

# THE MONITOR

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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.

## THE CASE WELL STATED

THE World-Herald of Sunday, August 3 publishes in its Public Pulse column an admirable letter from H. J. Pinkett on the present disturbed racial conditions which is an able and accurate presentation of the facts in the case. The Monitor congratulates the writer upon his sane, well-tempered and irrefutable argument, and indorses and is in thorough sympathy with all he says. Published in the World-Herald it will command the attention of a large class of thoughtful readers who need to have such facts brought before them. As it contains food for thought and sound advice to our own group, it gives us pleasure to quote it in full here. Attorney Pinkett has done the community and country a splendid service in writing the World-Herald the following letter:

### Fair and Law Abiding.

Omaha, July 31.—To the Editor of the World-Herald: Shortly after the civil war the southern states conducted a campaign of vituperation and slander against the Negro, the gist of which was the charge of rape by Negroes of white women, in order to rob the Negro of all he had won in the war. How well they succeeded is now a matter of history.

Now that the world war is over the same sinister forces are seeking to deprive the Negroes of the benefits they have won in this war. Their propagandists raise the cry of rape, as they did in the other day, as a basis of justification for their violence and denial of right and justice to the Negro, so that they can keep him in ignorance and subjection. As in the other day, the charges are nearly all false, and now as then they are spreading over the north. Even in Omaha this propaganda has been in evidence. Within the past three months the daily papers have run stories of more than twenty cases of rape or attempted rape on white women by Negroes. There have been two arrests for attempted assault, one conviction and one acquittal, and one arrest for rape, leaving seventeen unexplained and a charge against the Colored people of the city. The man arrested for rape is now awaiting trial.

Other elements, of course, enter into the present problem. The passions of men have been deeply stirred by the world war. Radical elements in the ranks of labor are forcing their demands and they resent the increase of Negro laborers in the north in fields where the white man has hitherto had a monopoly. These radical leaders seize upon this and "play upon" the cupidity of the whites and ignorance of the blacks.

Many of the Negroes who have moved into the north did so to escape oppression in the south; to better their economic condition and to educate their children. They are the products of a system of ignorance that the south has long imposed on Negroes. They are learning, not always wisely, I admit, that certain rights they should have been denied them, and they some times do and say just what any other class would do and say who have been lifted from oppression into freedom; excesses in some cases are inevitable. But even here the wrong lies at the door of the oppressor, not the oppressed. Then, too, the Colored people are imbued with a new consciousness of self-respect as a result of what they did and gave in the great war. They expect the right to work and chance to rise and to receive justice. And like all other citizens they have not escaped the effect of arguments and preachments about democracy which should be the lot of all elements after the war. They want to share in this democracy as other men, because they feel that they have won the right to do so. And justice should not be denied them, for they are Americans, all.

The unfortunate and deplorable

clashes of the past few weeks in Washington and Chicago should never have occurred. In Washington, I am reliably informed, the cry of rape was raised by the press and paraded and was made the basis there for that outbreak. In Chicago, it seems, that a careless policeman was to blame for the "storm."

But the situation is not hopeless. On the part of the Negro it is incumbent upon him to be and remain always on the side of law and order and the enforcement of law; for that will always strengthen him with right on his side. All of them should be engaged in legitimate, gainful occupations, for idleness begets crime and violence. Of course, the same thing is true of all other persons.

A better understanding should be developed between the Colored and white people of this community. We cannot meet this issue by running from it, and it is very much better to meet it now than later, and by civilized methods. I suggest, therefore, that the mayor of Omaha appoint a civic committee to be composed of white and Colored persons, whose duty it will be to meet from time to time and discuss all the problems which affect the mutual welfare of the two races. This is a suggestion, which, after being weighed, if it seems to have merit, I hope will be adopted.

In closing I urge the daily papers to avoid, insofar as they can, the use of "flaming" headlines in reporting offenses involving Negroes, because, in the eyes of most white persons of the community, the mere charge against a Colored man is a charge against all Colored persons. And these big headlines charging Colored persons with crime wound every self-respecting member of the Negro race, for each one realizes that he must bear the odium for the wrong of a Colored person, although he would not have permitted the offense if it had been in his power to have prevented it.

Colored men and women who are charged with racial leadership at this period have a heavy cross to bear, and they need and expect the support of all men and women who believe in the reign of law and justice and right. Their task is delicate and full of care.

