

# 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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## Chicago Women Reply to Prof. Kelly Miller

Members of the Frederick Douglas Social Center Disapprove of His Views on Suffrage.

### WOMAN'S CAUSE IMPORTANT

Arguments Advanced Against It Neither New Nor Weighty. Same Used by All Advocates of Special Privileges.

Chicago, Ill., Nov. 26.—Recent utterances by Kelly Miller of Howard university in opposition to woman suffrage have not met the approval of the members of the Frederick Douglas Center, 3032 Wabash avenue, an organization formed "to promote a just and amicable relation between the white and colored people."

A committee from the center, composed of Celia Parker Wooley, head resident; Addie Robinson and Georgiana Whyte, has addressed an open letter to Prof. Miller, which is as follows:

Dear Professor.

The undersigned, appointed to address you in this manner by the Douglas Center Woman's club, wish to express their deep appreciation of your past services, not only in the educational field, but as an able and, hitherto, impartial advocate of human rights and of a growing democracy which draws no lines of race or sex or creed. It is because these feelings have been so strong that we are the more surprised and pained over your recent statement on woman suffrage. Up to this time we have followed your course without hesitation. We have listened to your eloquent appeals from the platform, have read your masterly essays in behalf of larger opportunity, as we believed, for every restricted class. Now we are filled with a deep sense of loss and mental confusion over what seems to us a grave moral defection.

We feel it hopeless to try to answer arguments like yours against woman's right to the ballot, which, begging your pardon, are neither new nor weighty. They are of the same nature as those which holders of special privilege always use in defense of class rights, the same as certain women suffragists use against the Negro's political and social advancement.

The cause of liberty is as wide as the earth's area. The friends of freedom must learn to walk abreast. When the attempt is made to turn one group against another, seeking the same goal, to exclude others from rights and privileges we ourselves have attained, the spectacle is a sorry one.

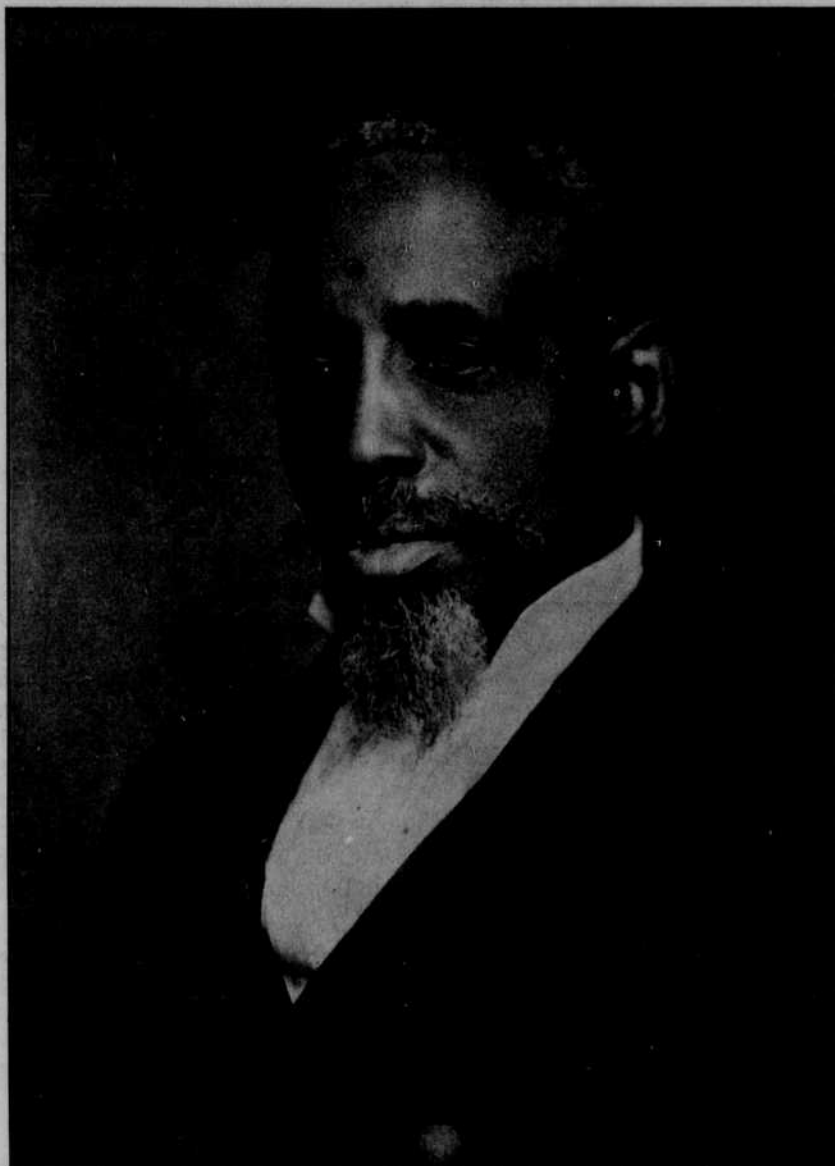
The woman's cause is as large and important as the man's, as the black man's, as the laboring man's. Sex has as little significance as race in just minds and in the distribution of

