

THE LIBERATOR

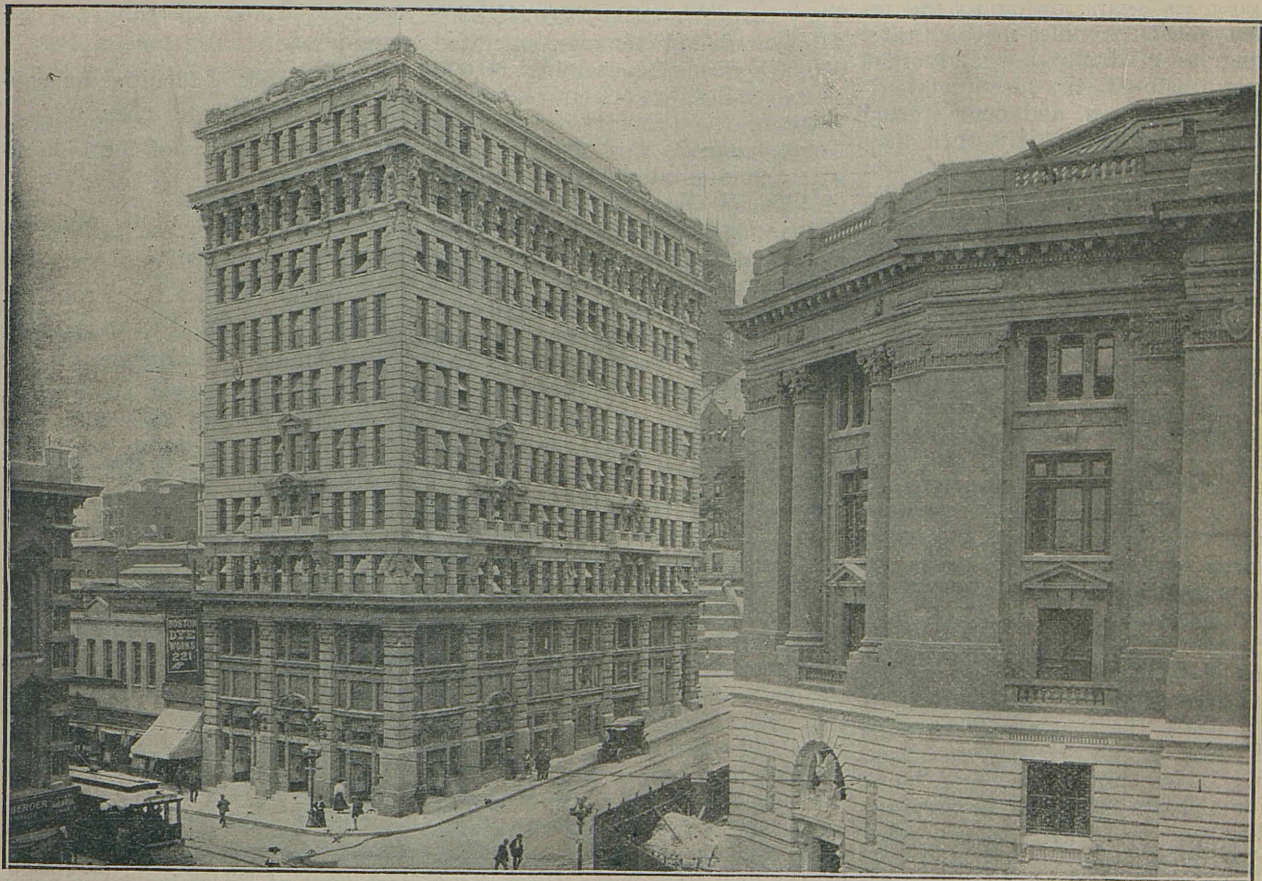
A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Cause of Good Government and the Advancement of the Afro-Americans.

