



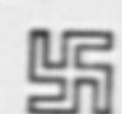
ON THE WHITE HOUSE GROUNDS

throughout the city pick the youngsters up and hurry them along. Automobiles join the procession, each making a bee-line for the great iron entrance to the White House grounds.

From nine to three o'clock the gates swing wide. There is only one restriction as to who may enter. Each child must be accompanied by an older person and each adult must have a child escort. Distinctions of wealth, of social position, of race

and of color, are forgotten. The chief requisite of a good time is a basket full of colored eggs. The President usually gives a word of greeting. After other festivities there is a concert by the country's most famous band.

Other cities have their egg-rollings, but nowhere else is there an event so noteworthy as this great gathering of the children of the nation's capital.

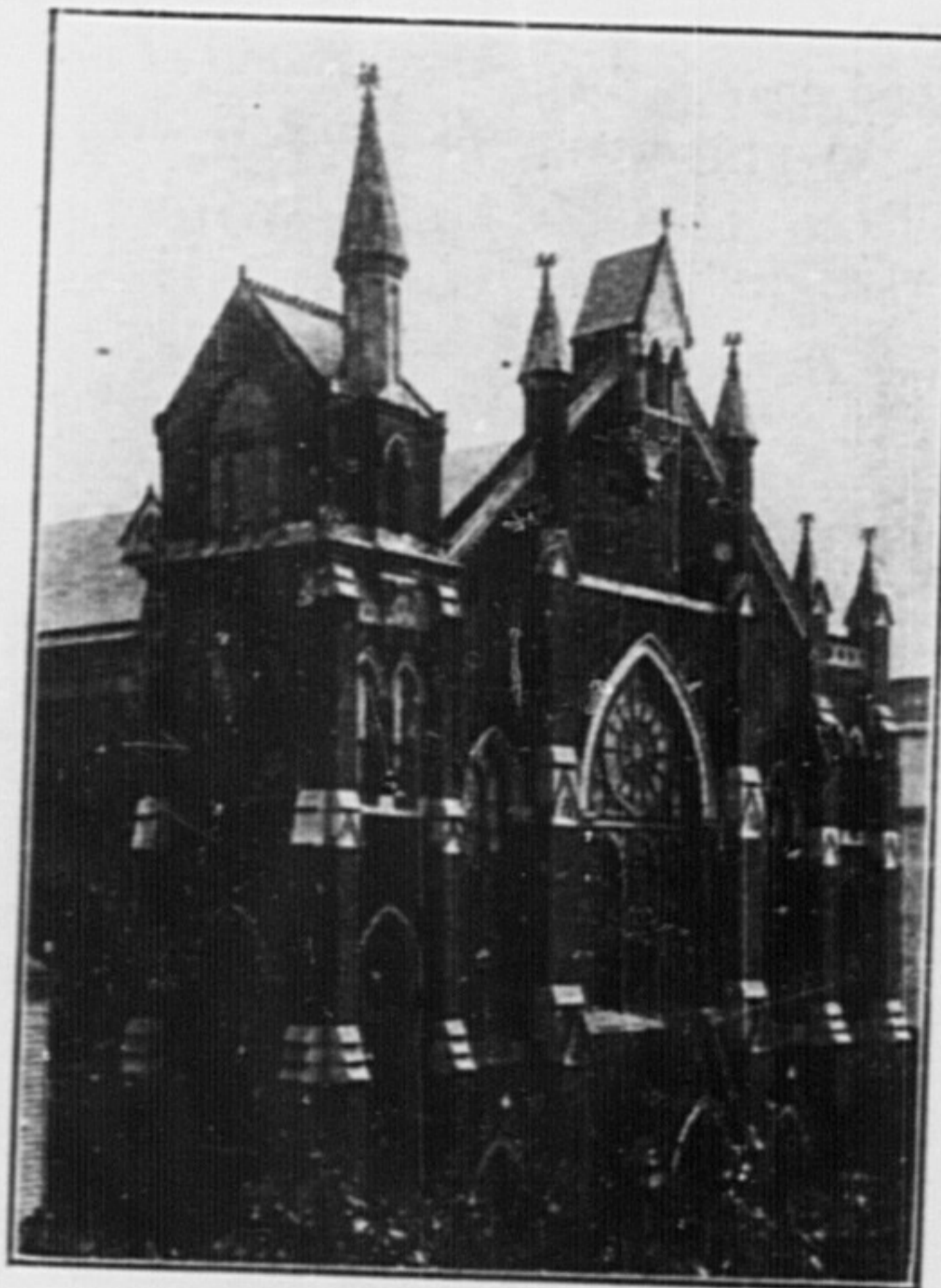


THE BAPTIST CONTROVERSY



FEW American citizens realize how serious a matter is the recent split in the National Baptist Convention. This organization is a loose federation of the majority of the Colored Baptist Churches of the United States.

