

THE MONITOR

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans.

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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 most speak and speak again to right the wrongs of many.—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

A SERIOUS SITUATION

THAT a serious situation confronts America in common with the whole world must be evident to every thoughtful observer. The relations between capital and labor are strained. Racial feeling and prejudice, instead of having been allayed by the great war, seems to have become more acute. This is particularly so in the United States.

Despite the fact that our people fought for the right to fight to make democracy safe for the world and our race at home and abroad behaved most nobly in the face of grievous provocation to do otherwise, there seems to be a well-organized and pernicious propaganda to bring estrangement between us and our fellow Americans. It is foolhardiness to ignore this patent fact. There is apparently a well organized plan to discredit the Negro in well-disposed communities. Somebody, something is back of sensational headlines, so popular in American newspapers, of emphasizing and calling attention to alleged crimes of Negroes.

What is back of it? Is organized labor getting its orders from the south which is losing its labor to the north and west back of it? Possibly so. This, we believe, has entered into the plan, if indeed it was not primarily responsible for it. Or is it a continuation of the campaign of slander which was inaugurated by southern officers, like Colonel Greer, chief of staff of the Ninety-second division, to discredit black American soldiers in France brought back to America? Is it a continuation of the persistent campaign which we have preached to our soldiers abroad to the effect that they must not let the treatment accorded them by the democratic French people lead them to expect similar fair treatment in their own country? This is not impossible; indeed, we believe it highly probable.

Whatever be the cause or the motive there is apparently a well organized plan to discredit the race in America and to bring estrangement between fellow Americans. A short-sighted, if not subsidized and malicious press, is contributing to this estrangement by playing upon the passions of the undiscriminating and thoughtless by its glaring and sensational headlines, emphasizing rumors of alleged crimes by Negroes.

The situation is serious. To our people, we counsel restraint and self-control. We urge upon all to be most careful of their conduct. To do nothing to perpetuate trouble. To do everything in their power to avoid giving offense.

To the press we appeal to cease magnifying alleged crimes of Negroes by glaring headlines and thus appealing to the unruly passions of the populace.

In these serious times we all need to keep our heads in every community, refuse to be swayed by prejudice or passion and work together for the common good.

"LIGHT FOR THEIR IGNORANCE"

FROM the grey walls of Auburn state prison New York comes a request to The Monitor which it is a great pleasure to grant. It reads as follows:

"I, in the name of the Colored men, inmates of this institution, respectfully submit our most humble plea, asking you to allow us as a contribution, one, if no more, of your publications as per issue. Of course, however, this request is nondescript, but these men need light for their ignorance of outside society, and also need to be fully informed of the movements and development of their race. Your paper is adequate for such information and will inform and teach these hungry souls adequately. Should you concur in our unique request, I and others will be most grateful and much

less lonely. Thanking you in advance and hoping to receive a favorable reply, I am, yours with respect,
"No. 36306Secretary

This letter furnishes much food for thought. We do not know the crimes for which these men who request "light for their ignorance" are paying the penalty. We know that shut within prison walls they are intensely interested in what is going on in the outside world of which they are, and yet are not a part; that they have a desire for information and mental improvement; and we believe there is also the desire for moral improvement. We hope The Monitor may bring to those who read it not only the information desired, but also messages of encouragement of hope and inspiration to strive for higher ideals of manhood when their prison terms shall have ended.

It would be interesting to know how these men in Auburn prison learned of The Monitor and it is gratifying to be advised by such communications how favorably the publication is regarded by all sorts and conditions of men who become acquainted with it. Knowing how many and various are the readers we reach and how the printed page may help or hinder, we are exceedingly anxious always to give the best that is in us. Not only are we glad to be able to comply with this request, but The Monitor will be pleased from time to time to publish brief communications and items of interest from these men within Auburn's grey walls. It is not only men within such institutions who need "Light for their ignorance," but men without, lest through ignorance or weakness they come into the same condemnation.