Vol. IX 5 cts. a copy

LOS ANGELES, CAL., MAY 12, 1911

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No. 13



INTERNATIONAL BANK BUILDING

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**The Negroes Material Progress.
Forty Years of Unparalleled
Strides.**

The State of Georgia, beginning with 1874, has kept a careful account of the assessed value of the property owned by its Negro citizens. I have put on a chart the way in which that property has increased. It began at \$6,000,000 in 1874, and did not increase for about six years, owing to the reconstruction troubles in this State. Then as gradually law and order were restored the accumulations began to go up, and once started they went very rapidly until they reached the culminating point in 1893. At that time the Negroes of Georgia were paying taxes on \$14,000,000 worth of property. Then there came a check. First the panic of 1892, then a series of Jiw Crom laws, four-cent cotton, and the epidemic of lynching. The result was that for five years the accumulations decreased or wavered. Then they took a new forward movement with the new century and went up rapidly until to-day the Negroes of Georgia pay taxes on about \$30,000,000 worth of property. Moreover, as the assessments of property in Georgia are low, it is probable that this represents between \$50,000,000 and \$60,000,000 of actual value.

I have also tried to indicate on the chart the increase per capita of Negro property by a dotted line, and I have put down the Atlanta riot and the campaign for disfranchisement to indicate to you what is very clear in my mind, that this campaign was carried on chiefly because the Negroes were getting on too well.

Other States have made similar advancement, although there are fewer data. In Virginia, for instance, in 1891 Negroes paid taxes on \$12,000,000 worth of property; in 1908 they paid taxes on \$25,300,000. In North Carolina in 1900 Negroes paid taxes on nine and a third million dollar's worth of property; in 1900 they paid taxes on \$21,000,000 worth. Taking

these three States together and considering simply the years 1900 to 1908 we find that in Georgia, Virginia and North Carolina colored people owned in 1900; \$40,000,000 worth of taxable property, and in 1908 it had increased to \$74,000,000, or an increase of 87 1-3 per cent.

Not only this, but the census of 1900 made an attempt to get some figures of the ownership of property by Negroes as a whole. They found that the Negroes, both as owners and tenants, operated 750,000 farms, containing 60,000 square miles, and that the total value of the property thus under Negro control was \$500,000,000, with annual products to the amount of \$256,000,000. Of these 750,000 farms one-fourth were owned by colored people, and the number of owners increased nearly 60 per cent. between 1890 and 1900, and there is every reason to believe that between 1900 and 1910 the increase has been far more than 60 per cent. and that to-day Negroes own somewhere near one-third of the farms which they operate.

Taking the 200,000 farms of the Negro owners we find that they had in 1900 nearly 15,000,000 acres of land, which was worth \$180,000,000, and raised \$60,000,000 worth of products. All Negro farm property was estimated by the census to be worth about \$230,000,000 ten years ago. The American Economic Association took up the subject, and concluded that the total property of the Negro race in 1900 was \$300,000,000. If, however, the property has increased in the last ten years throughout the land in the same ratio as in Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia, then it would be fair to infer that the property of the Negroes in the United States should be assessed at \$600,000,000.

Compared with the wealth of the United States these figures are small, but considered in the light of the fact that they represent the savings of a race that began practically without capital a generation ago, they are simply astound-

ing. But what I want to point out today is that this accumulation has been made in the face of discouragements and violations of property rights such as no other class of Americans ever met. In the first place we must remember that it is the despised second generation since slavery that has made these accumulations and that these people have saved their money in the face of the following impediments:

1. The lack of facilities for saving, and deliberate cheating.
2. The hostility of local municipal policy.
3. Discrimination in wages.
4. Mob violence.
5. Legal violence. From Dr. Du Bois' Annual Report to the Third Annual Conference of the N. A. A. C. P. held in Boston, Mass., March 30th and 31st.

Get the May Crisis and read it in its entirety.

Mrs. D. A. Atkins is prepared to work by the day for families. Address 1315 1-2 East 12th strete.

It is not generally known that a colored man is at the throttle of an engine that pulls one of the fastest trains on the Pennsylvania lines west of Pittsburg. His name is William G. Burnes of Indianapolis and he runs between that city and Columbus, Ohio. Burnes has been in the employ of the company over 35 years. He began as a section hand, and was advanced from one grade to another as he increased in skill and efficiency until he was promoted to a passenger engineer about twenty years ago.—Western Outlook.

