

THE MONITOR

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THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor and Publisher.
Lucille Skaggs Edwards and Madree Penn, Associate Editors.
Fred C. Williams, Business Manager.

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THE SIN OF SILENCE

To sin by silence when we should protest makes cowards out of men. The human race has climbed on protest. Had no voice been raised against injustice, ignorance and lust, the inquisition yet would serve the law, and guillotines decide our least disputes. The few who dare must speak and speak again to right the wrongs of many.—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

FOURTH of July is here. America is celebrating her independence as a nation. It might be well to remember that the first blood shed in the Revolutionary war was that of the black, Crispus Attucks, who died on Boston Commons to secure a democracy on the western hemisphere. In every crisis of our national life black men have bled and died to perpetuate the principles of freedom.

The war in Europe is over; Germany, forced it is true, has signed the peace terms, and this was made possible by black valor as well as any other.

That will be a wonderful day when America is finally free of the thrall of race prejudice and proscription. What an Independence day that will be when true democracy comes into her own! It is not rank sentimentality for which 14,000,000 black Americans are asking, but for justice and fair play and the constitutional privilege of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

FACTS ABOUT JUDGE HARRISON

JUDGE HARRISON was born and reared in Clay county, Mississippi. He worked his way through school, graduated from the classical course of Roger Williams university, Nashville, Tenn., from the law school of Walden university, posted in higher mathematics at Chicago university, was elected special judge of the superior court of Oklahoma county, Oklahoma.

He practiced before the supreme court of the United States, Livingstone college, Salisbury, N. C., conferred upon the judge the degree of L. L. D. The judge is called upon from New England, where education, culture and scholarship abound to the everglades of Florida and the golden gate of California to deliver addresses. We are writing these facts about the distinguished visitor who has just left our city because there is inspiration and incentive for our youth from knowledge and contact with men who are leaving their impress upon the times in which they live.

WHERE CHARACTER COUNTS

PERHAPS there is no professional man more maligned or less understood than is the undertaker. As a public servant the public expects certain things of him. He is the man who enters into the homes when the shadows lie thickest and grief abounds. That he should be courteous and honest and conduct himself with sympathetic bearing is of prime importance, for it is no light thing to be thus given access to homes where the family must turn to him as counsellor and friend. Death is not such a pleasant thing, but when one stops to think that 90 persons die every minute the public should be grateful to this class of business and professional men, especially, when they render to it, efficient and honest service.

THE THIRD PARTY

ROURKE Park was the scene of disturbance on last Sunday. From all accounts all that might have been disastrous in the affair grew out of the interference of that third party who is always "persona non grata." Marshall merited the fine he received for interference in a quarrel between two other men. This recalls to our attention the case of the dog-catcher, Jackson, who, the Monitor thinks, justly defended himself against the attack of the meddling third party.

LITTLE Woody Wilson aint nearly as popular in France since he has been there as he was before he went. "The more I see of some folks the better I like my dog."

The glory of a good man is the testimony of a good conscience.—Thomas a-Kempis.

PERSISTENT INCONSISTENCIES

WASHINGTON has a gay time honoring Brazilians; dinners and receptions galore and a party that will long be remembered in the beautiful Pan-American building, as the capital entertains the president-elect of Brazil, Don Epitacio Pessoa, Mme Pessoa and Miss Pessoa and their rather large suite.

The above is a news item from one of the leading dailies of America. When reading it the thought of the United States attitude toward her own men of color flashed into our mind as we remembered some of the well-known facts about Brazil and Brazilians. We shall recall a few of them for the benefit of our readers.

Brazil consists of 20 states and two territories; it covers an area larger than the United States and has a population of over 15 million people.

The Brazilian or Brasileiro, as he calls himself, is a most interesting study. It too centuries of racial intermingling to produce him. In his veins runs the blood of some of the most enterprising of Europe's early explorers and pioneers Portuguese especially, the blood of the fierce indigenous Indian, and the captive Africans who brought them into their captivity the heritage of African kings and chieftains—all tribes were here, especially the remarkable Amazons. This is the ancestry of the typical Brazilian and the typical Brazilian had he been born in the United States would be known as a man of color, and be subjected to all the proscriptions that this designation entails.

