be more artistic than that of Union Baptist, but when it comes to downright singing with the soul they are there with bells on. Should you doubt me slip in sometimes and hear them sing: "I'm troubled, Lord, I'm troubled;" and "No, no, don't turn back." The history of the race from the Africa jungles finds expression in the songs of these people.

Slavery, bloodhounds, lash for two and a half centuries stand back of them: One feels like a good Jew patriot: sing: "By the rivers of Babylon we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion."

Allen University took Paine College of Augusta for an eighteen mile ride last Saturday afternoon at the corner of Hampton and Oak Streets. In the grandstand were Presidents Wilkinson, of State and Starks of Benedict Colleges. Just suppose Allen should treat both State and Benedict in the Haine fashion.

Mr. Adison lookt natural on the playing field as one of the officials. He is South Carolina's greatest athlete. His equal has not been developed. Jack Williams represents another group. He was Benedict's great man a few years ago.

On Friday of last week the college presidents, deans and registrars of the state met for a conference at Allen University. Dr. R. S. Wilkinson is the progressive President of this group. The writer was invited by President D. H. Sims, to take part.

Several items were on the agenda but that which called forth much discussion was "Readjustment of High Schools for admission to our colleges, and survey." This is a great and delicate task. According to a report emanating from the conference only fourteen (14) high schools in the entire state are recognized unconditionally. This presents a challenge and a task.

When and where was the last free school in South Carolina? When was declared an offense to teach a slave in South Carolina? When was it declared a crime to teach the Negro to read and write in South Carolina? Ask somebody who professes to know something to tell you. Ask some leader in the A. M. E. church to tell you what bishop resigned and when he never presided over an Annual Conference and never ordained anyone to orders. What bishop resigned and whose resignation was not accepted? Read your history.

THE SEARCHLIGHT

By W. F. Williams

Back Again!

Here we are again after two year's absence from the columns of The Palmetto Leader. Our interest in South Carolina's leading weekly has been on the blink, but other work has claimed so much of our time that we could not write our column for the entertainment of our Carolina friends. Nevertheless we have kept in touch with you and got a big "kick" from the columns of Messrs. Fredrick, Baumgardner, Singleton and Hancock.

Indeed the Leader has an able staff of writers and can well do without the column which we are imposing upon its readers.

This column comes to you from Cleveland, Ohio, where we have resided for the past 18 months. In it we shall attempt to relate to you the breezes from Lake Erie and opinions in general. We do not promise a weekly article, but you may expect one often enough to know what the Joneses are doing in this neck of the woods.

Reflections

During the year 1930 it has been

our privilege to visit many places of interest in this and neighboring states. Last February we visited Detroit and Flint, Michigan. When you hear of these cities you think of the automobile. Flint lies 60 miles north of Detroit and has a population of 160,000. The main plants of Buick and Chevrolet are located here. The city is beautifully situated in the hills of Eastern Michigan and it was my pleasure to travel from Detroit to Flint by bus during the heaviest snow of the winter. The highway was as clean as a whistle, but on each side snow was piled up head high and the hills were a picture to behold.

One of our most thrilling experiences of the summer was the 100 mile auto grind on the speedway at Akron, Ohio. We saw one accident after another but no racer was killed or seriously injured. The racers were colored.

About six weeks ago we visited Youngstown and Niles, Ohio. Youngstown is the center of the steel industry of Ohio, lying half way between Cleveland and Pittsburgh. An endless chain of steel mills stretches from one end of the city to the other and thence to neighboring towns.

Niles is the birth-place of President McKinley. There we saw the great McKinley Memorial. A large stone structure which contains a veritable museum. A large statue of McKinley stands in the center of the building. There are several wings to the structure which contain paintings and statues of several of our American statesmen. Thousands of people visit Niles annually to see the McKinley Memorial.

Sandlot Base-ball

As a city for sand lot base ball, I believe Cleveland leads the world. The summer just passed I visited a number of sand lot games. It was interesting to see many colored teams in action. And possibly it would have been alarming to the white sand lot boys of the south to see the white and colored teams opposing each other. One Sunday at Woodhill Park I saw twelve games on as many diamonds. Three of the teams were colored and they played white teams. Will friendly rivalry in sports ever be the vogue between the two races in the south? Not in this generation I should say!