A NATIONAL DISGRACE

Americans will flush with shame as they read of race riots at Washington. That the peace and order of the nation's capital should be disturbed by bloody clashes between whites and blacks is a disgrace beyond explanation. It can be well understood that crimes committed recently have exasperated the citizens, but in the presence of such occasion for impatient indignation, the interests of society require that sober judgment prevail. To loose the passions stirred by anger and race prejudice will not avail to check the crimes complained of, nor does lawlessness beget order. The police of Washington had been well warned of the impending danger, but for some reason were unable to cope with the situation. Measures that might have been taken were omitted, with the result that the world is shocked and the country shamed by their incompetence. Blame for the occurrences will rest on the authorities, chiefly because of the laxity of vigilance that admits of such outbreaks. Our national capital under martial law, to quell race riots between our citizens, at a time when we are posing before the world as the protagonist of equality before the law, presents a sorry spectacle. A little firmer hand is sorely needed there.—Omaha Bee.

This editorial is good. It is, however, nullified by the two-inch headline "Negroes Continue Rioting," which appears on the front page of the same issue of the Bee in which this timely editorial appears. Cut out the scare crowd headlines, Mr. Rosewater.—Editor of The Monitor.

NO PLACE FOR LOAFERS

THERE is no excuse for idleness. There is an abundance of work everywhere for all who want to work. Idleness begets crime. The police authorities of every city should see to it that there is no room in their city for loafers.

Flashes of Most Anything

America, Oh, America, Know Thyself!

TOO long has wrong existed and cried out to be made right. Too long has the stench of burning flesh assailed the throne of heaven. Too long has the Negro-hating south sown the seed of lawlessness and disregard for the rights of human beings. Too long has a guillible public been fed upon a tissue of lies about black brutes, etc. Too long has the fiction about protecting southern womanhood hung as a bugaboo over our own heads encouraging lawlessness and crime. Too long has the most loyal groups of Americans plead for justice and fair play.

War walked rampant over the earth. Its discordant noises filled the world with terror. Nations clutched at each others throats. Black days of horror, in which thousands of human beings fed daily, the rapacious jaws of death, we have known. We have heard the curses of frantic soldiers, the cries of helpless children rise to heaven in dreadful wail. Rattling musketry, clashing steel, bursting shell intensified and made more horrible by the light from burning homes and the smoke from sacked and burning churches, noisome gases, famine, want, despair, suffering, hate—all this and more Europe has taught us. Selfishness, sordid commercialism, militarism bred it; innocent humanity reaped it. Horrible, as is world war, civil war is yet more horrible. Those who seek to encourage civil strife are enemies of our nation and more traitorous than words can paint. Let loyal Americans rise up, in pulpit, press and street and crush out un-Americanism and class hatred.

America, Oh, America, know thyself—and with wisdom and justice and restraint purge away all prejudice and injustice so that our commonwealth may be a bright jewel leading all nations to true democracy.

Know thyself, America. Rise in thy might and through thy righteousness inherit the earth avoiding the penalty for wrong that Rome deserved and paid.

THE PERISCOPE

Tit for Tat

It is deplored that 11 Americans have been murdered in Mexico within the past 18 months, yet eight Negro citizens have been barbarously burned to death in the United States within the past six months.—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

A Hot Race

From Washington, D. C., the seat of the government of this country, comes the report that the police department of Washington, and a mob of citizens are in a race. A Negro is wanted for a crime. If the police catch him first, he will be tried for his offense. If the mob gets him first, he will be hung, forthwith, and without a trial.—Battle Creek (Mich.) News.

High Time

If this country of ours is what we like to think of it as being—a land of justice—a true democracy—then it was high time that it made a convincing demonstration to that effect by putting a stop to lynchings.—Syracuse (N. Y.) Post-Standard.

Self-Determination

"Self-determination" is what an American Negro wants for the Negroes of this country, and why not, if all other people are to have the same privilege?—Baltimore (Md.) Manufacturing Record.

