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THE MONITOR

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A NATIONAL WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS
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WIFE DEFENDS HER HONOR

MILLION DOLLAR NEGRO CONGREGATION PASSES CENTURY MARK

CHURCH CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL

New York Episcopalians Commemorate the Incorporation of St. Philip's Parish With Elaborate Exercises and Impressive Ceremonies of Week's Duration—Prominent Bishops and Clergy Participate

WEALTHIEST COLORED CONGREGATION IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Began in a School Room in 1809 in Lower Manhattan With Mere Handful of Members—Now Owns Property Valued at Millions in Harlem—Has Membership of 2,000 Communicants—Rev. Hutchens Chew Bishop Rector for Thirty-four Years

(Special to The Monitor)

NEW YORK, Nov. 25.—An event of more than local importance is the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of St. Philip's Episcopal church, West 134th street, this city, which began Sunday, November 14, and closed last Sunday night with impressive services and an eloquent sermon by the Ven. Henry L. Phillips, archdeacon of Philadelphia, and the pastor of the 150 or more colored priests serving in the American Episcopal church.

The fact that there are Episcopal parishes which have been in existence for a hundred years among colored Americans will be news to thousands of our people and will be a cause of wonderment to the people of the dominant group who profess to know so much and yet are so lamentably ignorant of our group activities. St. Philip's of New York is outranked in age by St. Thomas Episcopal church, Philadelphia, which was founded by Absalom Jones, the first American Negro to be ordained to the priesthood, in 1794, and celebrated its centenary in 1894 or twenty-six years ago.

The nation-wide importance of St. Philip's centenary lies not only in the fact of its age, but of its wealth and membership. It is the wealthiest congregation of colored people in the United States, if not in the world, its property holdings running well beyond the million mark and its communicants number more than 2,000 which means a constituency of fully 5,000 people, more in fact than the membership of some entire dioceses and missionary districts of the American Episcopal church. Another rather unique fact about this historic parish is the length of the pastorate of its present rector, the Rev. Hutchens Chew Bishop, who is rounding out his thirty-fifth year. Its first pastor, the Rev. Peter Williams, served for twenty years after his ordination and for five years preceding his ordination as lay reader. The services of these two men, Williams and Bishop, span sixty years of the life of the congregation.

The centennial services began with the early Eucharist Sunday morning, November 14, one hundred years to the day, of the incorporation of the parish, which was November 14, 1820. At 11 the spacious edifice was crowded to the limit for a magnificent service of thanksgiving, the music being rendered by St. Philip's famous choir, accounted one of the best in New York, and a sermon by the Rt. Rev. Charles Sumner Burch, D.D., bishop of New York Sunday night for Evening song the edifice was again crowded, when the Rt. Rev. Henry Beard Delaney, D.D., suffragan bishop of North Carolina, and one of the two Negro bishops of the American church, was the preacher. The exercises continued throughout the week. Monday night there was a striking historical pageant. Tuesday night there was a general public meeting participated in by representatives of other religious bodies at which felicitations were extended by the pastors of St. Mark's Methodist, Mt. Olivet Baptist, Mother A. M. E. Zion and St. Cy-

prian's. Other speakers were George Foster Peabody and James Weldon Johnson. Following this a parish reception and dinner was served in the parish rooms in the basement of the church. Wednesday night there were special services held in the church at which the speakers were the Rev. Dr. Manning, rector of Trinity church; Rev. Dr. Percy S. Grant, rector of the Church of the Ascension; the Rev. Dr. Ernest M. Stires, rector of St. Thomas' church, all of this city, and the Rev. Dr. George Freeman Bragg, jr., rector of St. James', Baltimore. Thursday and Friday were devoted to the services and program of the newly organized provincial conference of Church Workers Among the Colored People, at which the special speakers at Friday night's session were Dr. Harry F. Ward of Union Theological Seminary and author of "A New Social Order," and Dr. Robert Russa Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute. Sunday marked the closing services of the centennial. At 11 o'clock the Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Gailor, D.D., preached the sermon and at evening the preacher was the Ven. Henry L. Phillips, D.D.