Inter-Racial Dances

Communist organizations in large northern cities are giving a series of inter-racial dances of a cosmopolitan nature, the doors standing ajar for white and colored people of all beliefs and social ranks. As to whether or not inter-racial dances will prove good bait for taking any considerable number of our people into the Communistic Camp remains to be seen. In spite of our oppressions as a lowly race, we are still so thoroughly entrenched in American ideals and customs that it hardly seems possible for us to be lured away from the fold by propaganda from Moscow, social intermingling not withstanding.

LAURENS NEWS

Services were held in all churches Sunday at the usual hour with large congregations worshipping.

Rev. White is leaving no stone unturned in delivering these sermons both morning and evening, and many visitors are always present. The auxiliaries are all quite busy making preparations for conference claims.

At 3:30 o'clock Rev. Elijah Denny, preached a wonderful sermon at Bethel. The Hymn Band and its entire congregation worshipped with us. All other denominations were out and joined in to help make it a success. Mrs. Anna A. Todd is due much credit as she had them invited in interest of the Willing Workers Club.

Mrs. Mattie P. Fuller, was able to be out again Sunday to the delight of her friends.

Mr. Jonah Shepherd after a long and serious illness and also an operation was able to be at church Sunday to the delight of his friends.

The Boosters Club met at the home of Mrs. Nettie Spann on Friday afternoon with a large crowd of members and friends present. A very interesting program was rendered after which a tasty menu consisting of iced tea, deviled eggs, sandwiches, whip cream, jello and cake were served. Mrs. Spann is "it" when it comes to entertaining and everyone enjoys her hospitality.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank McMorris of Washington, D. C., were visitors at the home of their Mother, Mrs. Mary McMorris and sister Mrs. Sarah Smith during the week after spending three weeks in Florida.

Rev. G. H. White spent a few days in Greenville as guest of Mrs. White.

Prof. W. A. White attended the Grand Lodge Meeting last week. Little "Billie" Barksdale was an interesting visitor at Bethel Sunday morning. The unusual part was he behaved as well as grown ups, much praise is due his mother Mrs. W. M. Barksdale.

Mrs. Kittie Allen of Fountain Inn was the week-end guest of her sister Mrs. C. H. Duckett.

Mrs. Mayme Duckett Bullock of New York City visited her parents and sisters the past two weeks.

Mrs. Nannie Hunter Golphin, of New York was guest of her parents during the week.

The many friends of Mr. Booker Shaw were grieved to hear of the tragic death of him on Saturday night while on his way to play for a social accompanied by Messrs. Fields, Hunter, James King and James Muller, there met with an accident which caused his life.

Rev. White and Elijah Denny were dinner guests of Mrs. Anna Todd Sunday.

Prof. Sanders visited St. Paul Sunday morning and made one of his timely talks.

Miss Mattie Duckett motored to

Hartsville and Cheraw during the week.

Mr. Esper James was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Shelton, Sunday.

Mr. Allen and wife were dinner guests of Mrs. Anna Todd, Sunday.

Mrs. Mary Cannon and children accompanied by Mr. Edw. Muller, motored to Clinton, Sunday.

ECHOES FROM MY CORNER

The people of Cardersville Circuit, white and colored are glad to see Rev. J. P. Perk, the kind-hearted and loving pastor, out on his charge once more after eight months of sickness. He spent nine weeks in the Kelly Hos hospital, Kingtree.

Dr. Joseph A. Mason, one of the leading colored doctors of our state, came to Cardersville in May with Rev. J. C. Quarles, B. D., a strong and able pastor of the A. M. E. Church of Kings tree. Dr. Mason came when the doctors of Kingtree and Bonneau had given me up to die. He diagnosed my case and ordered me to be brought to Kingtree where he could treat me. In company with Rev. J. C. Quarles I was brought to Kingtree. After remaining one week at Kingtree Dr. Mason had me removed to the hospital where I remained nine weeks. I am now able to go to my churches and look after my conference claims.

