

THE CLANKING OF CHAINS

By Julius A. Brown

The Electoral College in South Carolina have all finished their work and what has been done is now history and cannot be undone. The book is closed, and can only be reviewed as it has been done and form our conclusions. It is to be hoped however, that the conditions witnessed in the Electoral College of the Palmetto Conference held at Gaudin, S. C., on Tuesday, July 19th, 1935, were not in evidence at the other Colleges held on the above date. The laymen of the great A. M. E. Church of which the writer has been a member for 33 years, have been granted equal representation in the Council of the Church. This privilege is approved by the host of loyal laymen and laywomen who by their sacrifices and that alone, makes it possible for the A. M. E. Church to function as well as it does. This statement is made supported by facts that bear no denial. It was ordered that a Layman should be elected on July 19th, to represent the 1st in the ensuing General Conference in New York in May 1936. There would be no need for any mathematical effort to decide just how many should have been elected from each district in the Palmetto Conference. This statement is predicated upon mere fairness and equity. A dignified exhibition of what might be considered fair and equitable, was witnessed by those who were present in Gaudin, S. C., on July 19th, 1935, and who approved the elements of Justice and Righteousness those qualities that were so well emphasized in the speeches made by the ministers prior to the casting of the ballots, and which, when everything is questioned, was more Horse Play. There are three districts in the Palmetto Conference and the fair and Christian-like thing to have done, would have been to select 2 lay delegates from each district, and thus dissipate anything that might extend toward Discrimination such as was evident. It must be admitted regardless of the likes or dislikes of any Presiding Elder that either of the 3 districts in the Palmetto Conference contribute their quota to the cause of African Methodism in South Carolina, and had 2 of the Presiding Elders in the Palmetto Conference been actuated by the spirit of fair play and honest rivalry to choose the result of the election would have reflected the desire to do the thing that was right. It is indeed a pathetic spectacle to witness the election of some laymen who are not satisfied to write and vote with a Presiding Elder, who in a matter of fact, has nothing to lose, and everything to gain by standing on his feet and opposing himself to be a member of or manifesting the mark of manhood that may be left in him, by the exercise of the rights allowed him by the church of which he is a part and whose Presiding Elder and Ministers he supports. The time is coming, and not far distant if we note the attitude of the ministers in every General Conference, when they confine their activities to preaching the Gospel, and leave the running of the Electoral College to the laymen whose business it is to run it. It was observed that 2 of the Presiding Elders dominated the proceedings of the meeting, and this in spite of the fact that a layman was elected to preside. When 2 districts form a combination to anything unequal or unfair, any name may be applied to such an action, but the fact will remain, that such an action is downright Common Politics, void of any semblance of Christianity and even those who are weak enough, and spineless enough to be driven into line regardless of the exercise of their rights, are those who support the church, and know that they are virtual slaves, regardless of anything they may attempt to say in their own defence. Be it said to the credit of the Presiding Elder of the Most Pleasant District that he worked hard to have his district represented, and fought hard for equal representation in the Lay delegation. Not even Rev. R. E. Long, however, could combat the will that werestacked against him. It is reflective, that Morris Brown and Ebenezer of Charleston, and Bethel of Georgetown, S. C. should be left without representation in the General Conference, and this regrettable condition would not be evident, if the laymen sent to the Electoral College had exercised their rights as lay members of the church, and 1 most of them had not been chained and driven into line by the ministerial interference, that was maintained in the matter of electing Electoral Colleges in the past. It is strictly a Laymen's meeting, ordained and specified in the Discipline of the A. M. E. Church. It should be under the absolute control of the laymen, and should be composed of laymen who would be willing enough and have Backbone enough to avoid being driven into line for fear of the last of the chains of any Presiding Elder who cannot harm him in any way, and who virtually laughs at him for his Cowardice and Weakness. The writer talked with men at the College who agreed that an equal distribution of the delegation was the logical thing, as well as the right thing to do. When the time came however, to express their convictions by the casting of their ballots to that end, the situation was entirely reversed. They voted in favor of an unequal distribution, in accordance with the Modern Simon-Legrees who