Young Peoples's Societies

The Douglas presented to a large audience last Friday evening one of the most exciting as well as the most enjoyable entertainment for the season. It was an old fashion spelling match. Miss Ella Kinard, President of the Golden Rule and Mr. T. A. Perkins of the Douglas were appointed as leaders and choose alternately from the audience until it had been exhausted. Thus arranged Miss Senola Maxwell, who had selected about 250 words called out the words to be spelled to each contestant. When a word was given to a person, he or she was to indicate whether the word should be spelled with a capital or small letter, a failure to do this was equivalent to a misspelling. In view of the fact that the words to be spelled had not been studied and that many of the persons taking part had not been in a spelling class for many years, the contest was simply remarkable for the small percentage of words missed.

So well did the contestants hold their own that it looked as if the whole list of words would be exhausted before the spellers would lose their places. The male members of the class finally proved no match for the girls and went to their seats one by one until there were but four left, all young ladies. Mr. Perkins, who for a long time looked like the winner, misspelled asthma leaving Miss Susie Anderson to battle against Miss Kinard assisted by Miss Ethel Maxwell and Mrs. Della Payne.

Now that the contest had narrowed down to four crack spellers and the prize a book of quotations seemed just ready to fall into the hands of the winner, the excitement became so intense that the partisans could scarcely keep their seats. It seemed that each person in the audience picked a winner and did everything in the way of applause to pull his or her winner through, but the word pronounced (fusha) was a rock upon which their hopes were dashed to the earth. Each young lady mis-

spelled it and the prize for the evening was lost.

Miss Clara White would have won the prize had she not previously lost her place by misspelling the word maneuver as she correctly spelled the word to those near her while it was being contested on the floor by the four young ladies. It would be well for our young people to write that word down on a slip of paper as they think it should be spelled then look it up in a dictionary and see if you have spelled it correctly.

If some member of the family would take a spelling book and select a list of words difficult to spell or words usually misspelled, and call them off to members of the family requiring each to write them down, then mark all misspelled words so written, it would make a wonderful improvement in their spelling. Then require each member to look up the meaning of each word by consulting a dictionary, it would furnish not only profitable but entertaining amusement.

Mr. P. Henry, who treats the audience to a reading each evening, delivered Wendell Phillips famous lecture on Tousiant L'Overture. His delivery was masterly and proved a treat to the audience. Mr. A. Plummer, the Chesterfield of the society acted as usher. Mrs. James Slaughter had charge of the refreshments, serving the entire audience with ice cream.

The Wesley Chapel Literary Society treated the well filled house to a good programme Tuesday evening. Those taking part in the programme were Mrs. Stewart, Miss Bessie Davis, Miss Eltesa Adams of Hot Springs Arkansas and Miss Bell. Mr. P. Henry's address (Determination) was well received by the audience. His selection are always good and the manner of delivery entertaining. At the close of the program the audience was served with ice cream and cake.

Everything Ready for the \$75,000 Campaign.

The Board of management of the colored Y. M. C. A. held an important meeting Monday night and the ways and means by which the \$75,000 for building purposes was fully discussed. Mr. Luther, general secretary of the Central Y. M. C. A. accompanied by Mr. Quillian was present and went fully over the ground giving attention to every detail of the work to be done. Mr. Luther's devotion to the welfare of the young men of the city both white and black, made a lasting impression upon all present. And each member of the board received new inspiration and determination to do his full duty in the great work that they have the good fortune to help perform.

And just here let us say to our colored people throughout the city one and all that the opportunity presented to them, to perform a high and lasting service for themselves and posterity is one that rarely falls to men. This opportunity to help ourselves, we are sure will be appreciated by our people. We have here an opportunity to show how much value we put upon our young men. If we place as high a value upon them as does Mr. Rosenwald of Chicago he will give the negroes of this city \$25,000. If not he will give it to the negroes of some other town.