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## Thoughts From Our Own Authors

"The highest function of a great name is to serve as an example and as a perpetual source of inspiration to the young who are to come after him. By the subtle law known as 'consciousness of kind,' a commanding personality incites the sharpest stimulus and exerts the deepest intensity of influence among the group from which he springs."

KELLY MILLER.



JOSEPH CARR, LL. B.,  
Attorney and Well-Informed Student of History.

## Booker Talliaferro Washington

(Editorial in New York Age.)

Booker T. Washington is dead! The man who for nearly a quarter of a century stood before the world as the foremost representative of the Negro race, is no more. His death comes as a shock, for he had just reached the age when his powers for service to his race and to the nation were at their fullest development.

And yet, how much more fortunate he was than most men who have undertaken great things; he lived to see his dream come true. Perhaps, the fulfillment even exceeded his great dream, for with all of his optimism, with all of his faith—how, when he first looked over those bare, red hills of Alabama, could his vision have reached beyond the Tuskegee which crowns them today.

His life reads like a story from wonderland. It is as marvelous as a tale from the Arabian Nights. Born a slave, he was at Emancipation a mere ragged, penniless bit of humanity; but he lived to make himself the honored friend of rulers. He was born without a right to a name, but today there is, perhaps, only one other great living American whose name is so widely known throughout the world. He was born in the south when its laws placed him on a level scarcely above the cattle of the fields, yet he became the most illustrious citizen that the South has given to the nation since the Civil war. But more wonderful than the fame which he achieved

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## Whites Not Negroes Are Responsible

Conditions depicted in Photo Drama a Serious Reflection Upon Dominant Race.

THE OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

Frankly and Fearlessly States Unpopular Truths in Noteworthy Editorial.

In its issue of Saturday, November 20, the Omaha World-Herald, of which the Hon. Gilbert M. Hitchcock, democratic United States senator from Nebraska, is owner, published the following unique and remarkably frank editorial:

That stupendous photo play, "The Birth of a Nation," is now showing in Omaha, and in Omaha as elsewhere industrious and respectable Negroes are moved to protest against its presentation because they believe it operates to create prejudice against their race. In one sense they are right. The play does tend to create a prejudice against the Negro of the time and place with which it deals. Just in the same way does "Uncle Tom's Cabin" tend to arouse feeling against the whites of the ante-bellum South. Neither, it should be unnecessary to remark, is a strictly accurate and truthful and impartial record of that lamentable portion of American history with which it concerns itself. Even the most carefully and scientifically prepared history is replete with errors and unfairness, conscious and unconscious on the part of the writer, of both commission and omission. Quite naturally a novel, such as "The Clansman," on which the play is based—a novel written from a violently biased viewpoint, must contain the same defects multiplied a thousand fold.

Station a dozen of Omaha's best trained and most experienced citizens at Sixteenth and Farnam streets for an hour. Require them, on their departure, to write down fully and truthfully everything that they observed at that tiny pin-point on the map of Omaha—itsself a pin-point on the map of the republic—within that little bit of time. You will have a dozen different reports, no two in exact agreement, some of them differing radically. What, then, can be expected of the written history of a continent, of a race? And how much less is to be expected of a dramatic plea such as "The Birth of a Nation!"

But there is another angle from which to consider this truly remarkable production. It shows us a certain element of the Negro population of the south after several generations of slavery. It shows us Negroes who had had no voice or share in the shaping of their own destinies, in the control of their own lives and activities. It shows us the Negro with no

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