

Editorial by Rev. Geo. F. Bragg Assistant Editor.



REV. GEORGE F. BRAGG

We are living in a new epoch. The end of the great world war, and the completion of three hundred years of residence in this country, eloquently proclaims that "Old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." Our racial endeavor must be tuned to a "new song." We must not sing the "old song," but a "new song," issuing from the accumulated experiences of past endeavors, and conquests. One of the elements of the new song is a fuller realization of our relation to the one Brotherhood of man. In the past, we have been more concerned with the part, rather than with the whole. We have been too much self-centered on our racial needs. We must reverse the order. We must lose our lives in the interest of the welfare of the whole, and, in so doing, we shall find life in our particular group richer and more abundant because of the unselfish endeavor. Instead of holding ourselves aloof from the problems and concerns, of the various foreign nationalities by which we are environned, and who, in a degree, suffer from the same root of bitterness which affect us, we must steadily cultivate their friendship and good will. Knowing each other the better, our combined effort for the good of the whole will bring far better results than we can secure in selfishly working for the interests of our group alone.

Presently, We hope, we shall be through with heavy Church debts. The meaning of this release is plain. The Church will sing a new song. The clergy will then betake themselves to their real mission. It was not intended that they should be general promoters, and students of finance, but promoters of the Kingdom of God, and students of spiritual and moral concerns. In thus applying themselves they will sing a "new song," not alone for the particular racial group of which they form a part, but, chiefly, for the whole brotherhood, waiting for the distinctive contribution the African Church is to render for the good of the universal family. The materials they have; eloquence, oratory, vision, faith and love. They need to organize and rightly handle such racial endowments. Time for study they must have. The pastoral office must be made real and effective. They must be known by their goodness or likeness to God, and by their unquestioned learning. Out of the abundance of their hearts they shall speak, "Thus saith the Lord," and in their fidelity to this matter, they shall supply what the rest of the whole brotherhood need more than any other one thing. In short, the very heart of Christianity is the application in real life and conduct, the Law of Love; for the founder of Christianity declared that by this sign shall all men know that ye are my disciples. God has done marvellous things for us, and He demands of us a "New Song." Shall we sing it?