DR. W. T. VERNON UP FOR BISHOP

Eminently Qualified to Fill Highest Church Office.

MAN OF NATIONAL REPUTE.

Popular Demand For the Services of the Loyal Churchman and Noted Educator—Subject For Serious Consideration by the A. M. E. Conference. Western University His Monument.

So powerful has become the influence for good wrought by the great religious denominations among our people that they are now looked upon as potent agencies that play an important part in promoting the general uplift of the people as well as in the mere building up of strong denominational organizations. More and more as the years go by the annual meetings of the Baptists and the quadrennial meetings of the Methodists are becoming to be occasions of national as well as of denominational significance. The same is true of the other denominations with which the race is identified.

One of the great denominational bodies, the African Methodist Episcopal church, convenes in a general conference session in Kansas City, Mo., in May. The eyes of the whole race will be turned upon that great religious body as it shall proceed in the transaction of the large duties that are to be performed. No question that the conference shall undertake will be fraught with greater interest to the African Methodists than the personnel of the men who shall be elevated to the bishops' bench.

A number of men have been mentioned who, if selected would certainly bring honor to the church and reflect credit upon the whole race. Among those names has been mentioned that of Dr. William T. Vernon. From no particular section, but from all sections; from no one source, but from many, does this silent but insistent suggestion of his name come. His admirers all over the country would be pleased to have his name presented to that great body. Dr. Vernon commands a following the possession of which is a compliment to any man.

Throughout the country it is known that he is pre-eminently fitted by edu-

WILLIAM T. VERNON, LL. D.

cation, by training, by experience, by ability and by religious fidelity to fill any position with honor and dignity that the church could confer upon him. That is why his admirers are making this country wide suggestion of his name—this, too, in spite of the fact that he has not announced his candidacy.

His rise in the church has been by those stages of development that bespeak for preparedness. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Lincoln institute. He studied at Wilberforce, from whence he received the degree of doctor of divinity and subsequently the degree of doctor of laws.

Dr. Vernon's greatest work is as an educator. His greatest masterpiece is the Western university, at Quindaro, Kan. It was Western university that made him a national figure, for the story of how he went there and developed that school from its place of insignificance to one of the greatest schools in African Methodism touched a responsive chord in the hearts of the American people and made him a national figure.

Here he went with his splendid Christian wife, who is the daughter of the late Bishop Embry. She has been a great helpmate to him. Side by side they worked for the development of that school, and she has been by his side in the accomplishment of the subsequent work that has come to him.

The high positions that he has held in church and state, the excellent contact that he has had with eminent men of all races, his great ability, the fact that he is in the prime of life, able to perform great services for the church and for humanity, the fact that he has made good in the positions to which he has been called, made good as president of Western university, represented his church honorably in high governmental life and the culture and bearing of a true Christian gentleman—these are prominent reasons why his friends throughout the country look with favor on the idea of presenting his name to the general conference for one of the bishoprics of the great African Methodist church.

NATIONAL DEGENERACY.

Lincoln Abhorred Oppression and Despised Hypocrisy.

The speech of Abraham Lincoln in 1855 regarding the political situation and the tendency to disregard the rights of human beings to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is strikingly applicable to the condition of affairs in this country at the present time.

Mr. Lincoln said:

"I am not a Know Nothing—that is certain. How could I be? How can any one who abhors the oppression of the Negroes be in favor of degrading classes of white people? Our progress in degeneracy appears to me to be pretty rapid. As a nation we began by declaring that 'all men are created equal.'

"We now practically read it, 'All men are created equal except Negroes.' When the Know Nothings get control it will read, 'All men are created equal except Negroes and foreigners and Catholics.'

"When it comes to that I should prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretense of loving liberty—to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be taken pure and without the base alloy of hypocrisy."

EDUCATIONAL TOUR OF DR. GEORGE RICE HOVEY.

President of Virginia Union University Visits the North.

Richmond, Va.—The northern tour of Dr. George Rice Hovey, president of the Virginia Union university, which he recently concluded, was very successful. The trip was made primarily for the purpose of more fully acquainting the general public with the work of the school, what it is doing along the line of higher education for young men, the ambition and success of its students and graduates and to present the urgent needs of the institution for new dormitories and a larger industrial plant.

The present school is a combination of the old Richmond Theological institute and Wayland seminary, formerly located in Washington, and other interests under the auspices of the American Baptist Home Mission society. The curriculum of the new university ranks with that of other schools of similar object and aim. The present group of buildings, twelve or more in number, are of granite, with all the facilities for the health and comfort of the faculty and students, including electric lights.