Notice to Subscribers.

A representative of *The Liberator* will call upon all subscribers in the next few days. Those indebted will please give him whatever aid you can as we are preparing to make important changes which will increase the services we hope to render the public generally. It is the object of the publishers to make *The Liberator* the greatest and most entertaining weekly publication in the country. We solicit your aid. We will be glad to send sample copies to any of your friends.

THE LIBERATOR

J. L. EDMONDS, Editor and Business Manager.

JEFF L. EDMONDS, JR., Assistant Editor.

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Why the Attempt to Blow Up the Llewellyn Iron Works.

Some weeks ago when the city was startled by the partial destruction of the Llewellyn Iron Works with dynamite, we were at a loss as to the trouble between the owners and labor unions because we thought that the Llewellyn was a closed shop. After the confession of one of the alleged dynamiters that he did the job, we concluded to take advantage of the first opportunity to visit and overlook the plant. On the third we called at the foundry where we were cordially received and introduced to the superintendent, who in turn introduced

us to Mr. William Llewellyn. Mr. Llewellyn whom we found to be an affable gentleman took us over the immense plant, where we saw the raw material converted into finished product. The thing, however that surprised us most was to find in the factory about forty colored men and boys. The colored men forming parts of the moulding crew and the yard crew. Mr. Llewellyn spoke in highest terms of the colored men and esteemed it a pleasure to give them the opportunities that employment in his plant open to them. He said that although his white and colored employees work side by side, there was not the slightest friction between them; that they took the same personal interest in each others welfare as though they were all members of the same race. He said with much pride, that the men were chaste both in personal habits and language which is proof of their intelligence.

You can easily see why the closed shops wanted this foundry destroyed. It was an open shop where skilled laborers, and those wanting to become skilled laborers could enter without the endorsement of any organization save the owners of the plant.

Mr. McManigal one of the alleged dynamiters now in custody says that while in the employ of the leaders of organized labor, he partially blew up the plant. The fact that the Llewellyn were employing negroes the attempt at its destruction is another object lesson to all negroes who are thinking of joining labor organizations. The only factories and machine shops that open their doors to negroes in this city are non-union establishments and this is due to the fact that Los Angeles is an open shop town and the negro owes it to himself and to the men who employ him and to the well being of the best city on earth to, so far as lies in his power, keep it so.

We hope at no distant day to see an end to all this lawlessness and unprofitable, groundless animosity; and that the door of op-

portunity will stand open everywhere, to every American citizen who desires to enter, regardless of race, color, creed or previous conditions.

Free government without free and equal opportunity never has, and never can exist.

General Diaz to Resign.

According to the dispatches, General Diaz has decided to do the patriotic graceful act of resigning. We had thought all along that he could not retain his office and be patriotic to his country. His resignation has been regarded as a necessity ever since the revolution reached to such proportions that he could not cope with it. When the revolutionists demanded his resignation as the price of peace, it was his duty either to put down the revolution or resign. Now that he has decided to do the latter he cannot but raise himself in the estimation of all loyal Mexicans, that is, Mexicans loyal to the principals of free government.

President Diaz on the whole has rendered great service to his country but he has not kept pace with the progress of the age and therefore has fallen beneath its chariot wheels.

Word "Nigger" Bared by Judge.

The difference between "Negro" and "Nigger" was defined recently in the district court at Abilene, Texas when a judge fined a lawyer \$5 for the use of the word "nigger" after warning him.

If each and every colored man and woman in all parts of this country could be pulled into court and fined a good round sum for the use of the word "nigger" on all occasions then the whites would soon break the habit.

Mr. D. A. Atkins of 1315 1-2 East 12th street wants everybody to know that he does all kinds of shoe repairing. Work done while you wait. Give him a call.

The Forum Has Another Circus.

Grievance Committee Makes Report

The Forum was greeted last Sunday by a full house. The number of ladies were largely increased over previous meetings. Mrs. Snell and many other ladies who had been absent for many moons, were in the audience. Having read in *The Liberator* that the Forum was about to resume its former position of dignity and settle down to the business of discussing public questions for the enlightenment of members and visitors, returned to their former seats.