"America Again"

The fact remains that the disgrace of one section of the country is the shame of every part. The outer world does not stop to consult the geography when lynchings are reported. It merely exclaims, "America again," and as a people we are discredited.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Generous Handy

Generous Handy signs himself "Handy" and proceeds to object to any effort of whites and Colored people holding conferences on the subject of race adjustments. Handy tells us what we ought to have and then stops suddenly as a ball hitting a brick wall. Listen to Handy:

"We do not need columns to state a working plan between us and the Negro. Give him his church and his religion and his right to worship in his church unmolested. Give him good houses to live in, good water to drink. Give him plenty of work to do and pay him for the work he does. Give him the market price for his produce, honestly measured and weighed. Then close."

Handy, this stop is so sudden.—New Orleans (La.) Times-Picayune.

"Are You Ready for the Test?"

The Irish question continues to addle the British Empire and embarrass the

American republic. In a lengthy editorial, the Chicago Tribune brings the question to the fore, tells of all the extenuating circumstances, from the assistance of the Irish in helping to form the American nation, to the possibilities of becoming involved with Mexico and Japan, concluding by saying: "We can establish the Irish republic by fighting for it. We cannot establish it by declamation, resolutions and cable messages to London. "Are you ready for the test?"

The American people cannot consistently involve themselves with the troubles of Ireland and England, without running into the snag of American color adjustment. The 12,000,000 American Colored people have grievances just as serious and oppressive as Ireland. This fact England knows, and knows well, and it will not be long until England will very frankly remind America that it is time to clean house at home. America must clean house, and clean well, or stand before the world as a hollow mockery of the principles so loudly proclaimed, and fought for, in France.

Time of Big Things

These are the times of big things. Are you willing to be a vital part of the times? It is truly painful to see those who shrivel up into littleness when there is so much at stake, when there are such wonderful opportunities for being big and going big. There is much that might be said, but let the poet tell of it in

THE BIGGER DAY

We are done with little thinking and we're done with little deeds, We are done with petty conduct, and we're done with narrow creeds; We have grown to men and women, and we've noble work to do, And today we are a people with a larger point of view. In a big way we must labor, if our flag shall always fly, In a big way we must suffer, in a big way some must die.

There must be no little dreaming in the visions that we see, There must be no selfish planning in the joys that are to be. We have set our faces eastward to the rising of the sun, That shall light a better nation, and there's big work to be done, And the petty souls and narrow seeking only selfish gain Shall be vanquished by the toilers big enough to suffer pain.

It's a big task we have taken, 'tis for others we must fight, We must see our duty clearly in a white and shining light, We must quit our little circles where we've moved in little ways, And work as men and women, for the bigger, better days. We must quit our selfish thinking and our narrow views and creeds, And as people, big and splendid, we must do the bigger deeds. (The author is anonymous.)

CONDUCT ON STREET CARS

USE discretion and common sense on street cars. It has been noticed that some of our men in their soiled and sweaty working clothes will enter a street car and crowd themselves down beside some neatly dressed woman. Is this a wise or proper thing to do? This is not a question of one's rights, but of common sense and good judgment.

RIOTING IN WASHINGTON

IT is a serious reflection upon our country that there should be serious race riots at the seat of our national government. It would seem that they were precipitated by soldiers and marines. Riots wherever they occur should be put down with a strong arm and those who are responsible for inciting them should be severely punished.

ESTABLISHING SEVERAL SOCIAL CENTERS

Newark, N. J., July 23.—With almost \$35,000 already subscribed to the fund for the establishment of a Roosevelt memorial institute and social center for Colored people in this city, the drive is now being conducted in forty-five municipalities in New Jersey with encouraging results, according to Rev. Dr. Sylvester L. Carothers, pastor of Pennington Street Zion church, who started the movement.

Nor is the movement confined to New Jersey alone, for Dr. Carothers is in receipt of a letter from Rev. Dr. Henry P. Nicholas, rector of Holy Trinity Protestant Episcopal church, West 122d street, New York, expressing a hope that every church in this section will lend a helping hand for the success of the project.

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