The ministers of the Kingtree district, led by one of our leading presiding elders of the state, Dr. T. J. Miles, have left no stone unturned to prove to Rev. and Mrs. Perks that they were our friends when we were in trouble. Rev. J. C. Quarles is a "Jonathan" friend to Rev. J. P. Perks.

The ministers of the Georgetown and Mt. Pleasant Districts led by the efficient presiding elders, Dr. L. R. Nichols and Dr. D. A. Perrin, have treated me like Christian brothers. I will always love the ministers of the Palmetto Conference. God bless them all.

I can't forget Rev. Eli Gregg, B. D., one of our open hearted and strong ministers of the Columbia Conference, who has preached two strong sermons on my charge during the second and fifth Sunday in August. I had no idea that he was such a great preacher. He proved himself a true friend during my illness while he was doing my work for me. He preached a funeral on the fifth Sunday about which the people said that Dr. Gregg stands alone when it comes to preaching a funeral; and I have in heart that the voice of the people is the voice of God. He is thoughtful and spiritual in his deliverance of God's word.

Rev. R. D. Carter, pastor of Buck ran a week's meeting for me at Payne Chapel Church. He preached four sermons and eleven people were converted and received into the church. We have had our fourth quarterly conference at Irvin Chapel A. M. E. Church, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 13th and 14th. Dr. Perrin the presiding elder is a great leader and educator of his people. He is a big brother to all of his brethren.

Rev. and Mrs. J. P. Perks, Sr., spent a pleasant stay at Bro. Thomas and Sister Ella Rivers' last Sunday. Mrs. Lonnie Perkins is planning to have a Slab Town Convention at Irvin Chapel the second Sunday in October. We hope for her a successful entertainment.

Mrs. Ellen Bryon was called to Charleston to the bedside of her sister who is ill. We pray for her a speedy recovery.

Rev. Eli Gregg, B. D., the show man, had a packed church each night while he was on the Cardersville Circuit. Dr. Gregg, come to see us again. Dr. Perrin, the efficient presiding elder of the Mt. Pleasant district preached a great sermon which was enjoyed by all. Dr. Perrin is loved by every one in his district because he is always ready to help all who need it. He took up a collection for me during his quarter. God bless him in all of his works and be with him until we meet again.

EDGEFIELD NEWS

Edgefield Academy, opened Monday, Sept. 28, with a splendid enrollment. Quite a few patrons were out to witness the occasion. The annual address was made by Prof. W. E. Parker, after which Rev. J. A. Gamble, Mr. Hightower and Mr. Andrea made timely addresses. The latter is the Supt. of City Schools.

The Willing Workers and Golden Rule Clubs, had a joint meeting at the home of Mrs. Lilla Stephens, Friday after the usual routine of business a delicious repast was served.

Mrs. Rosa E. Parker has been indisposed. We are glad to see her out again.

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. O. Thompson, motored to Aiken Sunday. They were accompanied by Misses Logan and Nance.

Misses Gary and Rickerson of the Johnston Faculty and Mr. Raiford of Ridge Spring were Sunday guests of Misses Rutherford, Logan and Nance.

A party entitled, "Weiner Roast", was given in honor of the faculty at the home of Prof. and Mrs. W. E. Parker on last Friday evening; each guest roasted a weiner over a brush heap while Prof. Parker told Gobbling Tales. The honored guests were: Mr. and Mrs. Jas. O. Thompson, Messdames Cooper, Cook, Prof. J. R. Freeman, Misses Janerette, Goodwyne, Vance, Rutherford and Logan.

PHILADELPHIA NEWS

Mr. David Pearson, Sr., and two sons—David, Jr., and Josiah have started their yearly session at Central High School.

Mr. Jake Taylor and Miss Martha Butler, spent the week-end in New York City.

Mr. Herbert Pearson entertained a group of his friends, Thursday afternoon. All enjoyed a pleasant evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin and their five children of Jacksonville, Fla., spent a week in the home of Mrs. David Pearson, 1818 Judson Street.

Mr. Allen McQuire worshipped at St. Paul Church, Sunday night.

BETWEEN THE LINES

BY GORDON B. HANCOCK

In logic we have the dilemma and in economics we have the vicious circle! Just as the dilemma is a hindrance to logical reasoning, so the vicious circle is an impediment in