

# THE MONITOR

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of the Eight Thousand Colored People in Omaha and Vicinity, and to the Good of the Community

The Rev. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

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## Democracy Taught to World by Negro Race

Jethro, the Ethiopian Father-in-Law of Moses, Originator of Popular Representative Government.

MOSES MARRIED COLORED WIFE

Sociologist Milholland Boldly States That American Republic Founded on Statecraft of Negro.

John E. Milholland of New York is visiting in San Francisco, Cal. and Pauline Jacobson, a special writer on the San Francisco Bulletin, secured a page interview with the noted sociologist, in which he sets forth his idea of the debt the white man owes to the Negro. He declared that disfranchisement of the Negro is ingratitude to a race which has done much for humanity, and that lynchings of blacks is indefensible in regions where whites control all the courts.

Mr. Milholland said that while looking up the evolution of representative government he had come upon the debt which the white man owes the Negro race for all that is worth while in a democracy. "It is not kings which threaten a democracy," said he, "but lackeys. I had seen two republics crushed out in the Boer war. I saw the spread of lackeyism both in this country and abroad. Were we fast losing that most priceless heritage—liberty? I found myself wondering who first said: 'Proclaim liberty throughout the land and unto all the inhabitants thereof.' I thought it was an utterance of Jefferson. I began to trace it to its beginnings. I found that I had to go back and back—back of Jefferson and Thomas Paine, though both of these men had elaborated the idea magnificently; back of Bunker Hill and Runnymede; of the Magna Charta of King John; of Hampton and Cromwell; of Mirabeau and Danton and Rousseau; of Aristotle and Plato and Pericles. Jefferson had written it, but he had cribbed it from here—Leviticus 25, v. 10:

"And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

But it was not Moses who first promulgated the idea of democracy. It was not Moses, the great lawgiver, the man of transcendent genius and accomplishment, who first imparted the secret of self-government, the antidote of tyranny. Moses knew little about it. He knew only the king business. He had been brought up at the court of the Pharaohs. What he had seen of human government was a remorseless despotism, the will of one man backed by the black magic of priestcraft and the brutality of military strength. He had probably never heard of any other form of government.



Haskell & Pullman's Famous Dog "Umpie"

## Now, Will You "MUF"?

Democracy Comes from Ethiopia.

"Who was it, then? Why, the Ethiopian priest of Milian, his own father-in-law, Jethro. In the imperious requirements of a local situation, Jethro saw the foundations of the American republic, and every effort toward democracy that the world has seen throughout the intervening years.

"Moses sat, as he had, perhaps, seen Pharaoh sit at Memphis, listening to the complaints of the families and the individuals that came to him with their grievances, petty or serious, and the tribes with their large questions of dispute. He listened with heroic patience, wasting his genius of statesmanship upon the petty misunderstandings of a household.

"He bore all this nerve-torturing, mind-narrowing process with characteristic meekness, knowing no other way, seeing no means by which he could escape the burden without becoming disloyal to his position as leader of the host.

"But where Moses could not see, Jethro had clear vision. 'What is this thing thou doest to the people?' Jethro asked one evening. 'Why sittest thou, thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?'

"Moses answers humbly, 'The people come unto me to inquire of God; when they have a matter they come unto me, and I judge between one and another, and I judge between a man and his fellow, to make known unto them the statutes of God and His

laws.' Such conscientious devotion to duty! Such simplicity of consecration! But it doesn't blind Jethro, the man of color, to the commonsense of the situation. He answers with almost brutal boldness:

"The thing that thou doest is not good. Thou wilt surely waste away, both thou and this people, for the thing is too heavy for thee. Thou art not able to perform it thyself alone."

Jethro Outlines Representative Government.

"'Harken thou unto me,' said old Jethro, 'and I wilt give thee counsel.' He proceeds now to tell Moses that he laws, and show them the way and laws, and show them the ways and wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do, but that all must be done through organization, through representative government.

"'Provide out of all the people able men,' says Jethro, 'able men!' There is your representative government! There is your delegated authority—Exodus 18, v. 21. And these shall be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds; rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.' Decentralize government immediately! Distribute your authority! There is the foundation of representative government. Do you get me?

Instead of one judge, 100 and 1,000 according to their ability and the requirements of the situation, and these will take care of the ordinary affairs

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## Colored Citizens Gain School Facilities

Taxpayers of Jacksonville, Fla., Carry Fight for School Funds to Court.

SECURE A FAVORABLE DECISION

Will Receive Appropriation of \$215,000, An Increase of \$100,000.

Jacksonville, Fla., Sept. 17.—The Negro school children of Jacksonville will be provided with additional facilities to the extent of three new graded school buildings and a new high school building, which is to be the equal in every way of the high school building for white children. This is the outcome of the fight made by Negro taxpayers to secure a large proportion of the funds accruing from the \$1,000,000 bond issue recently voted by Duval county for educational purposes.

The Board of Education appropriated for the Negro schools only \$115,000 of the million dollars voted, and this was to be used in improving the graded schools only, renovating some of the old buildings. No provision was made for a high school. Led by Capt. J. W. Floyd, one of the largest taxpayers, a movement was started and Attorney I. L. Purcell and other legal talent employed to secure an injunction.

Sale of Bonds Stopped.

Purcell argued the case before the court and was sustained in every contention. The court's decision tied up the sale of the bonds.

The Board of Education held a meeting and reconsidered its former action. Resolutions were passed providing for three additional graded schools at a cost of \$5,000 each, and a high school building on the present Stanton school site to cost \$85,000. Every facility will be provided and the equipment is to be identical with that of the high school for whites. Besides, three other of the schools for Negro children are to have added to the curriculum a domestic science course with special teacher for the same. There will, therefore, be appropriated for schools for Negroes in Jacksonville, \$215,000 instead of the intended \$115,000.

6 SPEAKS GERMAN TO GERMAN CONFERENCE.

St. Joseph, Mo., Sept. 7.—Thursday, September 2, the Rev. J. B. F. Shaw, president of the Meriden Institute, Meriden, Miss., appeared before the German Methodist Conference which was in session here, and delivered an address in interest of the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

He spoke in German and it was the first time in the history of the conference that it had heard an address in the German language by a Negro.