

EDUCATION WILL SOLVE DARK PROBLEM OF SOUTH

That Is the View Taken by Dr. Gladden in Address
to Missionary Society--Refers to the
Disfranchisement Laws.

New London, Conn., October 23.—Rev. Washington Gladden, of Ohio, was today re-elected president of the American Missionary Association. Among the speakers at the closing session were Miss Mary E. Westgate, of Bowling Rock, N. C.; Mrs. Ella Sheppard, of Nashville, Tenn.; Mrs. H. H. Proctor, Atlanta, Ga., and Mrs. Minnie Crossstwalt, Knoxville, Tenn.

An address by Rev. H. H. Proctor, of Georgia, was listened to with particular interest in connection with a report on southern church work, by Rev. Edward M. Noyes, D. D., of Massachusetts.

Proctor on the Negroes.

"As a race," said Rev. H. H. Proctor, "we form one-tenth of the nation and one-third of the south. We shall contribute at least that proportion toward tearing down or building up. There are seven million negroes in the south, and of these at least 4,000,000 are outside of any church—as many as were set free a generation ago. One-half the black race is unchurched and one-half of the existing churches are totally incompetent to meet the religious needs of their members. Fully one-half of the ministers are yet unprepared, mentally and spiritually, to properly minister to the people.

"No other denomination has built as many schools amongst us as the Congregationalists, and no other leading denomination has so few churches. The success of your school work makes the expansion of your church work imperative.

"There is a real breach between the old church and the new negro. Unless it be filled we shall reap a crop of black infidels. The best way to fill that breach is to multiply Congregational churches in the south. The young negro today is doing an immense amount of thinking. He is thinking on questions of religion. Unless the church can answer the deep questions he is pondering and propounding, he will turn away from it."

Address of Gladden.

In his annual address today President Gladden said:

"What a tremendous problem still is

this problem of the black race at the south. There have been times when it seemed to us that we were getting it pretty well out of our hands, but no such possibility is now in sight. It was never a more serious question than it is today.

"The men who are seeking to cooperate with the southern people in promoting the general cause of education at the south have undertaken a most patriotic service. Their efforts are not directed towards the education of the negro; it is the promotion of education in the whole country, irrespective of race, sex or creed to which they have pledged themselves. It is not merely an educational crusade of the north in the south; southern men are in the front of it; the north is rising in response to the call of the south, with the purpose of using its larger resources where they are needed most.

"Education prosecuted along these lines must result in a more intelligent and a kindlier public sentiment toward the negro, and in a better estimate of his rights and capabilities.

"This powerful movement toward the spread of education in the south must also create a tremendous demand for well trained teachers, and the burden thus thrown upon our colleges and secondary schools will be greatly increased.

Disfranchisement of Negroes.

"Those measures by which, in most of the southern states, the negro has been practically disfranchised, represent an ominous, but not permanent tendency. The disfranchisement of ignorance or of moral worthlessness is not to be deprecated, but the drawing of the line of political privilege between the ignorant white man and the ignorant black man is a wrong that cannot endure. It can only be justified by the deliberate purpose to reduce the race to a subject condition. The southern people are essentially a chivalrous people, and they can't build their citizenship on any measure of injustice to the weak. They must prevail because this is a Christian age and a Christian nation, and he who counts the poor and needy among his friends has come to reign and will reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet."