

THE MONITOR

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

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WHO IS THE TROUBLE MAKER?

MAJOR GENERAL BALLOU, commanding the Ninety-second Division, has issued an order which is intended to avoid the raising of racial animosities. He counsels the Colored officers of his command to avoid frequenting places where their presence will be resented that so by their forbearance and temporary waiving of their legal rights they may set an example in this respect to the enlisted men.

That General Ballou has the best interests of his men at heart no one will question. That the advice given will be generally followed goes without saying, because it suggests and indicates the line of conduct generally pursued by all self-respecting people and Colored people are not wanting in self respect. And yet, at the same time it must not be forgotten that there are times and circumstances which make it necessary in maintaining one's self-respect to insist upon one's legal rights, else those legal rights will not only be denied and restricted, but withdrawn.

The very war in which we are engaged is illustrative of this principle. The United States was patient and forbearing to the limit. German arrogance and the invasion of our national rights and liberties were most charitably overlooked. We were "too proud to fight." Too proud, if you please, to go where our "presence" would "be resented." This magnanimity was not appreciated. Every concession was met by some new invasion, some new violation of our legal rights as a nation, until it issued in the insolent demand that American ships, even though upon their lawful errands, be kept off of the high seas within a given zone or they would be sunk without warning.

To maintain our self-respect it then became necessary to insist upon our legal rights. The pen gave place to the sword. And so we are in this war to maintain our legal rights. We have been compelled to meet force with force. The principle is identical, and it matters not one whit whether that force be physical or legal. And as it is with the nation so it is with the individual. The individual who is "too proud to fight," finding his magnanimity and forbearance interpreted as cowardice and an invitation for further indignities and encroachments, must, if he would maintain his self-respect, fight for his rights.

Suspicion is not wanting upon the part of many that nationally and internationally mankind would have been a great deal better off if America had called the kaiser's hand when in violation of the rights of humanity he sunk the Lusitania.

Our purpose now, however, is simply to draw an obvious parallel, and to show that those who claim that the Colored American will secure his legal rights without ever contending for them misinterpret and misread the selfishness of human nature.

But to return to General Ballou's order and advice.
Under the exigencies of the time and the necessity laid upon us by America's crude conception of democracy, we believe that his advice indicates the wisest plan and really blazes the speediest pathway towards the attainment of all those rights and privileges and responsibilities which justly belong to us as American citizens. Only let it be distinctly understood that when occasion require we will fight for those rights. We agree in the main with his advice and believe it to be sound and applicable alike to civilians and soldiers.

There is, however, one unfortunate statement in General Ballou's order with which we most respectfully join issue. It is this: "The success of the division, with all that success implies, is dependent upon the goodwill of the public. That public is nine-tenths white. White men made the division and they can break it just as easily, if it becomes a trouble-maker."

This statement impresses us as unfortunate and regrettable. It implies that the success of the division depends not upon the fact that the men themselves show the ability to make good, but upon the goodwill of the public, "nine-tenths white." In other words, are we to understand that no matter how able are the commanding officers or how skillfully they handle their men and weld them into an efficient force, that their success or efficiency depends not upon officers or men, but "upon the goodwill of the public, nine-tenths white"?

Certainly this is a most remarkable concession to the public.

Moreover the statement is unfortunate because there seems to be a thinly-veiled threat in the words, "White men made the division and they can break it just as easily if it becomes a trouble-maker." The efficacy of threats in moving men to do their duty is questionable. They are certainly not needed in the case of our people and will only evoke resentment; and resentment and bitterness must be avoided. Nor must it be forgotten that Colored men as well as white men, through their representatives in congress, had a voice in making not only the Ninety-second Division, but all the military forces of the United States now engaged in a death grapple with a formidable foe which would ruthlessly trample underfoot the legal rights of nations. The individual, be he black or white, who contends for his legal rights is not the "trouble-maker," but he who denies those rights. Is America or Germany the "trouble-maker"? The individual who contends for his legal rights and protects his legal rights against their invasion and denial is justified by America's just and righteous position in this war. The principle is the same of legal rights, not the defender thereof.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THE Amsterdam News of New York City editorially calls attention to the fact that there is a vast deal of ignorance in Harlem! Harlem, New York! Think of it! This is not only true of the newcomers from the Southland, who have been deprived of opportunities of learning, but also of those who have neglected to make use of the privileges at hand. It pleads for a more general use of the opportunities offered by libraries, night and vocational schools, debating clubs and literary societies. And then it drives home much-needed information in the following well-chosen words:

"And those guilty of neglect of opportunities, and so lax in their duties to themselves and the race, are not the illiterate alone, but many who are educated and in a position to wield great influence over their fellows, but do not do so because of their unthinking selfishness and criminal disinterestedness. They forget the case of the man who was not his brother's keeper! They forget that the strong should help the weak, that the advanced must aid the backward, that the race, in spite of its highly educated members, is judged by what the white man sees of the large ignorant masses. They ignore the fact that there can be no true advance without universal education and united effort."

