

TALCOTT ST. CHURCH. CALLS NEW MINISTER

Rev. J. A. Wright of Haverhill, Mass., Coming June 1.

Rev. James A. Wright, pastor of the Zion Congregational Church of Haverhill, Mass., has accepted a call to become pastor of the Talcott Street Congregational Church and will begin his duties June 1. The Talcott street church is one of the oldest colored churches in New England and the oldest in Hartford, having been organized in 1826. Since the first of this year, Rev. D. D. Marsh of West Hartford has been in charge of the church, but the new pastor actually succeeds Rev. Robert W. Wheeler, who resigned on January 1 after thirty years' service. Mr. Wright was born in Baltimore, Md., and was educated in the public schools of that city, later preparing at Howard University for the Andover Theological Seminary and Harvard Divinity School, both at Cambridge, Mass. He was graduated from Harvard University the second in his class and received the degree of bachelor of sacred theology from Andover Seminary, June 15, 1914, and the degree of bachelor of science of theology from the Divinity School of Harvard on June 18, of the same year.

Mr. Wright began his work in Haverhill on February 1, 1913, while he was a student and since his association with the church began, twenty-two new members have been added and the church mortgage reduced to \$350. His life has been in Hartford before, having come to this city as a delegate from Andover to the Hartford Theological Seminary in 1912 at the conference of interested college men in the profession of the ministry. He was vice-president of the Harvard-Andover Divinity Club, being the first colored member over admitted to the club.

REV. R. F. WHEELER DEAD AT AGE OF 71

Death in Washington of Minister Who Had Hartford Pastorate Thirty Years.

The Rev. Robert F. Wheeler, pastor of the Talcott street Congregational church for thirty years, died in Washington, D. C., June 16, of cerebral hemorrhage. Illness compelled his retirement from active work January 1, 1913. He leaves his wife, two daughters, two sons and five grandchildren. The Rev. Mr. Wheeler was born in Mansfield, Ohio, December 9, 1850, a son of Hiram and Juliette (Miller) Wheeler. He was educated in Canada, and in private study at Chicago and Cleveland. He entered the school of theology at Howard university, Washington, in September, 1874, and was graduated in May, 1877. He began preaching at Lincoln mission, now Lincoln temple, Washington, in November, 1877. From September, 1876, to August, 1877, he was chaplain at Freedman's hospital in Washington. After his graduation, Mr. Wheeler was called to be pastor of the Nazarene Congregational church, Brooklyn, N. Y., and began his work there in September, 1877. He was ordained June 22, 1878, at the First Congregational church, Washington, D. C., of which he was a member. Mr. Wheeler was called to be pastor of the Talcott street Congregational church and commenced his services January 1, 1886. During his pastorate, taking the place of a wooden building, the Talcott street church, the Rev. Mr. Wheeler supplied at, Christ Congregational church, Orange, N. J., from December 1, 1916, to May, 1917, and then supplied at Nazarene Congregational church, Brooklyn, N. Y., until December, 1918. His wife was Mary C. Freese of Brooklyn, N. Y., before their marriage December 21, 1880.

His long service as a Hartford pastor made him of the senior clergymen and pastors here, while he continued with the Talcott street church. Said a leading clergymen, to day, "his rare worth and fine social qualities endeared him greatly to his ministerial associates and to the people of his church."

THE WEDDING OF THE

REV. DR. PENNINGTON

An Interesting Event Recalled by "Courant" Reader.

Mr. Bartlett's reminiscence in the "Sunday Courant" concerning Rev. Dr. Pennington, pastor of the Talcott Colored Church, brings to mind the wedding of this same divine, while the writer, when a child, had the pleasure of attending. It took place in the home of Edward Goodwin, one time editor as well as publisher of "The Connecticut Courant." He lived in a spacious old fashioned house, surrounded by large grounds and tall elms. Later the Allyn House and has been built upon that site. The bride had been for a considerable time a member of the household. Memory recalls Dr. Pennington with his shining black face, and Almira, the bride, lighter in color than the groom, tall slender and good looking in a brown silk gown standing before Dr. Hawes, who performed the ceremony in a most imposing manner. The circle of guests who were present added dignity and grace to the occasion.