THE AX AT THE ROOT OF THE TREE

Gleanings From Electoral College

W. D. Chappelle, M. D. There are scientists who tell us that man is of brute ancestry. His physical erect posture, mental and spiritual faculties are the results of a long drawn out process of evolutionary development. I am of the opinion, however, that when man first found his art of speech, when he learned to articulate sound as an expression of thought, then and there he made the first decisive step that placed him without the pale of brute ancestry and gave him an individuality which was all his own. If not attempt to discuss here the theory of man's existence upon this mundane orb, but rather to portray a non-disputable fact, that man too often reaches back to his ancestral ancestry for light and righteousness in a most fatal way. The writer, having been in a position from his Church, Bishop Melton, as a delegate to the Electoral College, which convened in New York, South Carolina, July 16, 1935, wishes to express his thanks in gratitude to his many friends, who so loyally supported him, and so generously to elect him as a delegate to the General Conference, which is to be held in New York City in May, 1936. The writer was a target of an unprovoked attack by an individual, which individuals were ought to be safe their own lives by trying to do the kill and destroy another individual which they thought was up at the proper time, and he felt. In the face of this addition his many friends, stood firm and unmovable in his support. Again he thanks you. The writer wishes to congratulate his running mates: G. C. Williams, W. H. Moore, S. A. Moore, H. B. Rickard and Miss Elizabeth Brogdon in their successful election, having secured the required number of votes to elect them as delegates to the General Conference. My good friend, Mr. Martin of Jacksonville, I mean within two votes of each other. Mr. Martin required three and I five votes to have the necessary number to be elected. Realizing the many years of service to the church, his influence in South Carolina, not only in his own district, but throughout his district, his well-earned life in the cause, I withdrew, not allowing a second vote to be taken and conceding him to be the most eligible member of the Electoral College. He justly elected him as a delegate to the General Conference. Some of my friends wanted to know why I took such a step. This is easy to explain. I was in the church, and am now an active member in good standing in this great A. M. E. Church by choice, having served as class leader and am now steward and trustee in my church, also Supp. of the Sunday school. I felt that a few years younger than I am, and in service in this particular, out of respect and confidence in his ability and righteousness as well as his uprighteousness or manhood, I step aside that he might justly be recognized as a delegate. Under the previously stated conditions, I do not wish to cast my vote for anyone else, and a great victory has been won. I do not regret my having done so. I wish to inform those who gave me their support that I am exhausted, and I am not well. It does not seem possible that some high in the Church would deliberately, premeditatedly, bring to a halt, all his political department and selfish character to rush and kill any young man who wishes to better service to his church, especially when the church suffers for men and young men who will stand up for what is honorable, and for what is right, who will not change nor will be sold nor bought. It seems recalled that and each ballot has the names of men elected. I wish to take this as an opportunity to thank the men who supported me in the past. At Gaudin, S. C., the Church of South Carolina, Ministers are Woodbury from Charleston, an Robinson and Douglas from Georgetown, and Douglas from perhaps supposed to be every one of those elected, but the ministerial interference, that was maintained, before their manhood, and their sanctification. The writer has for the past 33 years, fully supported every act of any Presiding Elder appointed to his church, and he knows that to pay or to Presiding Elder any other, is a violation of the church's discipline. Let the Laymen of the Palmetto Conference wake up, and if you want to take to themselves the things which rightfully theirs, and which they should control without interference from anybody, ministers or lay. Let the ministerial realize that their position is an arguable minority, and that to take and hold friends without the sacrifice of any virtue or principle, is a wise course to pursue. This is an age when some people are thinking, as well as watching events as they pass. The A. M. E. Church is dependent absolutely upon the support of the Laymen, and they alone. Let some ministers and Presiding Elders be warned that their own actions, to trip the foundation from under the structure, and cause a collapse. Some laymen are still unchained, they will continue loyal to the church, and they will still be among the thinkers. "If a man thinketh, so is he."

