

THE MONITOR

A Weekly Newspaper devoted to the civic, social and religious interests of the Colored People of Omaha and vicinity, with the desire to contribute something to the general good and upbuilding of the community.

Published Every Saturday.

Entered as Second-Class Mail Matter July 2, 1915, at the Post-office at Omaha, Neb., under the act of March 3, 1879.

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor and Publisher.
Lucille Skaggs Edwards, William Garnett Haynes and Ellsworth W. Pryor, Associate Editors.
Joseph LaCour, Jr., Advertising and Circulation Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES, \$1.00 per year.

Advertising rates, 50 cents an inch per issue.

Address, The Monitor, 1119 North Twenty-first street, Omaha.

PREPAREDNESS.

It's in the air. It's the dominant thought of the day. And it pertains chiefly to military preparedness. Somehow men cannot rid themselves of the idea that some of the greater powers of the world have designs upon our country and that when we least expect it some foe may attack us. For such an emergency it is claimed we are wholly unprepared; and that therefore it is only the part of wisdom to enlarge the army and navy, strengthen coast defenses and expend millions on fortifications and ramparts.

We are not of those who fear attack from without. The foes that the nation should most fear are to be found within our own borders. They are greed, lawlessness, divorce, intemperance, extravagance, a growing caste system and class-antagonism. America, in our judgment, has more to fear from these insidious foes than from the heaviest siege guns, the strongest navies and the largest armies that can be turned against her. And while it is possible that we may have to engage in battle for home and country—which may God forbid—to us it seems improbable.

We should, however, bend all our energies to raise the moral tone of the nation so that the foes within may be subdued and expelled. This calls for the united effort of the best brain and brawn of the nation.

Can we but have a nation dominated by justice and righteousness—and wherein the humblest can feel that all his rights and privileges are secure, this will constitute the chief factor of our national preparedness for whatever the future may have in store.

With any large number of American citizens smarting under a sense of injustice, the mobilization of army corps, the assembling of fleets and the building of arsenals and forts will avail us little should foreign foe attack us. But with a happy, prosperous and contented, God-fearing people America is invincible.

WHERE TO LOOK FOR SOLDIERS.

Under the above caption the following letter, which furnishes food for thought, was recently published in the Army and Navy Journal:

San Antonio, Tex., Aug. 6.
To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

I trust it will not be considered presumptuous for a mere civilian to offer a suggestion concerning our plan for national defense; but as the son of an army officer and as the father of two others I have always taken a deep interest in military matters, and read the Journal every week with as much care as a "regular."

In devising the new plans for the mobile army and for an adequate reserve system I hope the war department will not overlook our Negro population.

The Negro is first, last and all the time an American (and from the looks of things we are going to need Americans). He loves the flag and has reason for his patriotism. As a soldier he has time and again proved his courage and fitness as a fighter.

In time of trouble out of the 12,000,000 Negroes in this country, an army of 1,000,000 men could be put in the field, and this force, made up of the descendants of ex-slaves, may yet be necessary to preserve the union.

It would be a strange thing, indeed, if these Negro-Americans (and they seem to me to be the only ones who can properly use the hyphen) should be able to repay their debt to the nation by aiding so materially in defending it.

HENRY TERRELL.

We have learned with regret of the death at Washington, D. C., where he went to attend the national encampment of the G. A. R., of Dr. S. K. Spaulding. Several years ago we were a near neighbor of Dr. Spaulding and a warm friendship sprang up between us. He was one of those high-class, broad-minded Christian gentlemen of the other race of whom there are far too few. To his wife and daughter we extend our sympathy.

The Burgess-Nash company is to be congratulated upon its welfare association, which it has established among its employes. It is a movement that could be adopted with advantage by other firms. We are in sympathy with all movements that make for the betterment of any class of our citizens, whatever their employment may be.

By way of reminder, we desire to state that you ought not wait until the snow begins to fly before laying in a good supply of black diamonds. In buying your coal get into communication with the coal dealers who advertise in The Monitor.

"MUF" means "Move Up Front" when you board a street car.

