

# THE ASSEMBLY HERALD

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**T**O interpret the Church to the workingmen, to interpret workingmen to the Church, and to interpret employer and employee to each other, through education, inspiration, mediation, evangelism, and twentieth-century methods of Christian work, is the general object of the Department of Church and Labor of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America.

# THE ASSEMBLY HERALD

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
A. W. HALSEY, D. D., JOHN DIXON, D. D., WILLIAM H. SCOTT, Committee.

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## The Board of Home Missions

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### Church and Labor—Some Noteworthy Opinions

“WHEN the Presbyterian Church in this country, a few years ago, established its Department of Church and Labor in connection with the Home Missionary Society, and put at its head the Rev. Charles Stelzle, it established a precedent among American Protestant Churches, and did the most statesmanlike thing to be chronicled in the history of American Protestantism during the past decade. The results have justified the innovation, and they are attracting the attention of other denominations, which are equally aware of the growing identification of Protestantism with the middle-class population.”—*The Boston Herald*.

“The good accomplished by the Department of Church and Labor is difficult to estimate. The great and permanent good that can be accomplished is through the education of the citizens who are either antagonistic to or have absolutely no knowledge of the aims and objects of the trades union. The Department of Church and Labor is filling a field all by itself. It furnishes an avenue through which a better understanding can be reached on questions affecting the great masses of wage workers of the world.” FRANK MORRISON,  
*Secretary, American Federation of Labor.*

“The Presbyterian Church, in the organization of its Department of Church and Labor, has displayed more courage, more business foresight, more sympathy, more diplomacy and more actual Christian intelligence, than any of its contemporaries. It is now conducting an experiment fraught with wonderful possibilities. The labor problem is the most fundamental question that has ever confronted civilization. Upon its solution depends the solution of all questions: religious, social, economic and political. Heretofore the world has evaded it, spurned it, taken mean advantage of it at times, and juggled with it at others, and the Church, as a whole, has looked on with a stupid indifference, not daring to take its part in the great conflict. But one great Church has dared and it has awakened to its great opportunity and responsibility. It has heard the heart throbs of the laborers. May it be guided wisely and sympathetically. May it have great courage. May it be an instrument to teach capitalists and the laborers that they are men; that they should be brothers, and that they are equally the sons of God, whose chief delight is in seeing his children happy.”

ARTHUR E. HOLDER,  
*Organizer, American Federation of Labor.*

It is interesting to note that practically every labor union official and labor editor who has contributed to this number is also an active member of the Church.

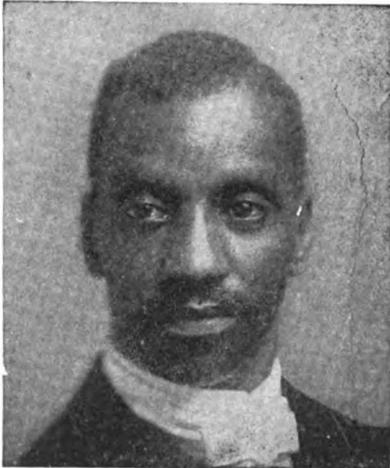
# Board for Freedmen

EDWARD P. COWAN, D.D., SECRETARY

## A New Colored Synod

In the recent adjustment of presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod of Tennessee a new synod has been formed to be known as the Synod of East Tennessee, composed entirely of colored churches and ministers.

A letter from Dr. Franklin, President of Swift Memorial College, at Rogersville, Tenn., together with a photograph of a number of the ministers and elders, was recently received



W. H. FRANKLIN, D.D.,

President of Swift Memorial College, Rogersville, Tenn., and first Moderator of East Tennessee Synod.

by the Board, and are now given to the readers of the *ASSEMBLY HERALD*, as interesting evidence of the way in which ecclesiastical matters are adjusting themselves in that general region.

Dr. Franklin writes as follows:—

“The Synod of East Tennessee was organized at Chattanooga October 25th, 1907. In the process of organization I was elected Moderator, and Rev. J. M. Ewing, of Knoxville, was made Stated Clerk.

“The Synod of East Tennessee is set off

from the Synod of Tennessee. It is made up of the colored churches and presbyteries which belong to the latter synod. The separation became a necessity in virtue of the action of the General Assembly in 1896, relative to separate courts along racial lines, and the union of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church with our body; also in consideration of further union of the Cumberland Synod of the State with the Synod of Tennessee. It was the carrying out of the color line which was demanded by Holston Presbytery and the Synod of Tennessee for years back. Time, changes and actions had so shaped things that no alternative was left for the colored churches and presbyteries. It was a situation which had been predicted by myself and others. That was the thought and the ultimate purpose of those who organized the movement, and in the course of events succeeded in their purpose.