It is very necessary that truths of this kind should be proclaimed in every community, because there are so many who could and should be doing something for social uplift and betterment, who are idlers and parasites, moth-eaten to bareness, by their own selfishness and self-sufficiency.

We would emphasize and pass on all that The Amsterdam News says in its timely editorial not applicable to New York City alone, but to every large center where our people are found. Here is the closing appeal, mark it well:

"It is up to you, educated men and women, to be big brothers and sisters to the illiterate members of the race. And don't, please, be patronizing. Be earnest and interested! Prod the dormant ambition, arouse the yearning for learning. Advance your own and the race's interest by spreading the light and knowledge among the benighted of the race. Start them reading, studying. Set them thinking, planning, struggling, onward-forging."

Seriously, what are you doing with what you have received? Get outside of your little shrivelling-up self and become interested in some kind of helpful service to your fellow men.

KINDNESS AND COURTESY

KINDNESS and courtesy are marks of the true gentleman and gentlewoman. One may be born in the humblest conditions, which is true of the majority of people all over the world, and yet be more nobly born than they who "dwell in kings' houses." Unfailing marks of nobility and gentility are courtesy and kindness. There is a vast truth in the well-known aphorism, "Manners make the MAN; the want of it the FELLOW." Good manners manifest themselves chiefly in courtesy and kindness.

Some people seem to think that being courteous is a mark of servility. No one could make a greater mistake. It is an indication of superiority which any one might covet. We covet for all our people the best gifts of mind and heart and will, of things spiritual and things temporal, but one of the gifts we covet most and urge our readers to acquire and cultivate is the gift of courtesy, and with that, of course, go kindness, consideration and helpfulness of others.

We should all strive to be courteous at all times and in all places, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. Courtesy and kindness have a compelling force that is irresistible. If you have not yet acquired these virtues—for that is what they really are—acquire and cultivate them.

A GREAT PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY

A GREAT many of our race have come and are coming to us from the Southland. Many of them have been deprived of privileges and advantages which we have enjoyed, and of which, be it said to our shame, we have not all made the best use. Our ways may be strange to them, as theirs are to us. They are coming among strangers. It is our duty to give them cordial and hearty welcome and make them feel at home. It is our duty to help them adjust themselves to their new surroundings; to help them fit into and avail themselves of those larger opportunities for self-development that we enjoy and of which they have been deprived.

Some splendid people are coming to our city from the South. No one but a snob or an ignoramus will poke fun at them, or do aught but to help them in every way he can. These people are not seeking charity, but work, and they are finding it; better educational advantages for their children, and they are finding these. Let them find among us of the west warm and loving hearts and a welcoming hand.

Their coming brings to us, if we will only use it, not only a great responsibility but a great privilege of service to our people and nation.

"PASSING OF THE GREAT RACE" REVISED

ABOUT a year ago The Monitor took occasion to call to the notice of its readers Madison Grant's startling book, "The Passing of the Great Race." A new edition of this work has appeared and has been so thoroughly revised that it is almost entirely a new book. Indeed, Mr. Grant has added many new statements that have elicited and will continue to elicit much severe criticism. He seems to hold that the day of the white race is over and that it will only be a matter of time when it will become a memory. He says: "There is no melting pot, or if there is its operation is so slow, stretching over thousands of years to effect the smallest fusion, that man cannot take it into his calculations at all. Therefore those who look cheerfully to see America effect a blending of racial strains are simply deluding themselves. One race either displaces another, contrives to live side by side with it or is swallowed up by it. The people of India speak an ancient white man's tongue, but not a distinguishable drop of his blood is left to show their Nordic conqueror. Always in a fusion of races the inferior race triumphs."

"In America," says the author, "we must prepare to see the West Indies the coast region of our gulf states perhaps also the black belt of the lower Mississippi valley, abandoned to Negroes. The white men in India, the East Indies, the Philippines and China will not leave the slightest trace behind them in the blood of the native populations."