There were many memories connected with the large south room in which the wedding was celebrated. In earlier times, when Mr. George Goodwin was publishing "The Courant," it was the custom for the minister who preached the sermon on the day of the election parade to be entertained with his substitute in that house; they were escorted in state, to the Center Church and when they returned held an informal reception for the minister of Connecticut. The sideboard was liberally supplied with 'lection cake and there were numerous bottles of brandy and wine, rum and gin for the refreshment of the ministers. The bottles were missing on the day of the wedding, but the wedding cake was pronounced very grand and was most excellent.

The Pennington afterwards went to England, where the reverend doctor received much attention. Mrs. Stowe speaks of the same in a note in one of her books and gives him most honorably mention.

Alice Howland Goodwin, Hartford, April 2, 1914.

Howard Univ. Honors Local Pianist Today

Washington, D. C., Institution to Give R. Augustus Lawson Honorary Doctor of Music Degree

R. Augustus Lawson, well-known Hartford pianist and teacher, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Music at the commencement exercises at Howard University, Washington, D. C., today. Other recipients of honors at the same time will be Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, and Dr. Robert R. Moton, of Tuskegee, who will receive the LL.D., and Miss Lucy Laney who will receive the M. A. degree. Mr. and Mrs. Lawson and their son, Warner, who is to sail Saturday for study abroad, before taking up professional work at Fisk University, left Hartford Wednesday for Washington.

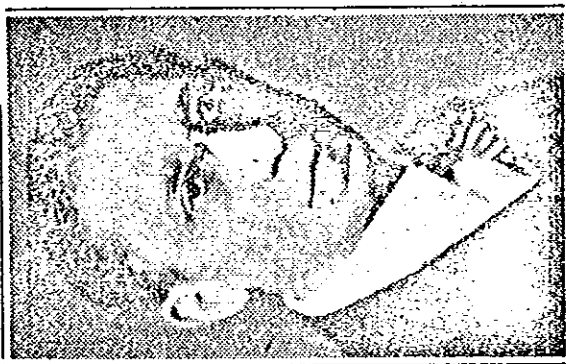
Mr. Lawson was born in Shelbyville, Ky., March 23, 1875, and attended the State College in Louisville and then went to Fisk University, where he was graduated from the Music Department in 1895 and received his B. A. in 1896—the first student to finish work in both departments of the University.

Obtains Scholarship Here.

He came to Hartford through the kind offices of George McOlellan, then a student at Hartford Theological Seminary, Mr. McOlellan having previously been instrumental in having him attend Fisk. Through Mrs. Charles Dudley Warner's interest in his playing Mr. Lawson obtained a scholarship in the Hartford School of Music for piano study with Edward Noyes, and after his four-year course the young pianist was presented in recital in Unity Hall under the auspices of the Mennon Club.

In 1911 Mr. Lawson went abroad and through the efforts of Ossip Gabrilowitsch had opportunity to play before the famous Leschetzky, who

Howard University
Honors Him Today



R. AUGUSTUS LAWSON.

said of his playing "Americans generally have technique, Mr. Lawson has poetry."

As soloist with the Hartford Philharmonic Orchestra in 1912 and again in 1919 Mr. Lawson did fine work and on two occasions he appeared in joint recital with Mrs. Warner—once for the benefit of the Polish Relief Fund and once for the French Relief. During the last 10 years Mrs. Warner's life, Mr. Lawson was heard at her Monday morning musicals.

Aside from his teaching in Hartford, Mr. Lawson has served as a volunteer organist and choirmaster at the Talcott Street Congregational Church for 27 years. His son, named for Mrs. Warner, was graduated in music and college courses at Fisk just 30 years after his father's graduation.

Nearly \$230,000 worth of sugar and related products were imported into the United States last year.