While in the north Dr. Hovey visited a number of the graduates of the school before and since the consolidation. Among them are successful pastors of large churches, lawyers, doctors, editors and business men. Included in the list are such men as Rev. Dr. George B. Howard of Pittsburgh, Rev. Dr. George E. Morris of Morristown, N. J.; Attorney Wilford H. Smith of New York, Rev. W. A. Harrod of Hartford, Conn.; Rev. Drs. A. Clayton Powell and W. P. Hayes of New York, Rev. Drs. Holland Powell and William Maurice Moss of Brooklyn and N. B. Dodson, editor of the Afro-American page, a weekly illustrated news service issued through the American Press Association, in New York.

Dr. Hovey in his lectures, which were illustrated from photographs of the buildings of the present and former school, referred with pride to Generals Morgan and Moorehouse, Dr. G. M. P. King and Dr. McVickar as men who wrought well for the advancement of the colored people in education and moral uplift. Every alumnus will do his duty in a financial way toward a fund for the erection of a new dormitory and industrial building.

Sunday School Pleased with Lecture.

"Up the Ladder of Freedom" was the subject of an interesting and instructive lecture given by the Rev. W. S. Smith, with stereopticon views, under the auspices of the Sunday school of the Shiloh Baptist church in Philadelphia on Tuesday evening, March 26. Rev. Mr. Smith is pastor of the Monumental Baptist church, Jersey City, N. J. The lecturer gave a rapid review of the condition and progress of the race from 1619 to the present time. The lecture includes many encouraging features. Superintendent West and members of the school were much pleased with the lecture.

Well Organized Literary Society.

The success of the Literary and Historical society of the St. James' Presbyterian church in New York the past winter has been most gratifying. The society has ten departments—namely, medical, legal, educational, theological, sociological, journalistic, biographical, musical, political and civic. Much credit is due the Rev. Dr. William R. Lawton, the present pastor, for his untiring efforts in behalf of all departments of the church.

Evidence of Willful Disregard For Law.

The recent Hillsville (Va.) tragedy is only another evidence of disregard for law on the part of a large element of the so called native Americans. There are few sections of the United States in which lynchings without evidence of guilt on the part of the accused do not occur.

ENERGY OF MRS. LELIA WALTERS

How the Wife of Well Known Bishop Uses Her Talent.

WOMAN OF BROAD CULTURE.

Organizer of the African Redemption Society, School Principal and Life Matron of Women's Missionary Societies of the A. M. E. Zion Church. Wields Helpful Influence.

By CLEVELAND G. ALLEN.

New York.—Among the interesting and notable women of the race who enjoy a national reputation is Mrs. Lelia Walters, the accomplished wife of Bishop Alexander Walters of this city. She is identified with many organizations having for their aim the social and moral betterment of the women of the race. As an organizer of women's clubs and as a leading figure in activities among the women of the race Mrs. Walters has long figured as an interesting woman.

She has long been identified with the national life of the country. Mrs. Walters was born and educated in Kentucky and before her marriage was

MRS. LELIA WALTERS.

Miss Lelia Brown. She taught school in Louisville, Ky., during her young womanhood for a number of years and made a high record as a teacher. She figured prominently in educational life and development of the city of Louisville. Mrs. Walters was the first principal of the colored school, the new building of which was recently dedicated in Louisville. The building cost $80,000.

The school had a humble beginning and was founded by a group of patriotic women of the race who were pioneers in the educational life of the city. Mrs. Walters was called to the principalship of the school as a signal recognition of her broad culture and wide training. As the first principal of the school Mrs. Walters rendered invaluable service and played a conspicuous part in the early history of the school. Her work as its first principal was warmly praised by the board of education and the parents of the pupils.

Among the teachers were Miss Jackson, Mrs. Mary Hicks, Mrs. Carrie Anderson, Mrs. Louisa Gibson, Mrs. Cora Roberts and Miss Anna Gibson. The school for the most part was founded by the Zion connection, as the early workers were largely of that church. Mrs. Walters remained as principal of the school for nine years and resigned in 1894 to become the wife of Bishop Walters. Since her marriage she has not ceased her activities in race uplift. She takes a keen interest in the general topics of the day and especially upon matters pertaining to the Zion connection. She has delivered many addresses before large gatherings of women's clubs.

As the president of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the A. M. E. church she has done much for the advancement of the missionary cause. She is the organizer of the African Redemption society, an organization formed for the purpose of helping the African missions and rendering help to the natives.

At a recent meeting of the club at the residence of Mrs. Walters some very vital subjects were discussed as to the best means of helping the African missions. At the session of the Council of the Woman's Missionary Societies in Knoxville, Tenn., Mrs. Walters was made life matron.