The book is well worth reading, and while it is filled with many erroneous conclusions as to racial values and racial contributions, it contains enough that is worthy of careful study and thought.

KEEP FAITH WITH OUR FRIENDS

ALL great newspapers are built upon faith, and this same element of faith enters into every department that has anything to do with the realization of a hoped-for greatness. Firms advertise because they have faith that a newspaper will bring them business and their advertisements are accepted in the faith that the host of subscribers are loyal enough to their paper to have faith in its advertisers. The Monitor is particularly favored with high-class advertising. Only the best firms are solicited in The Monitor and when its readers see an advertisement in The Monitor they may rest assured that the firm advertising has built its business by keeping faith with its customers. Omaha is a rapidly growing city and the Colored population is making strides in proportion. They cannot keep the faith better with themselves and their race than by patronizing those firms who solicit their trade. Let our constant watchword be: **KEEP FAITH WITH THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH IN US!**

SKITS OF SOLOMON

Instinct

INSTINCT is another of those mysterious shanties inhabiting the frames of human prunes and concerning which more has been written than will be read for many million years to come. No one knows just what instinct is, and that is the main reason why so much is written about it. If all the books written about things we know nothing about were taken out of the world, the rest could be tucked away in your right eye. But ambling back to the subject of instinct, when a chicken tumbles out of a shell and immediately starts pecking around for corn and other chick feed instinct is proven. It is also instinct for a son of Ham to keep an eye on said chicken until it has developed into pullet size. A baby is the only animal that isn't strong on instinct until it tops the first or second year. Then it starts in on instinct with a vengeance. It samples everything from dirt to stove-pokers to test food value, thereby imitating its prehistoric ancestors, who had such a hard time developing a menu that could be digested painlessly. Baby also pulls kitty's tail to find where the screech comes from; sticks its hands into the fire to find out the cause of its beauty, and splashes coffee over mamma's dress to see if it cannot make the design prettier. All this is instinct teaching the kid to get wise to the wicked world it has splashed into without its consent. When baby grows up it sheds instinct and takes on heredity. This is something else nobody knows anything about, but about which big beans constantly create much chatter.

This concludes our lecture on instinct and if we have given you any inside dope on the subject please tell us what it is.

COLORED MEN HELP, TOO

The Monitor is proud to be able to call the attention of its thousands of readers to the fact that the Colored business and professional men of Omaha have paid for and contributed a full page of the Third Liberty Loan advertisement to this paper. These advertisements are prepared by the Liberty Loan Committee and the newspapers are charged with the task of soliciting merchants and business men to pay for the insertion of these advertisements in their columns. Of course, such advertising boosts the sale of Liberty bonds and also helps the newspapers which are cheerfully publishing free as their bit a great deal of government information for the people.

Our own business and professional men have thus cheerfully shown their willingness to do their bit in paying for the Liberty loan advertising and also to help support The Monitor. It is noteworthy that these gentlemen have themselves subscribed for Liberty bonds.

The regimental band, Dan Desdunes, leader, has also, as will be noted, paid for a Liberty loan advertisement.

Gentlemen, The Monitor not only thanks you for the spirit manifested but is proud of you.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, Management, Circulation, Etc., Required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912.
Of The Monitor, published weekly at Omaha, Neb., for April 1, 1918.
State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss.
Before me, a notary public in and for the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared Rev. John Albert Williams, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of The Monitor and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge, a true statement of the ownership and management of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912, embodied in Section 445, Postal Laws and Regulations, to-wit:

That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor and business managers are:
Publisher—Rev. John Albert Williams, 1119 North Twenty-first street, Omaha, Neb.
Editor—Rev. John Albert Williams, 1119 North Twenty-first street, Omaha, Neb.
Managing Editor—Rev. John Albert Williams, 1119 North Twenty-first street, Omaha, Neb.
Business Manager—Bert Patrick.
That the owner is Rev. John Albert Williams. That the known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are none.
REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of April, 1918.
(Seal) GUY B. ROBBINS, Notary Public.
(My commission expires June 18, 1920.)

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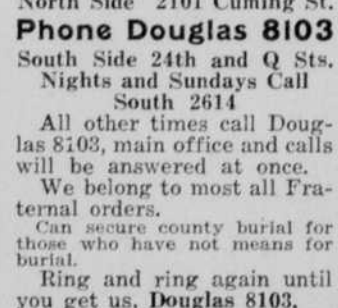
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