

For the Standard.

The A. M. E. Conference at Greensboro.

Mr. Editor.

It was my privilege to attend several sessions of this body, which has just closed its deliberations. As it was the first time I had ever witnessed the proceedings of any ecclesiastical body composed entirely of colored men, I was naturally much interested in them and think my impressions may not be entirely uninteresting to others. The Conference was held in The Freedman's School House at Warnersville, a suburb of Greensboro, which was formerly a Confederate work shop. I could not help thinking as I entered of the mysterious Providence which had so overturned the plans of men as to transform this adjunct of the "Slave holders" Rebellion, into a temple in which those who were late but unimpaired chattels should worship and take orders as deacons and Elders, and counsel together in regard to the redemption of their fellow brethren from the thralldom of sin. It was a solemn thought and the impression was deepened when, on entering the door, I saw traced in evergreen letters, in front of the platform on which the bishop sat the appropriate words, — "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we should be glad." And I may here remark, that throughout all the deliberations which I witnessed the spirit of these words, in their highest import seemed to prevail. Our humble, glad, trusting Thankfulness seemed

seemed to inspire every heart. Every person  
prayer and lesson was harkened with gratitude  
and praise. I have looked on many ecclesiastical  
bodies in solemn council, of different denominations,  
when the wisest, purest and noblest of our own  
and other lands poured forth the richest tributes of  
genius and learning, as offerings which they counted  
mean in the great cause which engrossed their  
thought, but never have I before seen a body of  
men whose every heart seemed to respond with  
such perfect sympathy to every word of gratitude  
and love. The young, the middle aged and  
the hoary father in Israel seemed indeed to  
have "become as little children;" in view of the  
priceless blessings which God had conferred upon  
their race. The triumph-song which Miriam  
sang" seemed echoing through every heart.

— The conference was composed of perhaps fifty  
members. One bishop, four or five presiding  
Elders and the remainder circuit preachers.

Of these by far the greater portion were men of  
nearly unmingled African blood. Two of them, — the  
one a candidate for deacon's orders and the other  
an elder, had no "visible admixture" of colored  
blood. One of them in particular would have been  
taken in any city for German student fresh from  
Göttingen. I found it difficult to convince myself  
that this fair, light-haired, blue-eyed, scholarly looking  
young man, who so reminded me of one of my own

classmates who is now preaching the Gospel  
in heathen lands, had indeed, been a slave. Yet  
such was the fact. What a Commentary on the  
Christianity and holiness of the "patriarchal institu-  
tion"! I could give something to know the thoughts and  
feelings of the "Christian gentleman" (of course he <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ one)  
whose son that young man ~~was~~, if he could have  
looked with me, upon that <sup>son</sup> ~~man~~ kneeling be-  
fore the altar, and consecrated, by the "laying ~~on~~  
on of dusky hands, to the work of the Christian  
ministry. Would it not be well to send some such men  
to the home-heathen, by whom they were begotten and  
to whom they are akin?

- The bishop, Weyman, is a man of perhaps forty  
or forty-five, dark almost, as the ordinary negro,  
but cast in a noble mould. In observing his  
features any one who is familiar with the later  
portraits of the first Napoleon, cannot but be struck  
with the resemblance which he bears to them. The same  
smooth, massive, sharply ~~broad~~ forehead and o-  
verhanging brows, the same regular and classic  
features of almost disproportionate delicacy when  
contrasted with the ~~fullness~~ <sup>massiveness</sup> of the  
head and the fullness of the form. As a presiding  
officer he certainly, greatly excels. I have seen few  
men who could so easily and pleasantly direct  
the proceedings of a deliberative body. His rulings were  
generally prompt, though ~~but~~ always correct.  
Yet such seemed to be the regard in which

held by the conference, that they were generally acquiesced in without murmurs,

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