The National Baptist Convention was organized at Atlanta, Ga., September 28th, 1895. Its objects are missionary and educational work, and the publication of religious literature. The membership consists of representatives of churches,



Sunday schools, associations, and State Conventions of Baptists, and of such individual Baptists as wish to join. The Convention meets annually, and has a president, vice-presidents from each State, a statistical secretary, and other officers. This Convention elects annually a Foreign Mission Board, a Home Mission Board, an Educational Board, and a Baptist Young People's Union Board. These boards all consist of one member from each State represented, and elect their

own officers and executive committee so located as to be able to meet monthly. The Convention also collects statistics concerning the Negro Baptists throughout the United States.

What has happened to this organization which brings some two and one-half millions of colored folk into union?

Let us first set down the statements of the protagonists. The Rev. E. C. Morris, of Arkansas, is the chief executive officer of the Convention, and has been since its foundation. The Rev. R. H. Boyd, of Texas, is secretary of the Publishing Board, and beginning with no capital has in twenty years built up a publishing business which issues twelve million copies of periodicals, and has been rated by Bradstreet as worth \$350,000.

1. *The Morris Faction.* The Rev. E. C. Morris writes the *CRISIS* as follows:

In 1896 the National Baptist Convention gave an order to the Home Mission Board to proceed at once to establish a Publishing House and get out a series of Sunday-school periodicals by January 1st, 1897. But to be more specific, I quote a paragraph from a long article published in the *Convention Teacher*, September, 1897. "Read this and be convinced of our authority to publish these periodicals . . . The work was laid aside until the meeting in St. Louis, Mo., September, 1896. At this meeting the publication of Sunday-school literature was thoroughly discussed pro and con. A committee of one from each State was again appointed to recommend and plan for the beginning of the publishing of Sunday-school literature at once; this committee reported to the House and recommended that a Publishing Board be elected, and that they proceed at once to issue a series of Sunday-school literature by January 1st, 1897. The resolution was unanimously referred to the Home Mission Board with power to act." This excerpt is from a lengthy letter published in the *Convention Teacher*, September, 1897, over the signature of R. H. Boyd, as Secretary, National Baptist Publishing Board.

From the day that this enterprise was launched to last September, 1915, when the Convention met at Chicago, Ill., a large majority of the Negro Baptists have given their patronage to that Board, believing that they were supporting an enterprise which really belonged to the denomination.

I should say, however, that some doubted that the ownership was in the denomination and several investigations were made which disclosed that the deeds were made to the National Baptist Publishing Board, and it was believed that the Board was a creature of the Convention, and since it made an accounting to the Convention each year that it was still acting in good faith and in obedience to the Convention, its creator. But that Board refused to report to the Convention at Chicago after it had regularly organized on September 9th, 1915. The Convention as has been its custom for nineteen years elected a Board of one from each State, and after the adjournment of the Convention the Board went to Nashville, Tenn., and demanded that the secretary turn the property over, which he refused to do; hence the Board proceeded in a legal way to get possession of the property, which brings out the startling statement in answer to the claim set up by the Publishing Board elected at Chicago. "These Respondents say that it is not true that they claim to be or that they hold themselves out to be the Executive or Governing Board or the Committee of the Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention of the United States. If the allegation of this bill is intended to mean that these respondents claim to be a Board created by, or governed by the National Baptist Convention of the United States, or that they claim to be a committee that derives its authority from any constitution, resolution or other action of such Convention, other than that may be herein-after specifically set forth."

2. *The Boyd Faction.* The Rev. R. H. Boyd says, in the *Richmond Planet*, that President Morris and his personal friends set out with a determination through another commission form of government to change the convention from a free volunteer Baptist Association to a kind of hierarchy or Episcopal form of government; brethren, using Mr. Griggs' words, "to be to the Baptists what the Board of Bishops is to the Methodists."

In order to force this new plan they appointed from among themselves a committee whose duty it would be to go to Washington and secure from the District of Columbia a charter, and they appointed the same committee to draft a constitution different to the one then in use, and with this charter backed up by this constitution, they