Brief History of St. Philip's

In 1809 the colored Episcopalians of New York City, under the leadership of Mr. McCoombs, as lay reader, opened a mission in a school room on the corner of Frankfort and William streets. After his death in 1812 the congregation removed to a room in Cliff street, with Peter Williams, jr., as lay reader. Here they remained for two years. In 1819 three lots were obtained for a lease of sixty years, after which they were to be held in fee simple as a gift. These lots were on the west side of Collect now Centre street between Anthony and Leonard streets. Upon this a wooden building was erected at a cost of \$5,000. It was consecrated by Bishop John Henry Hobart on July 19, 1819, and was named St. Philip's church.

Church Incorporated

On November 14, 1820, the church was incorporated according to the statutes of the state of New York and Mr. Williams, who had been ordained to the diaconate in October, was appointed as minister in charge. On December 24, 1821, the building was destroyed by fire, and rebuilt of brick in the following year at a cost of \$8,000.

Mr. Williams was advanced to the priesthood in 1827 and became the first rector of the church. He held this office until his death in 1840.

The parish was received into union with the convention of the Diocese of New York in 1853. The Rev. William Morris, rector of Trinity school, was then the officiating minister. The church at this time was located at 305 Mulberry street.

The parish was without a rector from 1840 to 1872, a period of thirty-two years, when the Rev. William J. Alston, who was trained at Kenyon college, Gambier, O., was called to the rectorship. He was the second colored priest to serve as rector here. He served until 1874, and there was a

vacancy until 1875 when the Rev. Joseph J. Atwell, a native of Barbadoes, B. W. I., was elected rector. His death in 1882 again left the office vacant until 1886 when the present incumbent, the Rev. Hutchens C. Bishop, was elected. During Mr. Atwell's incumbency, the Parish Home for Aged Women was founded.

Growth Was Retarded

Two long years of vacancy could not help but retard the growth of the parish. This arrested development was plainly seen in the number of communicants, two hundred and eighty-four reported in 1885 after a group existence of seventy-six years. In 1886 the congregation made another journey, locating at 161 West Twenty-fifth street, where it remained until 1910; when, following the migration northward, it settled in Harlem. Lots running through from 134th to 133d streets were secured and a commodious church and parish house costing \$500,000 was erected. Since locating in Harlem the growth has been phenomenal. A plant which was thought to be adequate for another century has been found wholly inadequate to meet the demands of the constantly growing congregation, and of the numerous parish societies which must be maintained if the parish is to be kept in intimate and helpful contact with the community.

This historic parish with its able rectors has been a dominant factor in the religious and civic life of the race in New York.

DARTIGUENAVE APPEALS TO AMERICAN PEOPLE

President of Haiti Desires Congressional Investigation of Action of Government Officials in Island

(By The Associated Negro Press) PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti, Nov. 25.—President Sudre Dartiguenave has made a direct and emphatic appeal to the people of the United States for congressional investigation of "maladministration, high handedness and misrepresentation" by the American minister and those civil functionaries who are intrusted with the execution of solemn treaty agreements between the United States and Haiti.

President Dartiguenave says: "My regret at this juncture is not that the treaty is being violated but that it is not being carried out. The reason it is not being carried out is because the Haitian government is under the oppression of the American minister and the American financial adviser.

"If the American government and people wish the Haitian people to consider the treaty as the starting point of their true independence, it is necessary that a congressional commission come to investigate the American treaty functionaries, and there must also be a wise and enlightened American minister here.

"That is emphatically the first step toward clearing up the present situation.

"From 1915 to this day the Haitian government has had cause for bitter complaint against the American treaty officials. Often when I protest against a decision relative to our relations with the United States, the American minister and financial adviser sent to the state department at Washington declarations they declare to have come from me personally, but of which I have not uttered a word.

"This is done for no other reason than to prejudice the state department and to confirm Washington in their error that my government does not wish to keep its engagement.

"On similar occasions these two officials have caused much distress to my government."

"And you believe a congressional investigation would clear the air?" was asked.

President Dartiguenave answered emphatically:

"I believe so. There has been a lack of co-operation. You are a great people. I beg you to be kind to a little people."