The grievance committee makes report. After the reading of the minutes and the order of new business was reached, the grievance committee asked leave to report. As Mrs. Peterson, National Superintendent of the Colored Womens' W. C. T. U. was present and the audience was anxious to hear from her. Messrs. Morgan T. White, G. Walter Snell, J. W. Coleman, the big employment agent and S. B. Tillman successfully got the floor in their vain attempt to squelch the report of the committee. They argued that as there were distinguished visitors present, all domestic grievances should be forgotten for the day at least. But the committee whose head was full of wheels couldn't see it that way. And contended that the presence of strangers suited its purposes best. Points of orders were raised until they were as thick as the thornes on a porcupine. The president finally ruled that the report of a grievance committee had precedence over all other business and that the strangers present must protect themselves as best they could from the dust that was to be shaken off the family dirty linens. Thus given the right of way by the chair, the members of the committee furnished the Forum one of the most ludicrous entertainments it ever had. For one hour and a half the committee wrestled with its report, keeping the Forum convulsed with laughter. The thing that seemed to give the

committee most of its trouble, was that it had nothing to report with which the Forum was concerned. But the members of the Forum seeing that they were to have another circus prepared to enjoy themselves, which they did to their hearts content while the committee was struggling and sweating with their report. One point made by the committee was that *The Liberator* was the best read paper in the state and that its criticisms were severe and far reaching, owing to the fact that its circulation is by no means confined to the negroes, its criticisms are the more to be dreaded. The committee stated further that description of persons criticized are so accurate that it is unnecessary to name them in order that the readers may know them—that the descriptions put upon them a sort of "cane like mark". It stated further that *The Liberator* has raised the standard of qualification for speaking at the Forum so high that men who don't read and think are afraid to take part any more. That unless the standard is lowered, a quietus will be placed on a number of men who have for several years taken up most of the Forum's time. As the men in question haven't time to read and think, the committee thought that to shut them off on that account, would work an untold hardship upon the rising generation and a number of splendid voices would be sacrificed by disuse. They thought further that it was not the business of a negro newspaper to criticize negroes and that negro editors who did so were ignorant and unmanly. The committee suggested that some way be found to muzzle *The Liberator* so that men who haven't time to think may still enjoy the boon of free speech.

Mr. J. W. Coleman got the floor and likened the committee to one of Rev. Lorenza Dow's church members who convicted himself of stealing by dodging when the Reverend drew back to throw the stone of everlasting damnation into his congregation. The Reverend stating before hand that when he

threw the stone, the thief would be killed. This story produced such an out burst of laughter that the committee was put to sleep for good. After the Forum had exhausted itself with laughter Mrs. E. E. Peterson, National Superintendent of the Colored Womens' W. C. T. U. delivered an eloquent address on the rum traffic. She portrayed the havoc wrought by the rum traffic in a manner so vivid that every one present felt that this traffic ought to be destroyed. Mrs. Peterson didn't speak but a few minutes, but the few minutes were sufficient to prove to the audience that her selection for the place she is so nobly filling was no mistake. She will deliver a number of addresses in the city and we advise everybody who can to avail themselves of the opportunity to hear her. She says that the black men of the south have destroyed the saloons in every place where they had the casting vote. That the offer of bribes of one to five dollars for their votes proved no temptation.

On the whole it was a profitable meeting. The chair became thoroughly disgusted with his grievance committee and its report and intimated that its action was final. How successful the president will be in this matter remains to be seen as the members of the committee regard the president as having been elected solely to sustain their points of order when they wish to interfere with some member while discussing current topics. The chair, however, has the sympathy of *The Liberator* as he is not the first man to be "swallowed up" by his friends.

Mr. Lawrence Greene is agent for *The Liberator* at the city of Furlong. Friends there will do us a favor by paying all money for subscriptions to him. He is a fine little citizen and deserves encouragement.