In this city, where Mrs. Walters resides, she wields wide influence and is an interesting figure in the intellectual life of the city. Her splendid life is an inspiration to the young women of the race. Mrs. Walters' life is full of inspiration and is one dedicated to a life of service and the aiding of her fellow women to a life of usefulness and honor.

What Tuskegee Graduates Are Doing.

Twenty-three industrial schools have been, directly or indirectly, founded by graduates and former students of the Tuskegee (Ala.) institute. These schools are employing about 150 teachers, nearly one-half of whom are graduates or former students of Tuskegee.

CATCHING UP WITH ROOSEVELT

Taft Trying to Have Supreme Court Decision Recalled.

CHIEF JUSTICE IS WITH HIM.

Rotary Mimeograph Case Gives Special Point to the Colonel's Columbus Speech—Administration Wants Congress to Overthrow Court's Action.

On Feb. 21 Colonel Roosevelt delivered before the constitutional convention of Ohio an oration on "A Charter of Democracy," in which he denounced the doctrine of the infallibility of the courts as a grave danger menacing American institutions and advocated a simplified method for the recall of court decisions by the people. At once he was assailed by the representatives of big business and of monopoly as an advocate of virtual anarchy and a living threat against the safety of property.

Of course at the time he was speaking more particularly of state courts, but in less than three weeks, on March 11, to be exact, the supreme court of the United States handed down a decision, coupled with the dissent of three members, including that of the chief justice, vindicating Colonel Roosevelt's attitude in every particular. The supreme court caught up with Roosevelt. And the severe comments drawn upon himself from the advocates of special privileges ought now in all justice to be passed on to the supreme court and especially to Chief Justice White, for if ever a human being voiced a demand for the recall of a decision of the courts Chief Justice White did so in his dissenting opinion.

The case was that of Sidney Henry, et al. vs. the A. B. Dick company. The Dick company owned the patent on a rotary mimeograph. It sold one of the machines to Miss Christina B. Skou of New York under a stipulation that the ink, stencil paper and other supplies used with the invention must be bought from the Dick company. The Henry company sold Miss Skou ink for the mimeograph that was not Dick ink, and the Dick company sued the Henry company and Miss Skou for infringement of the patent on the mimeograph. On March 11, with only seven members of the United States supreme court sitting, four of them, constituting a majority, decided the case and held that when the Henry company sold the non Dick ink to Miss Skou and she used it, this constituted an infringement of the patent.

In a dissenting opinion, in which he was joined by Justices Hughes and Lamar, Chief Justice White denounced this extraordinary opinion in the most biting language. Stating that the patent did not cover the ink in any way, he demanded that the legislative department of the government amend the law so as to make it impossible for the precedent established by the decision to be maintained.

"Under this decision it is now the law," declared the chief justice, "that * * * the patentee has the power by contract to extend his patent rights so as to bring within the claims of his patent things which are not embraced therein, thus virtually legislating by causing the patent laws to cover subjects to which they could not reach, the result being to multiply monopolies at the will of an interested party."

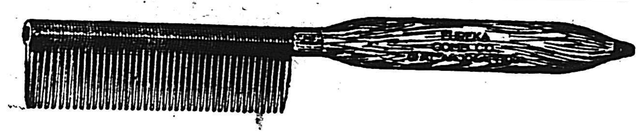
The decision caused a laugh of derision throughout the national capital. The advocates of the doctrine of the infallibility of the courts were overcome with chagrin, while the supporters of Colonel Roosevelt inquired with sarcastic emphasis whether the people at the polls, so frequently denounced as a "mob" by the advocates of special privilege, could ever do anything worse.

In the meantime the attorney general and other administration opponents of Colonel Roosevelt fluttered about in flabbergasted haste to find some speedy way to recall the opinion, for if sustained this opinion will take the life out of some of the most spectacular trust busting suits the administration has in its incubator. The attorney general notified the defeated litigants that if they were game to try to secure a rehearing of the case before a full bench of the supreme court the administration would be glad to lend all the assistance of which the department of justice was capable. At the same time the attorney general commenced the preparation of a bill for the amendment of the patent law with the intention of setting congress loose at the supreme court. Other steps for the recall of the decision were inaugurated by the commissioner of patents, who also began work on a bill to be handed to congress.

Apparently every legislator in congress wanted a copy of the decision, some for the purpose of enjoying themselves and others to study it in the search for a way to recall it.

This is the second piece of sensational legislation perpetrated by the United States supreme court within a few months, but this later instance could not better serve as an indorsement of Colonel Roosevelt's plea for the recall of court decisions if it had been made to order for that purpose.

The supreme court has indeed caught up with Colonel Roosevelt.



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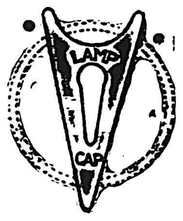

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