

News of the Churches

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BISHOP VERNON WARNS MINISTERS AGAINST THE MONEY EVIL AND TOO MUCH CHURCH POLITICS

Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 27.—In a long article entitled "What is the Trouble" taking up more than a page of the Christian Recorder of this week, Bishop W. T. Vernon, former register of the U. S. Treasury, has said some very plain, and for a bishop very startling things, about the church.

Says the Bishop, "I do not expect this article to make me popular. I love this church and must, if I see danger, sound the alarm." The chief trouble the Bishop says is church politics. Often says the merit does not count as against the favor of an ecclesiastical "ring." Of times the machine or the gang is in control of the conferences and unless a man will do their bidding he is marked for slaughter. To escape this "slaughter" many a good man is made to wink at evil.

Again the Bishop is getting too matter-of-fact. It is raising the false standard of money, and paying too small attention to the real spiritual and moral needs of the people. "To be plain," says Bishop Vernon, "If a bishop drives his brethren harder than his colleagues, oft times taking tribulation money from the preachers' family and 'blood' money from the people, the Bishop was applauded to the echo.

Those to whom the money is sent are called financial "wizards." "What is the remedy?" Asks the Bishop, and he answers: "Let it be understood that merit, faithful service and loyalty alone constitute the open road to all the preachers the same to consideration and promotion." "Cease to make the 'dollar' mark the criterion. Let duty and that which shall occupy this or that place be the urge to glorious service. And last but not least, let us have a budget system."

The Bishop regards the church as the strongest and most useful organization in the race, and says he believes it ought to be willing to stand a searching examination. For only thereby shall it be cleansed and able to do the good work to which God has called it. And as to one of the highest dignitaries in it he is not afraid to criticize it, and believes the troubles will be remedied.

BISHOP LEE'S NAME TO BE HONORED

Baltimore, Md., Aug. 27 Bishop John Hurst of the A. M. E. Church, on his return to the city, his home, announced that the new theological seminary at Edward, Fla., will be dedicated in November. It will be the B. F. Lee Theological School, in honor of Bishop Benjamin F. Lee of Wilberforce, Ohio, former President of Wilberforce University, and senior Bishop of the A. M. E. Church, now past 84 years of age living in retirement of Wilberforce, Ohio.

Portland, Ore., Aug. 20, 1925. The Editor, The Advocate, City.

My Dear Sir: I invite your especial attention to the enclosed clipping which I consider a grand opportunity for Negro youths of Portland, and I sincerely hope there may be several high school graduates of the city who will compete in the examination. I trust that through the columns of your paper, and even by word of mouth, if you should find it convenient to do so, you will not fail to urge eligible colored boys to enter this competition. Attention is especially called to the fairness of Mr. Crumpacker in allowing the appointment to be decided by competitive examination. He is not required by law to do this; and would be entirely within both his rights and the law if he should make his selection arbitrarily, and give the appointment to either his son or some political magnate or to a relative, as it is often done. It has long been a pet whine of our publications that a Negro can not get an appointment to either naval or military academies. He never will unless he try. Here is an opportunity, at least to try to test out the whine. In other words it is "up to the Negro." What will he do about it?

During several years of his youth the writer was an applicant for a similar appointment (cadetship at the West Point Military Academy), and although he would have considered it a rare privilege, a competitive examination, and influential friends tried to obtain the privilege for him (as Mr. Crumpacker is now offering), it was not granted, and the appointment was made arbitrarily, and he failed to secure it.

No doubt to many the great advantages in such an appointment are not apparent. To those I would say the Navel Academy is the government school where young men are educated for officers in the navy and marine corps as they are educated at the West Point Military Academy for the army. The two schools are considered by some, the finest of their kind in the world. In the navy every admiral and every other high ranking officer of the line is a graduate of the Annapolis Academy, and the graduates receive excellent technical education, the kind so badly needed, and so seldom required, comparatively speaking, by Negroes.