IRONTON, O., Nov. 25.—Dr. Woodfin, a prominent Negro physician of this city, was elected coroner of Lawrence county on the republican ticket.

SPECIFIC CHARGE LODGED AGAINST AMERICAN MARINE

Investigation of Accusations of Indiscriminate Killings Are Being Pressed.

(By The Associated Negro Press) PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti, Nov. 25.—A direct charge has been lodged with the United States authorities at Washington that one Freeman Lang, a marine corporal, killed

Haitian prisoners at Hinche in 1917. This was brought out before the court investigating the activities of American marines in Haiti by Adolph Bourgot, a former native acting corporal who testified as a witness of the alleged killings. Bourgot testified that the killing took place at the end of an attack of insurgents. The men killed by Lang were prisoners and were shot by him in revenge for the attack which had been repulsed with considerable loss of life on the part of the American marines.

Lieut. Col. Hooker told the investigators of the January attack on Port Au Prince when sixty-six insurgents were killed. He declared the attack had been to bolster the bandit cause.

Col. Louis Little testified that the only complaint he had received, as field officer, from President Dartiguenave he had found to be incorrect. The president charged that beside the unwarranted killing that a drunken marine had assaulted a judge.

Harris Lifschitz, a Russian, testified to seeing two killings by the occupational force, but was indefinite as to dates, places and names. The investigation will be continued for several weeks.

SUCCESSFUL BANK HAS WOMAN FOR PRESIDENT

(By The Associated Negro Press) RICHMOND, Va., Nov. 25.—The St. Luke Penny Savings bank has just wound up the seventeenth year of its existence. At the end of its first year it had resources amounting to \$19,000. During its existence the bank paid its stockholders \$20,000 in dividends and \$51,000 in interest to depositors. It has now resources amounting to a half million dollars and undivided profits and surplus totaling \$15,000.

The institution is located in modern quarters at First and Marshall streets. Mrs. Maggie L. Walker is the president.

WOMEN PROTEST AGAINST CARICATURED BABIES

(By The Associated Negro Press) ATLANTA, Ga., Nov. 25.—Protest against using funny pictures of Negro babies for advertising purposes and comical postcards has been entered by Mrs. Alice Cary, president of the Federation of Negro Women's Clubs in Georgia.

The protest was read before the convention of the Federated Clubs of Georgia and a resolution offering the co-operation of the State Federation to the Negro Federation was adopted.

HOME-OWNING ASSOCIATION NEW ORGANIZATION

(By The Associated Negro Press) CHICAGO, Ill., Nov. 25.—An "own your home" association has been organized and is planning the upbuilding of a forty-acre subdivision in what is to be known as the Alberta Park addition, which will front South Kedzie avenue south of Marquette park. William Fetzer, former manufacturer of Springfield, Ill., is head of the association.

GIRL WINS SECOND PRIZE

(By The Associated Negro Press) RICHMOND, Ind., Nov. 25.—A 12-year-old colored girl student of the Garfield High school, Virginia Smith, won the second prize given in the Earlham essay contest which was held in Wayne at the time of the endowment campaign.

SCHOFIELD SINGS AT RECITAL

(By The Associated Negro Press) WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—Edgar Schofield, baritone, sang with telling effect Burleigh's "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," at a celebrated artist recital in Poll's theatre.

SENSATIONAL COURT ACTION STARTED BY EDITOR'S WIFE

Mrs. Florence M. Varner, of a Socially Prominent Southern Family, Defendant in Divorce Suit Instituted by Her Husband, Who Charged Her With Infidelity, Naming Wealthy Colored Man as Co-Respondent—Files Counter Charges and Flatly Denies Allegations

BELIEVED STARTLING DEVELOPMENTS MAY SHOW CLEVER CONSPIRACY

Varner Filed Suit for \$100,000 Against Baxter McCrary, Leading Lexington Citizen of Color for Alleged Alienation of His Wife's Affection—Believed to be Concocted Scheme to Mule McCrary of Money—Rumored That Editor Had Received Favors From Him

(Special to The Monitor)

GREENSBORO, N. C., Nov. 25.—Under date of August 19 The Monitor published a special article from Lexington, this state, on the sensation caused by the filing of an unusual suit against Baxter McCrary, wealthy and prominent Mason, business man and educator, by H. B. Varner, editor of the Lexington Dispatch and head of the North Carolina prison board, for \$100,000 on the complaint that McCrary had "ruined his domestic life" and alienated his wife's affection. At the same time Varner entered suit for divorce from his wife. It was then believed and stated by your correspondent that court action in McCrary's case was based upon a well-devised plan to extract from him much of his coveted wealth.