The historians Fletcher and Kidder have this to say:

"There are no social hindrances in Brazil as in the United States, to keep down a man of merit. Such hindrances do exist in our country. The Anglo-Saxon race on this point differs essentially from the Latin nations. The former may be moved to generous pity for the Negro, but will not yield socially, the latter both in Europe and the two Americas have always placed merit before color."

From this extract as well as a study of Brazilian history we find that Brazil never has had a color line with a popular prejudice against intermixture, instead the typical Brazilian is a swarthy gentleman the result of unrestricted intermixture of European, Indian and African blood.

In individual Brazilians either of these three races may predominate. Among the distinguished Brazilians we find as many in whom the African characteristics predominate as we do those of whom either of the other races predominate. Indeed the first sculptor was a full-blooded Negro.

Strange phenomena! For once the United States did not take a blood test before it dined and entertained distinguished visitors, Shades of Tillman, it is to laugh!

THE CLEVELAND CONFERENCE

OUR delegates to the Cleveland conference will soon be in Omaha. We shall save the discussion of this most wonderful gathering for them. Watch the Monitor for their impressions.

JAZZ, the popular rage in music owes most of its stimulation to the late Jim Europe and his famous band who introduced his honor "Jazz" to Paris and the world. Jazz seems out of the attainment of white musicians who can only grow green with envy as they watch the Colored bands of America supplant them in the places of amusement. At Luna, Coney Island, they say that symphony orchestras have been supplanted. In the middle of the beautiful and expensive ballroom a dais of Louis the quince period has been built, mounted on this dusky kings of music jazz while the merry devotees whirl around the throne of Jazzerion.

When you don't receive your Monitor please drop us a card.

PRESS GLEANINGS

Under the title, "Doughboys Dislike France," June 18, 1919, Mr. Deets Pickett, research secretary of the board of temperance, prohibition and public morals of the M. E. church, just returned from overseas, seems to be sponsor for the impression that the French people are dishonest, guilty of hypocrisy, immoral, ungrateful to the United States, always drunk, and that French women associate with Colored men.

That last is a delicate question and may be the cause of the other charges. We are not to take that behavior too seriously, for it is novel and transient. It may be that these women are investigating at first hand these seldom seen specimens of black humanity that they have heard so much unfavorable comment upon. For it might be inconceivable to them that such valor and optimistic intrepidity could be clothed in black lividity.

It was this immoral people who cried: "Ils ne passeront pas," and the dread and most efficient war machine devised by man was turned back from the Marne. If a people that are never sober and pickled in drink could produce but one Clemenceau, one Divine Savah, one Foch, their frailties might be observed with charity. No branch of the Caucasian race has a monopoly on hypocrisy. But hypocrisy is relative. The French may be disappointed that the doughboys came to their aid shouting: "Make the world safe for democracy!" and balked at what they considered an equitable reparation for their suffering, and we must admit that, drunk or sober, they have suffered.

Was it not the ancestors of this dishonest people that gave us the word and notion of chivalry? Do we forget that these ancestors fused their blood with the Saxon strains and gave England that impetus that has resulted in her present commanding position? They started and sustained the crusades, with all their attendant advantageous results to Western Europe. From them the seeds of political freedom were wafted over Europe, even touched our shores and inspired our own Jefferson. It was the ancestors of this ungrateful people that bankrupted their own government that our own republic might be established. The generous Lafayette offered his sword and purse to Washington, and when success was achieved and the war was ended, Lafayette's countrymen returned home without pay, without territory, without unsolicited, unwelcome and enforced suggestions as to what course the young republic should pursue. She was left with a free and untrammelled hand to work out the glorious destiny she has attained.

It was for these reasons that some one put into the mouth of General Pershing, as he gazed at the gallant Frenchman's tomb:

"Lafayette, we are here."—William F. Dawley, Jr., in the Kansas City Post.

To the Editor of Public Ledger:

Sir—It is a mistake to think of America as a democratic country. Lowell defined democracy as that form of society, no matter what its name, where every man had a chance and knew that he had it. It cannot be denied that the only grave inconsistency in our democratic ideals is the treatment accorded the racial group that happens to have a dark skin. Abraham Lincoln pointed out this inconsistency when he said: "There is no reason in the world why the Negro is not entitled to all the natural rights enumerated in the Declaration of Independence."

Today many Negroes feel keenly disappointed over the outcome of the war. The Negro offered his all on the altar of freedom, hoping against hope that in the new era after the war he would be allowed a great measure of freedom in his own country. In the words of the nation—he expected a few crumbs of democracy. But at last he knows the truth. Mr. Wilson surely must have meant a democracy for white men.