There are no colored commissioned officers in the navy, there is a strong sentiment against having colored students at Annapolis, and it is not believed it would be wise for a Negro cadet even to hope for a commission after graduation, at the present time. But the thing worth coveting is the great benefits to be desired from the liberal education one would receive. So far as the writer knows there has been but one colored graduate from the Navel Academy. He did not follow the sea, but held a high position under the government in other lines. Other things which make this appointment especially desirable is the generosity of the government which is bestowed upon the holder of such an appointment. During the four or six years he is at the academy, he receives a very liberal salary, and free board, clothes and tuition. There are many other things that could be said of the desirability of such an appointment, but for the present it is believed this should suffice.

Respectfully, Presley Holliday.

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Got Idea Worth While. The saw is said to have been invented in ancient Rome by a man named Talus. He came upon the jawbone of a large snake, and employed it to cut through a piece of wood. He then formed an instrument of iron similar to the snake's jawbone and this was the first metal saw. Sawmills came into existence in central Europe early in the Fifteenth century.

Fish That Climbs. Scientific investigation into the habits of fishes has shown that many of them are by no means helpless when out of water. There is, for instance, a tropical fish known as the climbing perch, which has the very curious habit of scrambling by means of its fins, up stones, roots, and even the trunks of trees, in search of the insects on which it feeds.

Auction Sales "In Reverse" "Dutch" auctions, in which the property is offered at a certain price and lowered by degrees until a bid is forthcoming, were once common, and still are in some countries. A law of Henry VII's time, afterward confirmed by Charles I, prohibited the conductor of auction sales by all persons except certain licensed officials known as outcriers.

Jade Is Deceptive Gem. Pearls and jade are two precious gems widely worn by women today, and one cause of their popularity is the difficulty of telling at a glance the real from the artificial. This is especially true of jade, even when laid side by side. There is no perceptible difference, even to an expert, between one piece that costs a few dollars and one that costs hundreds.

Striking Effect of Diet. Our Uncle Abner says that, as he looks around among mankind in general and a few that he might mention in particular, he is more than ever convinced that a man is what he eats and that a large percentage of them eat prunes.—Liberty (Ohio) Press.

First Playing Cards. Our present-day cards—at least a close resemblance to them—were designed in 1392 by Jacques Gringonneur, court painter to Charles VI of France, who had lost his reason. Gringonneur founded his pack on a regular system.

Salt as a Symbol. From earliest times salt has stood as a symbol of both the necessities and the savor of life, and a present of salt is to indicate the kindly wish that life may never lack and may never lose its zest.

Accomplishments. The fact is that to do anything in this world that is worth doing we must not stand back shivering and thinking of the cold and danger, but jump in and scramble through as well as we can.—Sidney Smith.

Origin of a Name. How many people know that serge takes its name from China, when it was introduced into England in 1660? The Latin name for China is Silecium, which gradually has changed into the modern word serge.

Happiness for All. Happiness is a wayside flower, free to all who will pluck it—not a rare orchard to be purchased by the rich.—M. G. Woodhull.

Coolness Saved Hero. At the close of the first day's fighting at Marignano, in 1515, the French hero, Bayard, finding himself surrounded by the enemy, dismounted from his horse and walked calmly back to his own lines.

Guaranteed to Last. Gastronomic candor in New Haven—"For supper—and all through the night; a toasted cheese sandwich."—New York World.

The Difference. Another thing that stands in the way of the perfect equality of the sexes is that when a man buys a new hat he always tries to get one just exactly like the old one.—Ohio State Journal.

English Private Hotels. Front doors of private hotels in England are kept locked and only opened on demand, and meals are served in the guests' rooms.

South African Mines. The mining industry spends \$150,000,000 a year in South Africa and provides directly or indirectly 40 per cent of the union and provincial revenues.

Camphor for Stains. Camphor removes many stains. Fruit juice will often disappear when rubbed with a dampened bit of camphor; and a few drops of camphor on a soft duster removes some marks from a mirror.

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