

REV. DANIEL W. HAYS.



Reverend Daniel W. Hays was born a slave in Davidson County, Tennessee. When about three years of age, his owner died, and in the settlement of the estate he was separated from his parents. Some time after the outbreak of the Civil War, while yet a small boy, he ran away from the plantation of his last owner, without making his intention known to anyone. By a clever ruse he succeeded in getting through the Federal picket line, eight miles distant from the starting point, and arrived safely in Nashville, the capital city. Here for a while he supported himself working in a barber shop, blacking boots, until, happily, the family was again brought together unfettered and free. He attended first a private school; then a school for Freedmen, and, lastly, the Central Tennessee College. For many years he has been a member of the Board of Trustees of this institution. After a year spent in teaching school, he was received into the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His pastoral appointments have included Murfreesboro, Nashville, Chattanooga and Knoxville, in Tennessee; Washington, D. C., and Baltimore, Maryland. In the latter city he had charge of the erection of Sharp Street Memorial Church, which cost seventy thousand dollars, and assisted substantially toward the liquidation of the debt. In Tennessee, he served two terms as Presiding Elder. He also founded and edited the *Chattanooga Enterprise*, the first colored journal published in the city. The paper had a large circulation and proved a potent factor in the uplift of those who came under its influence.

Since he became a member of the Washington Conference (1898), he has been Presiding Elder of the Alexandria District, and is now superintendent of Baltimore District. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Rust University. Twice he has been honored as leader of his delegation to the General Conference. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Freedmen's Aid Society during two quadrenniums, and served on the Education Commission, appointed by the General Conference, that established the University Senate, which has done much toward improving the educational system of the Church. He has been a frequent contributor to the religious and secular press, dealing in a forceful manner with current topics. Not long after joining the Itinerancy, he was united in marriage with Miss Idella Carney, who has ever since been his faithful helpmeet, sharing without stint his labors, his joys and his sorrows. Seven children have been reared by them—five boys and two girls; two are engaged in teaching and two are yet in school. Doctor Hays manifests a deep interest in all matters pertaining to the intellectual, moral and industrial welfare of the race. As a preacher and pastor, he has been uniformly acceptable, and enjoys in a high degree the confidence and esteem of the people to whom he is known, scattered over the territory embraced within the scope of his ministry.