Safe to Try.

A friend of Nat Goodwin's was staying with the actor at his home in California, in the hope of obtaining relief from chronic dyspepsia. One day he was taking a walk along the beach with his host.

"I have derived relief from drinking one glass of salt-water from the tide," said the invalid solemnly. "Do you think I might take a second?"

Goodwin reflected deeply. "Well," he replied, with equal seriousness, "I don't think a second would be missed." —Osteopathic Magazine.

Letters From Our Readers

JUST A MINUTE, FR. WILLIAMS.

Omaha, Neb., Sept. 25, 1915.

Editor The Monitor:

I have read Father Williams' letter in today's Monitor and he is wrong. Evidently he has been reading Ridpath, who is more wrong than he.

The terms Negroid, Negroloid, Negritic, Hamitic, African, and many more have been used to squeeze by the term "Negro," but I am going to stay right home with that term and prove that the "queer expositor" wins hands down.

As to the Ethiopians, the Grecians named them that, meaning "the dusky faced ones," and no historian, except Ridpath, ever had the nerve to call them Caucasians. There are too many Ethiopians walking around loose nowadays to raise a question as to their ethnic relations.

Let us take the Egyptians. Here is what William Flinders Petrie, the greatest archeologist who ever lived, says: "It is certain anatomically that there is much Negro blood in the oldest Egyptians." Once more. The Anthropological Society of Berlin sent Dr. Rudolph Virchow to Egypt to bring home evidence that the Egyptians had no Negro blood. Imagine their joy when the eminent scientist delivered his home-coming address with this introduction:

"I thought I could find, by comparative examination of the living and the remains and pictures of the dead, some points establishing the change of ancient Egyptians into the Egyptians of modern times, but I have returned with the conviction that ancient Egypt and its neighboring countries have not essentially changed during all these periods. If Menes really existed, then they were in his time Negroes, since quite old mural paintings show Negroes with all their peculiarities."

As to Semitism, how is this? Frederick Ratzel, in his "History of Mankind," says: "What further contributes to make the Negro physiognomy less strange and bring it nearer to our wonted conceptions, is that in many of its manifestations an approach to the Semitic type unmistakably emerges, such as one may often call Jewish in character. There is some foundation for the view that in the Semitic type of the Jew, the Arab, the Syrian, and so on, there is also an underlying mulatto type. There is a germ of truth in it." Whew!

Here is an official description of the sarcophagus of Esmunazar II., King of Sidon, who reigned in the country of Jethro: "The features are Egyptian, with large full almond-shaped eyes, the nose flattened and the lips remarkably thick and after the Negro mold."

Did you ever see a white man look like that, Father Williams? If so, he was a Negro with leucoderma.

Please read Shakespeare again. Iago calls Othello "a black ram," and several other naughty names. And the Moor in "The Merchant of Venice" orates:

"Mislike me not for my complexion, The shadow'd livery of the burnished sun."

And the young suitor becomes so excited that he asks Miss Portia to bring him

"The fairest creature northward born,

Where Phoebus' rays scarce thaw the icicles,
And let us make incision for your love,
To prove whose blood is reddest, his or mine."

Some challenge, that.

Now the Moors were largely Negroes converted to Islam by Mohammed. The latter was of the Southern Arabians, the Abbasids, a black people, of the House of Hashim and the Tribe of Qayrsh, which house and tribe trace their origin back to the union of Ishmael with a daughter of Yemen, a Negro tribe.

Space forbids further discussion, but I have much more of this sort of evidence and the authorities quoted. But of all things, don't feel sorry for us. Hope on. We are doing tolerably well, and we are so vain as to be proud of it. Peoples, like the ocean tides, rise and fall, and our tide is rising and not falling.

GEORGE WELLS PARKER.

Timekeeper (arranging starts for golf tournament)—Name, please.
Golfer—M. de Valmont.

Timekeeper—Tuts, mon, we canna bother oorsel's wi' names like that here; ye'll start at nine-thirty the morn's mornin' to the name o' McPherson.—The Sketch.

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