

Gaines, Wesley John, sixteenth bishop of the A. M. E. Church, was born a slave, in Wilkes County, Ga., October 4, 1840; received his theological training from an Episcopal clergyman, at Athens, Ga. Married Miss Julia A. Camper, August 30, 1863. He was licensed to preach in 1860; joined the A. M. E. Church in 1865; was ordained deacon in 1866, at Savannah, by



BISHOP W. J. GAINES.

Bishop Payne, and elder in 1867, by the same bishop. Served as pastor, presiding elder, missionary secretary, and was elected bishop May, 1888. He founded Morris Brown College; was builder of Big Bethel, Atlanta, at that time the largest colored church in the South. He is the author of "History of African Methodism in the South," "The Negro and the White Man." He had one daughter, Miss Mary C. Gaines. He died January, 1912, at Atlanta, Ga., where he is buried.

Golden, John W., pastor of Pearl Street A. M. E. Church, Jackson, Miss., son of Rev. Eli and Mrs. Cynthia Golden, was born in the early sixties. He was at birth very feeble and it is said that, to end his suffering, a physician gave him a dose calculated to take his life, but which, instead of killing him, cured him. His mother died when he was 12 years of age and he was reared by his grandmother, Mrs. Christine Roberts. His school advantages were meagre. He was converted in 1879 in Oil City, Pa., under the preaching of Rev. R. M. Green; entered the traveling ministry in 1886, was ordained deacon by Bishop Ward in 1886 at Meridian, Miss.; elder by Bishop Arnett at Friars Point, Miss.; served many charges in Mississippi and was appointed presiding elder by Bishop J. M. Conner, and in 1915 pastor at Jackson, Miss. He is considered one of the best preachers in the state of Mississippi.

Grant, Abraham, nineteenth bishop of the A. M. E. Church, was born a slave in Lake City, Fla., August 25, 1848; was sold at auction at Columbus, Ga., just before the close of the Civil War, and brought \$6000 in Confederate money. After the war he returned to Florida and clerked in a grocery store and studied in one of the missionary schools. Later he attended

night school at Cookman Institute, Jacksonville, Fla., while he acted as steward in hotels; was converted in 1869, in Jacksonville; was licensed to preach by Rev. J. R. Scott, April 3, 1873; ordained deacon December, 1873; ordained elder March 4, 1876. While in Jacksonville he was inspector of customs, and was appointed by Governor Stearns county commissioner of Duval County. In 1878 he was transferred to Texas, and pastored San Antonio and Dallas, served as presiding elder, and became vice-president of Paul Quinn College. He was elected bishop May 24, 1888, and served over the ninth, first, fourth and fifth Episcopal districts. He was always welcome wherever he had served. He served as president of the Trustee Board of Wilberforce, and of Western University; president



BISHOP A. GRANT.

of the Church Extension Board, president of the Publication Board, president of the Missionary Board and president of Financial Board. He visited West Africa and presided over the Sierra Leone Annual Conference. He was a member of the Anna T. Jeannes Fund Board; the second and third Ecumenical Conferences of Methodism, and died at Kansas City, Kans., where he then made his home, January, 1911.

Greene, Rev. C. A. A., was born in Barbados, British West Indies, of parents who were Christians and who early taught him the fear of God. He was well acquainted with letters before he went to school. He was converted on the way while on an errand. He attended public and other schools at times until he stood an examination at the high school of Lord Cumbermere in Bridgetown. He also learned carpentry, by which trade he was able to aid his parents when reverses came to them. He was confirmed by the Bishop of Barbados at St. Michaels Cathedral, and was a member of that church where he taught in the school. Hoping for better wages, he went to Bermuda where he met with the A. M. E. Church, joined the lyceum and became a teacher in the Sunday school. Here, also, he first met Bishop Turner, also Dr. James Porter, C. C. Dunlap, R. H. Shirley, H. H. Cooper, and J. A. Johnson (now bishop), and others in their turn. This latter's influence caused him to join the A. M. E. Church. The great-hearted Bishop Turner talked personally to him, sold him many books that had been