

PROGRESS OF THE NEGRO

THREE EARNEST WORKERS FOR
 THAT END ARE IN DETROIT.

MONEY IS NECESSARY TO CARRY
 ALONG THE GOOD WORK.

GEN. THOMAS J. MORGAN'S INTER-
 ESTING TALK YESTERDAY

On the Efforts of the Baptist Home
 Mission Society.

The work of the American Baptist Home Mission Society is being rehearsed in this city of a trio of able and experienced gentlemen who hope thus to arouse in the Baptist breast a renewed interest in the work, and a generous financial response for the aid of the workers.

One of these is Gen. Thomas J. Morgan, of New York, corresponding secretary of the society. Gen. Morgan was one of the first young white men to volunteer his services to lead colored troops in the war. The respect which he then learned to feel for the negro and the interest aroused in his behalf induced him to continue from 1865 to the present in the labor of studying his condition and character and the best means of alleviating the one and ele-



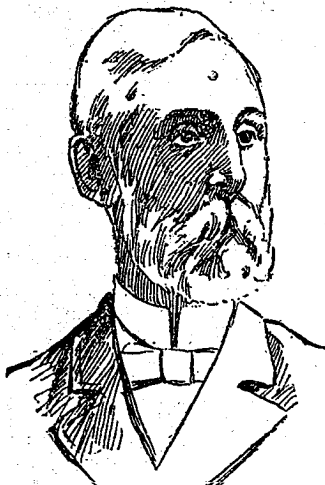
REV. N. B. RAIRDEN.

vating the other. Gen. Morgan's well-known reputation as a systematic worker in behalf of the oppressed of all classes induced President Harrison to appoint him Indian commissioner, a position to which he lent dignity and gave weight.

Another is Dr. L. H. Morehouse, of New York, field secretary of the association, the traveler who through his yearly personal association with the principals and teachers of the southern Baptist schools and colleges is probably in closer touch with and probably knows more intimately the southern negro character than any other northerner.

The third is the Rev. N. B. Rairden, of Omaha, Neb., a district secretary for the society, his territory comprising five states and territories. They are accompanied by the Rev. Dr. Woods, of Lincoln, Neb., secretary for the society in the north-west.

Yesterday morning Gen. Morgan addressed a numerous audience in the First Baptist church on the needs of the work, and in the evening he spoke in the Warren avenue Baptist church on similar lines. Mr. Rairden spoke in the morning at the Clinton avenue Baptist church and in the



REV. H. C. WOODS.

evening in the Eighteenth street Baptist church. Dr. Morehouse spoke in the morning at the Woodward avenue Baptist church, and in the evening at the Grand River avenue Baptist church.

Many of the northern states are being covered by these gentlemen on this trip. Money is necessary in large amounts and by a recitation in detail of the history of the work and its future prospects and aims it is hoped to arouse sufficient attention and interest on the part of the Baptist brethren through the north to bring forth a generous financial return when the request for it is formally presented.

The three first named came together in the Second Baptist church yesterday afternoon, and for nearly two hours entertained a large audience with the recital of their observations among the negroes of the south. Gen. Morgan was the first speaker. He said that the principles of negro freedom had been inculcated in him from the cradle. His grandfather had been a holder of slaves, but lost sympathy with his fellows on the question of slavery, sold his slaves and moved north. The son drummed the advantages of freedom into the grandson, and to-day he is one of the foremost workers in behalf of the freedmen. After thirty years of study of the southern negro he



GEN. T. J. MORGAN.

had come to the conclusion that the 8,000,000 American negroes will remain here to increase in numbers and importance; that they will more and more distribute themselves over the country and sustain their full part in working out the problem of mankind and his destiny.

"It was God's purpose that the negro should be implanted in this country," said the speaker, "though he set about it in a strange way. We all know of the disadvantages of slavery, but out of it God brought some good results. For one thing the negro, coming from a land of idleness,

had learned to work. He also had learned to speak the English language, which gave him the advantage over his African brother and over the Indian. He learned what Christianity is and to love it. He learned to love freedom; he longed for and prayed for the year of jubilee, which came to him at last.

"To the credit of the old slave-masters, he it said, they showed an abiding interest in the spiritual welfare of the negro. Many of the plantation owners in the south labored among their chattels, teaching them



REV. H. L. MOREHOUSE.

the truth of Christianity and implanting in their breasts a love of God and the good. Hundreds of thousands of negroes in the south, therefore, were Christianized before the war broke out.

"Then came the emancipation. God spoke out of the mouth of Abraham Lincoln, a man of large heart, large brain, great fortitude, a lover of the common people—a man fitted by his own worth and by his position in American history to take rank by the side of Moses. Then came the question of negro soldiery in the northern army fighting in the south. While it was thought by many a disgrace to allow them to fight, 200,000 took their places at the front, and by their magnificent record vindicated their manhood and won for themselves a prestige that has since been to them a distinct advantage. Following the war came the question of enfranchisement. It has been accomplished, not without much bitter opposition, and as the negro increases in knowledge so his vote becomes the more potent and valuable.

"Education is now the predominant question. There are many schools and colleges in the south given up to the training of the negro mind, and already are negroes of distinction as doctors, lawyers, ministers and business men taking their places among their white fellows.



REV. E. H. E. JAMESON.

It is but the last step in the scheme of God to make of the negro a man among men. God is also preparing for a great work in Africa, where hundreds of millions of negroes are groping about in the darkness of densest ignorance and savagery. These graduates of southern Baptist schools will go to Africa and try to reclaim their brothers to Christ, aided in their work by the sympathy of color."

Dr. Morehouse said that amazing progress had been made by the negro in this country since the close of the war. He quoted the state superintendent of Georgia, who said that their advancement in those thirty-three years had been unparalleled in the history of nations. Education and religion had made a new negro physically, intellectually and socially. Forty thousand of the southern negroes own their own homes, and of these but a small percentage are mortgaged. The negro comprises 12 per cent of the population of the country and he owns 11 per cent of the homes and farms of the country. The speaker held, generally speaking, that nobody, black or white, amounted to much in this world unless he knew how to work hard, and then he advised that the surest and quickest way for a young man to gain the respect of his fellows was to marry, settle down and begin to accumulate.

An encouraging sign in the southern negro character is his great eagerness to acquire education. To do this they will make much greater sacrifices than will the whites. The schools are all Christian and are building up character as well as training the mind. The negro has sense enough to perceive that there is always room for improvement, and as long as he is in this state of mind will he continue to progress. The man, black or white, who considers his education finished might just as well leave the world for his term here is also finished. In 1865 there were 4,000,000 negroes in the south; they have since increased 100 per cent in number. In 1865 there were in the south 400,000 colored Baptists; they now number 1,600,000, an increase of 300 per cent. In the Baptist church conventions in the south the white man has come to recognize the negro of education as his equal and to treat him accordingly. The speaker made an appeal for money to help carry on the good work, which he said costs the church \$150,000 a year.

Mr. Rairden closed the meeting with a few words about the negro in the Indian Territory and Oklahoma and his great progress in enlightenment and the esteem of the whites.