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THE REV. JOHN JASPER.

The Preacher Who Vows That the Sun Do Move,

A newspaper wag, writing to his journal a letter from the capital of Virginia about this colored divine, has the impudence to head his letter: "Richmond's Most Celebrated his letter: "Richmond's Most Celebrated Preacher." The worst of it is that this is

Rev. Jasper has a substantial church, all his own. It is in the heart of "Africa," as the northern part of Richmond is called. It is attractive looking, built of brick, is large enough to hold 500 persons, and is always filled. That is more than hundreds of white doctors of divinity, who preside over the richest of city congregations, can say of

Rev. Jasper's sheep are well dressed, too. They come of the cream of the Richmond colored society, which prides itself on its blood, the best blood of Old Virginny, sah! It is more than half right, too; at least it is just about half right; for the negroes of Richmond are half white, a very large num-ber of them; and not a few are cousins by not many removes to colonels, judges, congressmen, generals and even presidents that have been.

To people like these handsome, lazy quadroons, mulattoes and octoroons, Jasper preaches. His col-

ections are liberal, and there cannot be seen a ragged or untidy negro in the congregation. Their clothes, the women's, outvie the peacock for splendor of color and silkiness. The men strut in broadcloths and white vests, and white neck ties. There is really no reason why they should not be well dressed. These Richmond negroes go out to



service at watering places and seashore resorts during the season. They get high wages, and they are besides the most inveterate beggars in America. The half worn or even new, handsome garment, which they cannot beg away from the luckless watering place sojourner, the dollar or half dollar which they can't coax out of him, isn't worth having. They ought to be well dressed, bother

Jasper, himself, appears resplendent in fine black broadcloth, with gold shirt studs and a white necktie, and a watch chain. He is three-quarters black, and nearly 70 years old now. He is tolerably well informed in books, but uses the negro dialect persistently in his talk. This is a peculiarity of most negroes in the south. Many of them can read and write well—excellent English, in fact. But they associate only with their own race away from school Hearing only the negro dialect in crainary conversation, it is difficult to see how they can ever learn correct English under such conditions.

Jasper still adheres to his doctrine that the sun do move. He plants the statement on the Bible and stakes his last hope of salvation upon it. White persons, strangers in Richmond, frequently go to his church. It is one of the lions of the city. Among these of the lions of the city. stranger visitors some time since were Mr. and Mrs. Moncure D. Conway. "M. D. C." gives an amusing account of the sermon. The preacher was evidently flattered by the presence of his distinguished auditors, and yet was struggling not to appear so. He went out of his way to administer sounding whacks to learned people who do not be-lieve the word of God.

He never fails to do this, for among his own congregation are some black sheep, at least yellow sheep, who refuse to admit that "the sun do move." They say they only go to church "for style," like white folk, Says Jasper:

heah that is not heal for the love of God, but jes' to catch up somethin' to carry away and laff at."

The Secretary of the Pan Electric Tele phone Company.

The Pan Electric Telephone company in vestigation threatens to become as celebrated a case as the Credit Mobilier scandal. Our readers may not have followed the investiga-tion as it drags through the hands of a con-gressional committee. The facts, as far as outsiders can get at them, are these: There is a powerful organization called the Bell Tele phone company. It has the telephone business of the United States largely in its control. Opposed to it is the Pan Electric company, ostens bly at the head of which are Dr. J. Rogers and his son. Members of congress and even of the cabinet have stock in the Pan Electric company, and are accused of using the influence of their official position to forward the interests of the company. It is war to the knife between the Bell and the Pan Electric concerns, and they have lawsuits pending in the United States courts to determine the patent rights of each.



CASEY YOUNG.

Casey Young, of Memphis, Tenn., is the secretary of the Pan Electric company. He declared before the congressional committee that the Bell Telephone company controls the newspaper press of the nation and all congress, too. That, he says, is the reason why so many papers are hounding certain high officials so persistently and demanding their resignation. He says these journals are well paid for their services.

Casey Young is a shrewd, determined man. He is a lawyer and a Democrat and bas been a member of four congresses. He is not in at present, however.

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