A counter action in this case which promises startling developments has been filed by Mrs. Florence M. Varner by her attorneys in the federal court here against her husband, H. B. Varner. The complaint alleges that he "abandoned this plaintiff, and wilfully and maliciously turned her out of doors, and by cruel and barbarous treatment endangered her life and offered her such indignities as to render her condition intolerable and her life burdensome." The court is therefore prayed to allot to her, under the laws of North Carolina, "a reasonable subsistence" from the estate of the defendant; and claim is laid to the property in Lexington known as the Varner building, estimated to be worth \$50,000.

This suit is Mrs. Varner's reply to the sensational proceedings at Lexington last August, when H. B. Varner instituted divorce proceedings against his wife, and at the same time started suit for \$100,000 against Baxter McCrary, colored, for alienation of her affections. Mrs. Varner brings suit in the federal court as a citizen of the state of Utah, where she declares in the complaint she was sent by her husband, or his friends.

The complaint is hardly less sensational than the charges filed at Lexington. It declares that the plaintiff was prostrated by the shock of the charges brought against her; that she was denied the opportunity of seeing her husband to repudiate the alleged slanders against her reputation; that she was fraudulently induced to leave Lexington by being told that if she would go to Salisbury she might have an interview with the defendant, and that she rose from her sick bed to go, but that upon arrival there she was handed a ticket to Salt Lake City, Utah, and told that her husband would not see her, but that she must leave the state and go to her mother; that upon her arrival in Salt Lake City she was desperately ill for two weeks, so that her life was despaired of.

Varner's Charges Flatly Denied

As for the charges in the divorce suit, they are all flatly denied. It is alleged that on the night of August 9

the plaintiff went to the moving picture show owned by her husband, according to her custom when he was away, that she returned with the receipts from the box office at about 10 o'clock, and was admitted by her colored servant, Anna Miller; that within a few minutes she answered a knock at the door, where she found Fred O. Sink, who said to her, "Mrs. Varner, you are in all kinds of trouble," which she took to mean that her husband had met with some serious accident; that Sink then asked if McCrary was at the house, and that she replied that he was not, so far as she knew; that Sink's suggestion that she allow the house to be searched was her first intimation of the true situation; that said house was thoroughly locked, and that said Baxter McCrary was not, nor had been in or about the house, so far as this plaintiff knew.

Furthermore, it is alleged that McCrary had been in the habit of visiting the house to see the servant, Anna Miller, "and the defendant, all of which was well known to the defendant;" that he was a friend of the defendant; that the defendant, her husband, had "frequently phoned him; that the said McCrary would at different times send game, fruit and vegetables to the defendant and that the defendant would call him over the 'phone and thank him."

The plaintiff denies that she ever held a private conversation with Baxter McCrary in her life; alleges that she has never been in his presence alone, and that she has "never, for one moment in her life, treated him as a friend or her social equal;" that the intimately friendly relation existing between her husband and McCrary was obnoxious to her; "that the defendant himself knew of and was responsible to a great extent for the visits of the said McCrary to the plaintiff's house; that the plaintiff realized when it first dawned upon her from the conversation with the said Sink and others with him that they believed that the said McCrary had been coming to her home to see her, that the whole situation could be explained by the defendant;" that she could not conceive that he would desert her, and that she attempted immediately to get into communication with him, but failed.

Conspiracy Charged

A significant passage in the complaint is the allegation that before the defendant reached Lexington, and therefore before she had a chance to communicate with him, he had "as this plaintiff is informed and believes been in communication with certain slanderers and conspirators against her character; that immediately he went to the hotel and gathered about him the same slanderers and conspirators and refused to communicate with the plaintiff, and cruelly abandoned her; that on August 11, as aforesaid the defendant, as she was

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