If you are economising, call at the central Avenue Variety Mart—general merchandise. Prices to suit. 1209 Central Avenue.

The Alumni Association Meets

The Southern California Alumni Association met in the ladies' parlor of the Wesley M. E. Church Eighth and San Julian streets on the 7th. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. W. H. Stovall, president and minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The election of officers being the first business; the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. W. H. Stovall, vice-president, Mr. Harold Prince of Pasadena, Mr. J. A. Warren was re-elected secretary, assistant secretary Miss Mamie Cunningham, Professor T. A. Greene, treasurer.

On motion the members of the Alumni are to wear a pin, the design of which will be decided by the following committee: Miss Laticia Martin, Miss Mamie Cunningham and Miss Carrie Stovall. An annual will be gotten out by the Alumni edited by Miss Mamie Cunningham, assisted by Miss Senola Maxwell. The object of the annual will be to foster the interest of the association.

Committees on candidates for admission, Mrs. Dr. T. J. Nelson, Mr. F. M. Roberts and Mr. L. A. Pierce. Credentials: Mr. F. M. Roberts and Mr. Harold Prince.

Applications for admission: Pasadena, Miss Margaret Prince and Mr. Frank Calmore. Santa Monica: Miss Alberta Muse, U. S. C. Rev. Speights, L. A. Normal, Miss Bessie Bruington, L. A. High, George Baber, Miss Leona Baber, Miss Vasse Williams, Miss Berta Miller, Miss Homer Stapler, Miss Portia Cantee and Miss Eleanor McClellan. Polly High, Miss Viola Spence and Miss Maggie Lewis.

The following members were present: Mrs. W. H. Stovall, Mr. J. A. Warren, Mr. Leonard Stovall, Miss Carie Stovall, Miss Mamie Cunningham, Miss Laticia Martin, Mrs. T. J. Nelson, Mr. Wm. Roberts, Mr. Harold Prince, Mr. Douglass Warren, Miss Senola Maxwell, Miss Bessie Bruington, Mr. F. M. Roberts, Miss Ella Kinard, Mr. L. A. Pierce and Mr. Bundrant.

The next meeting will be held

at the Wesley M. E. Church next Sunday the 14th at 4 o'clock p. m. Mrs. W. H. Stovall, president, J. A. Warren, secretary.

If You Are Looking for a Park for Picnics or Private Parties Do Not Overlook Seal Gardens.

It is now under the management of Golden West Lodge No. 86, I. B. P. O. E. of W. The grounds are provided with a pavillion 60 feet by 90 feet. Picnic, Dining Room 50 feet by 90 feet, Barbecue Pits, Lunch Stands, Merry-go-rounds, Swings, Foot-ball ground, Lawn Tennis Court, Croquette, etc.

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Mr. J. W. Jones has reopened his dye works and tailoring establishment at 150 W. 35th street, where he will be pleased to meet all his old friends. Dyeing, cleaning and repairing promptly and thoroughly done. Work called for and delivered.

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The Seal Garden Park.

The Independent Order of Elks have leased Seal Garden Park and thrown it open as a pleasure ground for colored picnics and outings. Only the best of order will be maintained. We feel certain the colored people will appreciate the advantages offered. It fills a long felt want. Read their announcement in this edition and arrange your picnic dates.

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GOOD THINGS TO EAT

Mr. Matt Echols, yard foreman at the Lewellyn Iron Works holds perhaps one of the most important positions held by any colored man in the city. He has under him a mixed crew of forty-five white and colored men. With several million dollars worth of steel-building material, in his department and under his direct supervision are several cranes and other machines for loading mammoth steel girders, weighing many tons, on cars and wagons. Everything in Mr. Echols department goes on with the movement and regularity of clock work. Thousands of tons of building materials passing from the yards to the outer world each month. Mr. Echols owns a nice home at 943 Birch street. It is hard to estimate the services rendered to the race by such a man. His success means much to the race, demonstrating the ability of our people to bring things to pass when given the opportunity. As the result of his fidelity to trust forty of our men and boys are employed at good wages by the company.