“In the case of many colored presbyteries and churches it was organized under protest. They felt that something had to be done, and that they, since they could not have their own way, would do the next best thing. They pray that it may prove to be for the best for all concerned, and to the glory of God. I am sure that if we follow the will of God, it will prove to be all right.

“The Synod of East Tennessee consists of thirty-five churches, twenty-eight ministers, one hundred and three elders, sixty-one deacons, fourteen hundred and fifty-nine members, and fifteen hundred and forty-eight Sabbath-school pupils.

“It also has within its bounds one college, two female seminaries, two industrial normal institutes, and a number of parochial schools. The ministers are pious, active and capable, and the schools are under good management and competent instructors and are well attended. The field is a large and important one.

“The organization was not as largely attended as it should have been. Much in-

terest and enthusiasm were shown by those who did attend. They were hopeful and expressed great faith in the future. With God's blessing and the guidance of His Spirit, they expect to accomplish great things for Christ and His Church.

"The event opens up a broader and more extended field for the Freedmen's Board and its operations. May God give her the means to fully occupy the field and to do great things for Him and the people so much in need of light and the Gospel of Christ.

"Feeling assured of your interest and prayers in our new departure, I remain yours in Christ,  
W. H. FRANKLIN."

### Contraction

In a recent letter from a good friend of our work there occurred this sentence:—

"I am sorry the Board has not got over its bad habit of contraction." Now the truth is the Board has done no contracting for the last eight years, at least, except contracting for new buildings in line with the extension of its work. Little by little the work has extended itself, as fast as the funds placed at its command have justified. New schools have been opened, new buildings erected, new teachers added, new churches aided, new ministers supported, until within the last year the whole work has been larger and wider and better than it ever was before.

The outlook, however, for the present year is anything but reassuring. The year is too far advanced for the Board to think of closing any of the schools abruptly, thus throwing out of employment teachers holding the Board's commissions, and relying upon the Board to faithfully carry out its part of a mutual contract.

Committed as the Board is to the support of the work for the current year it would, indeed, be bad faith for the Board to fall back again without warning, upon what our friend terms "its bad habit of contraction." The end of the year, however, unless friends come to our relief, is sure to find our work handicapped with an embarrassing debt, the only cure for which will be a radical and cruel curtailment of our splendid work.

The present state of our finances compels us, in line with our duty, to sound this timely note of warning. It is due to the workers

on the field, some of whom may have to be dispensed with. It is due to our friends and supporters who have the work at heart, and who might, when the contraction comes, ask reproachfully the question, "why didn't you tell us sooner?" The statement of our treasury up to date shows a shortage of more than \$10,000 as compared with this time last year, and the outlook for the remainder of the year indicates, as far as human judgment can discern, that this shortage is likely to be doubled by the end of the year—unless—unless God touches the hearts of those who pity the poor and the ignorant and the unlearned and the unsaved and leads them to come promptly to our help within the next two months. God only can tell whose eye will rest upon this appeal, and whose hearts will be touched. We can only wait and see, and while we wait we pray that the bread we cast upon the waters may indeed return to us *before* many days.

—Rev. H. L. McCrorey, D.D., President of Biddle University, writes: "Persons who are in position to know, say they do not remember a year when the school has had a more successful term. We can only say that whatever success we may have had is to be attributed first of all to Him whose presence and guidance we seek day by day."

—Rev. Edgar F. Johnston, D.D., President of Mary Holmes Seminary, and Mrs. Johnston, his wife, as Principal, took up the duties of their office the 1st of January. Rev. Dr. Jolly gave the Board plenty of time in which to look around for his successor, and with his wife remained at his post at considerable inconvenience, until Dr. Johnston could arrive and receive the reins of government at his hands. Dr. Johnston writes that he found the school under excellent discipline, and the transition from one administration to another in the middle of the year was made without a jar. Dr. Johnston, it will be remembered, was the first President of Mary Holmes Seminary while it was still at Jackson, Miss., and after an interval of some thirteen years, under many new conditions and changes that time has wrought in this interval, gathers up again the threads of his former work and enters upon it, along with his efficient help-mate, with renewed zeal and enthusiasm.