that in South Carolina that those who stand at the helm, having administrative power in their control who should stand squarely for and behind manhood, and especially young manhood, (the coming church), are the first to wield the scythe to cut off the head of any man who opposes or differs with their program or method of procedure. Why should one sacrifice, toil, burn the midnight oil to acquire an education, to prepare himself for larger and better service for humanity. Particularly should they through divine inspiration be drawn through love of the great Church of God, be sentenced to life imprisonment of being side-tracked or the electrical chair of "short grass." This method of procedure by those higher up is only killing the future Church in two ways. First by driving prepared men with backbone, courage and foresight away from the Church. And second, by replacing them with those unequalled, consequently they cannot carry on. Good, usefulness and the desire of becoming outstanding from the crowd and sore hands of the wash woman, and the sweat of blood of the common labor, and the degradation and annihilation (the cause of their courage), of the young man is responsible for such an in-God-like action on the part of these (expresser mildly). Simply because a man pretends to be the son-in-law of a man who has the aspiration of the bishopric, is no justification of why he should be placed upon the altar for a slaughter. While the writer's making contact in the district of his conference, he made a talk at Winesboro while his conference was being held there. One of his good friends came to him and shook his hand almost on the five points of fellowship of the Masons, congratulated him of his own free will, and accordingly pledged his support in the coming election to be held at the Electoral College. The writer continued his itinerary through other districts during their meeting, especially the district meeting of this friend which was held in Columbia. There are men in South Carolina, thanks to God, who are not so forgetful, nor so quickly cease to remember, nor gain can be changed through fear or intimidation, and drawn away from the source direct or otherwise through which some of them were given their first chance to get their feet, or taken care of when such similar and related dignitaries rode rough shod over them. The writer's friend was a bright, intelligent, and many contacted. Some surprised him with the fact that they had been contacted with the idea that the candidate for a seat in the General Conference was a delegate to the Electoral College from Bishop Memorial was too young, had done nothing for the Church, could not afford to wait another four or eight years, and in fact wait until this friend had accomplished what he sought in the man to whom he is somewhat had been called from labor to reward. My friend's service in the Church nor the number of years he had lived, but rather of the fact that his influence could be obtained from the natural concerned source. There are some men who could (but would not) form the standpoint of service to the church make such statements, yet even if from said standpoint, they should make such statements, they must if necessary be very narrow minded and constructive. My good friend of all others, can least afford to make such a preposterous assertion, for he could truly be asked; what has he done constructively for the church? Not how many but what church has he built? What church has he paid out of debt? What outstanding renovations has he ever made? He himself has only served about six years as pastor, having received all and given nothing. Yet, he now offers himself to the church for the bishopric, the highest honor this great A. M. E. Church can give. The writer is of the opinion and holds, recognition should be given for service rendered and never to satisfy any one's desire. What has he done for the church? The writer apprised his friend of the information received with reference to his opposition. Thereupon the writer was reassured that the rumors were false, and ungrounded and untrue. The friend would pay the neat sum of twenty dollars to anyone who could say that he acted so un-Christian-like. Only a few days hereafter, the money was paid, and, strangely to himself, for he, a good friend, in the company with another of the writer's good friends who having allowed himself to be bought and sold away from his life long friends for the meagre sum of a few leaves and twigs, called on the man under whom the writer serves in religious capacities and stated that he would accept any one in the writer's district as running mate with his forces except the writer. This was indeed an honorable Christian act. How true and staunch is he to his word. How unflinchingly satisfied should one depend on his word and leadership. How confidentially can men trust his fair dealing. What so right-forward Justice would be dealt out to those over whom he presided. Visualize the loving extended arms and the pain-taken care with which he would choose the greener pasture by the still clear waters where his sheep could rest. Not only this was done, but the writer is told that money was spent, votes were bought, and even men were threatened to doubly assure the writer's defeat. The writer's

President Roosevelt GREETES Wilson and Elks



Arthur Newman President Roosevelt Wm. C. Hueston J. Finley Wilson Elks inviting President Roosevelt to Review Grand Parade in Washington, August 27. Others in the delegation and not shown in this picture are: Roy Bond, John T. Rhines, Dr. Wm. J. Thompkins, Dr. Charles B. Fisher, and Robert H. Ogle.—Capital News Service.

ELKS OF THE WORLD IN THE CONVENTION OF THE CENTURY

Continued from page 9 "The address of welcome will be delivered by the Honorable Melvin C. Hazen, President of the Board of Commissioners; Tuesday afternoon, 1 o'clock p. m.; the Grand Parade will move down historic Constitution Avenue, headed by the machine gun battalion of the Old Tenth Cavalry, which will hail from Arizona, August 27. "The units preparing to participate in the Grand Parade should communicate at once, with the Commander-in-Chief, the Grand Exalted Ruler. To postpone this action until the places are assigned in the parade may cause embarrassment, and to wait until the arrival in Washington will be too late. "The championship baseball game and the band contest will be held at the Griffith Stadium following the parade, cash prizes will be awarded the first and second bands for the best music and the longest distance traveled. Prizes will also be awarded the Marching Clubs with the largest enrollment and traveling the longest distance. "Wednesday will see the Grand Lodge in session, with the Grand Promenade at night at the Masonic Temple. You Must Not Miss This Convention "Every American citizen should visit and see the city of the whole people. It will thrill you with pride and stir you to new enthusiasm for American ideals. Our racial history is written largely here, from the Statue of Freedom which tops the Capitol's dome, set in place by a Negro workman to Howard University with its new million-dollar building, the "Capstone of Negro Education." You may stand where Lincoln stood at Fort Stevens with a Negro woman praying by his side for God's protection from the bullets flying about him during the Civil War; you may ride down the wide avenues surveyed by Benjamin Banneker, working under L'Enfant; you may gaze upon the bronze replicas of those Civil War heroes—Grant, Sherman, Logan, Sheridan, Garfield, Scott and Thomas—never to be forgotten; you may visit the plans of the greatest business in the world, the departments of the United States Government and its gigantic extensions under the growth of the Nation. These and a hundred other experiences await you at the "CONVENTION OF THE CENTURY," to be held here for the first time in 25 years."