A Day With Dr. Hill's Church

Last Sunday we spent pleasantly at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church where we heard an interesting sermon delivered by Dr. Hill. He delivered one of those eloquent soul stirring sermons that one rarely forgets. It was eloquent from the simplicity of the words used and the beautiful word pictures drawn.

The congregational singing aided by the choir was hard to surpass. In Dr. Hill's church the singing is simply inspiring, largely due to the fact that the choir is a part and not the whole of the congregation in the matter of singing. If there is anything that takes religion out of the public worship it is the time taken up by choir singing classic anthems and other time killing classics of which the congregation understands nothing. Of course, its a nice thing for the members of the choir to show their clothes and display their vocal powers, but few people are saved by the process. Not so in Dr. Hill's church. The choir and the whole congregation

join in songs that takes the whole being heavenward. If you want a season of absolute rest go down and hear them sing: "All hail the Power of Jesus' Name, Let Angels prostrate fall."

Mission Temple A. M. E. Church

A meeting was held at the home of Rev. Jones, 1343 Lawrence street to formulate plans for the establishment of another A. M. E. Church near the heart of the city. The same being thought necessary to meet the spiritual demands of a large number of persons not attending other churches. The call for the meeting was signed by Revs. Jones and Hubbard. Those present were Revs. Jones, E. T. Hubbard, J. W. Gooch, Nathan Price, J. G. Edmonds, R. F. Jones and C. C. Holford.

A committee consisting of Revs. D. R. Jones, Hubbard and Gooch were appointed to secure a suitable place for the location of the church. The committee selected Scott's Hall, 561 Central avenue as a temporary location for the church. The first services were held April 9th. Rev. D. R. Jones, pastor preached the opening sermon from Gen. 1:1.

Among those present were Mrs. McLain, Miss Gwendolyn Jones, Miss Helen L. McLain, Revs. Hubbard, Gooch and Edmonds. Rev. Father Price who was to preach the first sermon was unable to be present.

The trustees are as follows: Revs. P. R. Greene, Nathan Price, E. T. Hubbard, J. W. Gooch, C. C. Holford, S. E. Edwards, R. E. Arrington, R. F. Jones and J. G. Edmonds.

J. G. Edmonds, clerk.

Will Speak to the Children

Mrs. E. E. Peterson, national superintendent of the colored W. C. T. U. will deliver a lecture to the children at the A. M. E. church Saturday afternoon, May 13. All children are invited to be present.

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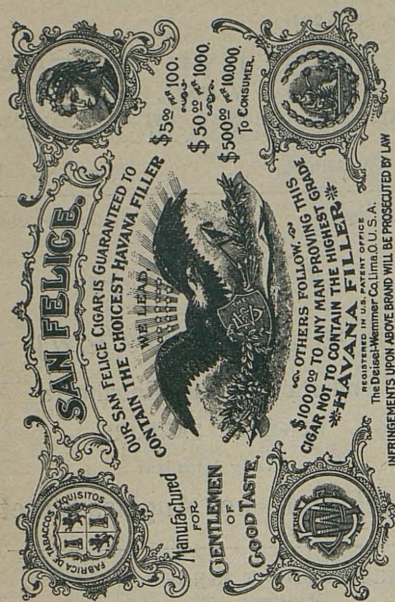
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Everybody Invited.

Mrs. E. E. Peterson, W. C. T. U. lecturer will deliver an address at Wesley Chapel, Eighth and San Julian streets at 2 o'clock next Sunday May 14th. Everybody invited. Mrs. Peterson is an eloquent, entertaining speaker, and a failure to hear her will be a great personal loss.

Attorney C. S. Darden is visiting points in Colorado. Colorado Springs, Denver and Cripple Creek will be visited.

Mr. J. H. Bonner and daughter of Monrovia were visitors to the city this week.

Mr. W. A. Clark of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania is the guest of Mr. Cyrus Venna.

Mr. J. H. Batty of Reading, Pennsylvania was a visitor at the Douglass Literary Society.

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