

## Dawn of Tomorrow

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## Editorial

### WILL THE B.M.E. CONFERENCE UNITE?

Much interest is centered on the approaching Annual Conference of the British Methodist Episcopal Church. The conference convenes in North Buxton on the 29th of June, lasting through the 4th of July. We understand that there will be representatives from the A.M.E., the A.M.E. Zion, both Colored Conferences of the United Church of Canada. Feeling the need of uniting with some stronger body the B.M.E. has asked these organizations to send representatives to its Conference, with the expectation of effecting an affiliation with some one of them. This procedure is both wise and necessary for it is an obvious fact that our churches in the cities, towns and rural districts are showing a decided decline. It must ever be so and will go from bad to worse so long as there remains such a small colored population and as long as we attempt to stand alone. In some cities and even some smaller towns, we have a Baptist church, an A.M.E. Church and a B.M.E. Church, when according to our population, we should have one, but never over two Churches. As weak in numbers and in finance as we are we will insist on having more churches than is necessary, thereby dividing our strength and failing to support properly any church.

As to forming an affiliation with the A.M.E. Church it might be argued that they are already established here in Canada and that it is one of the strongest, if not the most strongly entrenched colored conference among us. In the United States, its home, it is one of the strongest colored organizations in existence. The A.M.E. Zion, another strong Negro organization, has only a small foothold in Canada, though by no means a weak body in the States. But just how much real strength would accrue to the B.M.E. by uniting with either of these is a question. It is hinted that a bishopric has been offered to some Canadian should the union be effected. But surely we can not so easily be misled. Those of us who understand the running of

things know that it takes more political pull to land a bishopric in one of these conferences than it required to nominate Hoover as Presidential candidate. Even if ALL the Negroes in Ontario belonged to one of these Conferences we doubt very seriously that they could command enough influence to elect a Canadian as Bishop.

We have been told by very excellent authority that the United Church of Canada is ready and willing to accept the B.M.E. in its Conference. What would be gained by such a union? In the first place, the United Church of Canada has set an example which all of the churches of the world would do well to follow. When the churches of the one Christ cease quibbling over creeds and forms and rituals and unite their forces, then we may soon look forward to the day when His Kingdom will "come one earth as it is in heaven." The United Church probably will not offer and most certainly will not give the B.M.E. a bishopric, but it does offer and will pay a minimum salary to ministers, which salary is in nearly every instance, higher than that received by our present ministers.

Again, these salaries will not come through the route of solitars' subscription book, but they will come from monies raised by the Conference for that very purpose. All of which means that the Churches of the B.M.E. would have efficient, well trained Negro ministers, men who are real leaders, good speakers and fine pastors. There would then be some inducement for young colored ment of talent and ambition to enter the ministry, as it now is, few of our talented boys are looking toward the ministry as a life's work. Still, if there is any one profession that calls for the best which a race can produce, it is the high calling of the ministry.

But would an affiliation with the United Church of Canada eliminate our colored preachers? Most certainly not. We do not believe the United Church would dream of doing such, and more than that, the officers of the B.M.E. Conference would be dumbbells not to tie them down to an agreement touching this point. There is no conceivable reason why a colored church should not have a colored minister. More than that, we WILL have a colored minister.

But at all events let us have some kind of affiliation. For unless there is some kind of union, the handwriting on the wall is not propitious. We trust that personal ambitions, petty jealousies, petty likes and dislikes will be submerged by the one great thing—"Union". For without some kind of union we perish.

### FROM MY NOTE BOOK

(By Mrs. S. E. G. Allen)

Ever since you have had a being a stream of influence, consciously or unconsciously, has been going from you with telling effect and influence on all those with whom you come in contact.

Man, in his proper calling, may expect help from on high.

No man can be so independent of all else, as he who is consciously and trustfully wholly dependent on God.

Our responsibility has to do with work, not with results.

The condition of a progressive soul is a hungry soul.

It is not in the power of the human will to trust any one. If we find any one worthy of trust, we trust that one without trying.

They are slaves who dare not be.

In the right with two are three. No higher honor can be put upon any man than to have it appear that God is with him, and works through him, and for him.

It is a good test of our Christian character to ask would it help or hinder a lowly believer to live beside us?

A good resolve "I will utter no word and convey no thought unworthy a Christian disciple."

Kepler said, "I think thy thoughts after Thee, O God"

A sense of wrong always makes us unjust, a most humiliating thought.

I know not one advanced Christian who tries to obey for the hope of heaven or the fear of hell.

By reading and reading only, to sit down and think with the greatest thinkers is the greatest privilege God has given us.

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