est form of architecture, we gazed with rapt attention upon the Madonnas, of Raphael and Michel Angelo. We are bewildered when we think of the genius of the engineers who have thrown the mighty span across the turbulent rivers and the concrete palisades that dam these rivers converted their energies into electricity. But these are cold besides the fervor of jurisprudence and the principles of the lowly Nazarena, which constitutes the only yard stick by which justice can be meted out, and the only compass by which the great ship of Christ can safely be piloted into the harbor of sunshine of a perfect day. Yet have you speak your conviction and off goes your head or you be delegates to the ever-lasting pasture of starvation. The young man's day has come. The largest banks of the country are now headed by them. The outstanding industrial plants, the greatest colleges of the country have them as presidents. Only a few weeks ago, Tuskegee the largest organization for the education of Negro men and women selected a young man only thirty-four years of age as its head. In unity there is strength. Stick together clergy and laity in a high class ethical way in the name of God, and the devil and all of his satanical angels cannot break through nor devour you. The ministry and particularly the younger men of the group, should wake up to the fact and realize that the laymen are their strongest support. They can do for you what you cannot do for yourselves. The laity have no appointment to be given them; no dictatorial bosses to say to them go, and they must go, nor come and bring it with you, that they must comply with. Above all, with exception to none, the laity can and should be men without fear of any intimidation of being cut short of support for themselves and family. The heads of the church know this, and they very skillfully endeavor to keep clergy and laity apart by sowing disension. The lay cannot come in possession of any part of your field. What could you do without their pecuniary support, so why be afraid? Why allow anyone to mislead you as to antagonism between the groups. Men in the church should be rated according to their preparation and several abilities, and not by the yard sticks of likes and dislikes. This latter group, fitting into the equation contains those who spy and do under handed work. Clergy make the laity your friends. Confide in them and they will cause you to have something for yourselves and families. Instead of having to pay every nickel you can make, and so often to borrow money before making reports in order that it might come within the pleasure of those to whom they are made, and then where does the money go? It is a pity, yes, a disgrace to see how shabbily some of our ministers are forced to appear in public, their wives compelled to remain at home because they are inadequately dressed, while others with their families dress as peacocks and live in luxuries. There is no need for such human sacrifice. God himself does not require such of His children, then why should Christina men (so called)? The mills of the Gods grind slowly but exceedingly fine. God is just. Life is a wheel that turns. To have friends one must show himself friendly, at least just. For in the shuffle of the cards you might hold the deuce and it, not running wild. The writer wants his good friends to know again, that he feels that he has won a great victory and is very happy in this fact. This being the first time he has offered himself for any general

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR HENRY C. WHITE FRIDAY AT 5:00 P. M.

Columbia, S. C., Wednesday, Aug. 7.—Today at 1:10 P. M. Mr. Henry C. White departed this life after ending several weeks of illness. Funeral services will be conducted Friday afternoon, 5 o'clock at the residence, 1230 Harden St. Interments at the Randolph Cemetery. Mr. Henry White is a well known citizen here and his passing will be regretted by a host of relatives and friends. church and in the face of all the organization opposition against him, also having as opponents many who, as it is said, know the ropes, having offered themselves time and time again to the Church. The recognition given the writer causing him to have fallen short of the required mark by only five votes, and many being counted away from him is indeed a victory. He says as did Hannibal, "I only stand upon the Acropolis of Italy, and yonder lies Rome." (The General Conference, New York City, May 1936). WILL MEET YOU THERE.

CORRECTION

In the write-up of The Allen-Benedict Summer School last week, one paragraph read: About 50 white exhibits were present. It should have read: About 50 white rural teachers were present.

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