Mr. Wilson was careful to remind congress of the legislation he thought needful at this time, but not a word concerning a law to prevent lynching, not a word concerning the vote for those Negroes who were drafted to fight for freedom. In his scheme of a world safe for democracy the Negro is left outside the pale.

Negroes find themselves unable to reconcile the general principles of English liberty, of the Declaration of Independence, the allied war aims and of President Wilson's speeches with the differences made between Negroes and their neighbors. Granted that an educational qualification is necessary for voters in the states where the percentage of illiteracy is high, surely no fair-minded person would ask the Negro to submit to a more rigid test than his neighbor, especially when his neighbor proudly boasts that \$10 is spent for the education of the whites to every one for the blacks. Why not have the election lays apply to all persons alike without regard to race or color? When soldiers were needed that was the rule.

Negroes are beginning to see that

the reactionary republicans—the Lodges, the Knoxes, the Smoots and the Penroses—are a party to their continued disfranchising. Some newspapers reported that when the republicans were trying to organize the senate and when it seemed probable that some of the progressive republicans might vote wrong several of the reactionary democrats left the chamber just before the vote was taken. One good turn deserves another.

On what terms are the Negroes to be admitted to a share in their government? When all the illiterates, the convicts, the nonpayers of poll taxes have been excluded, will thousands of other Negroes able to meet any reasonable requirement still be excluded because of the color of their skin? Does the American democracy base citizenship on the color of the individual?

It is interesting the many excuses offered for the way Negroes are denied a voice in their government. Dr. Henry Van Dyke in his book, "The Spirit of America," says: "It is the immense mass of the African population that creates the difficulty for America. She means to give equal civil rights to her millions of Negroes. She does not mean to let the black blood mix with the white. Whatever social division may be necessary to prevent this immense and formidable adulteration must be maintained intact. A little reflection will show that all of the restrictions placed to keep the races separate have only tended to degrade the Negro in the eyes of his neighbor. Take for instance the south; the last census showed that more than 20 per cent of the Negroes are mulattoes. In Greenville, South Carolina, where the races are separated in schools, churches, on cars and where intermarriage is a crime, 53.7 per cent of the total Negro population is mulatto. In Philadelphia, where we are not blessed with such safeguards of the south, the percentage of mulattoes is 16.6 per cent. These figures tell their own story.

The Negro today appeals to the spirit of fair play characteristic of the American people. He appeals for the right to vote the same as other Americans; he appeals for protection from cruel mobs that spare neither women nor innocent men; for the repeal of all laws that are calculated to humiliate and degrade Negroes because they are Negroes; for the right to ride on common carriers the same as other citizens, receiving first class accommodation for first class fare. The Negro also pleads for a chance in industry, a chance to earn a living. Why go to Europe for laborers who cannot speak our language when there are thousands of Negroes knocking at the doors? The Negro pleads for a chance to get an education. Why condemn the Negroes for being dull and ignorant and for lack of self-governing ability while the doors of the public schools and the colleges are closed in their faces?

The intelligent Negro no longer looks to republican politicians or to churchmen to help him in his fight for freedom, but to the great body of liberal white men and women, to such newspapers as the Public Ledger, and to all who believe that ours should be a government of the people, for the people and by the people.—Benjamin Alvin Arnold, in the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Flashes of Most Anything

RACE prejudice is a parasite eating at the vitals of the nation.

FEDERATED Labor at last woke up to the fact that those that are in them can't be agin them.

SOUND of fire works is kind of tame to those who were on the western front.

VENEZUELA, Columbia and Peru celebrate thier independence day on July 5th, 20th and 28th respectively.

WISE men change, but fools, never." Yet that fellow who changes front every time the blast may happen to hit his little personal self will bear a lot of watching.

THOSE who attend the theatre will be interested in knowing that the thirteenth edition of the popular "Ziegfeld Follies" has been heralded as the best and biggest of all the series. There has been a run for seats and the New Amsterdam theatre will no doubt establish a record this summer. Perhaps the biggest attraction is our own Bert Williams, who has been with this company since the dissolution of his own. Bert Williams is inimitable and has won the reputation as the foremost American comedian.

Some folks say a diplomat is a gentleman skilled in statescraft, but if you want the real definition ask Judge Harrison.

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