H. J. PINKETT.

## NOT ALWAYS NEGROES

THAT Negroes commit crimes is true; but that they are guilty of all the crimes alleged against them is undeniably false. It is a popular and well-known ruse of many white criminals to blacken their faces and commit crimes which are charged up to Negroes. We believe that nine-tenths of the cases recently reported in Omaha belong to this class. It is a well known fact, or it should be a well known fact, that on June 10 the police of this city arrested a youth of 17 years of age, who lives on V street, South Side, whose face was blacked with burnt cork and he was carrying a revolver. He was held for carrying concealed weapons and for investigation. No specific charge was filed against him and he was released.

Why was this dare-devil youth masquerading as a Negro and carrying a gun?

It may not be amiss to state that a series of crimes have been alleged to have been committed by Negroes in the southern part of this city. The remarkable fact remains that these "Negro" criminals have not been apprehended. Why?

Another reprehensible and cowardly plan is for men and women who have been overtaken in their sins to try to shield themselves by putting the blame upon some Negro because it has been a comparatively easy thing to get away with it. Many of these stories of alleged crimes of robbery and rape, which are being used in many communities to inflame the populace, belong to this category. A notable example of this comes from

Kansas City. We publish the story in full in this issue. It carries its own moral and teaches its own lesson.

## THE PERISCOPE

### It Happened in Chicago.

THERE is quite a bit of irony connected with the Chicago riots. But it is going to work out all right at that. They say that one of the contributing causes is the "housing situation." The Colored people have been moving into "white neighborhoods," whatever that may mean. The first house ever built and owned in Chicago was built and owned by a Negro. This is a historical fact, and the spot is marked now by the Chicago Historical society. All the white people who live in Chicago have followed that Colored citizen and patriot, and yet those of his kindred who would continue to better their condition, are told that they are "without favor."

Throughout the entire world, Chicago has always been known as the "Wonder City of Opportunity for All Peoples." In America, every other city has yielded to Chicago with reference to the honor of being first in racial advancement and civic opportunity. From all corners of the earth have come all shades and degrees of thinkers, leaders, and people with ambitions for greatness, ease and comfort, to enjoy the full measure of opportunity. Chicago is filled up with men and women who have been great in their home town. Many of them are active here, but of course their influence is not as generally known and noted as in the home town because there are so many of them. In the midst of all these facts and conditions: IT HAPPENED IN CHICAGO!

It happened in Washington, and, also, in the commonwealth of aristocracy, Virginia at Norfolk. Therefore, it is plain, even to the blind, that it MAY happen anywhere—no city is too remote or aristocratic, or large, or cultured, or anything whatsoever. New York is boasting, but that concealed provincial municipality is not immune. It is not a subject of geography, but condition.

At the very beginning there is the prevailing social unrest throughout the world. Added to this condition is the paradoxical, inconsistent, hypocritical attitude of the American people, at large, posing one way to the outside world, and acting entirely another way at home. The consciousness of this state of affairs has been driven home to the minds of the most illiterate person in every section of the country. This act has been performed not only by the thinker, leaders, newspapers and the like of our group, but within the last two years, well known thinkers, leaders and newspapers of the white group, in all sections, have pleaded for real justice and larger freedom for us. All of this has had its effect. It has not only encouraged our ambitions, but it has created a new determination—a determination to measure up to the best ideals, and to work them out at all hazards and costs.

The hazards have come from the diminishing element of human-haters and radicals, whose object it has been to throw every possible obstacle in the way. It is this small element that has fanned the fire of hatred in Chicago, and every place else. It is noisy and sensational and terrible while it lasts, but it is not representative, nor long lived.

On the other hand, our own group has three distinctive elements that are to be reckoned with; the ignorant hoodlums, the white man's parrots, and the ultra radical. The first are a bane, as well as a pain, in the plan of adjustment. But their ignorance and instincts are largely due to that system of deprivation and oppression which are the blot of our American civilization. The second element in our group unhesitatingly sell the birth-right of the people for a mess of pottage; they brush principle aside with a wave of the hand, and curry to the favor of the prejudiced white. The third may be sincere, but are dangerous to the cause of peace.

The world is not going backward, it is going forward. Out of the grind of war, murder, riot, strife and desolation there will come peace. Our group is superlatively conscious of conditions. Washington, Norfolk and Chicago will serve to awaken and quicken the conscience of that grand army of American whites, who have failed, until now to regard existing conditions between races as matters of first importance. When this grand army gets into action, righteous adjustment will follow. Therefore, in the disgrace of Chicago, Washington and Norfolk, martyrdom, and warning, in the cause of justice without taint or blemish.

If Chicago will take no backward step—and she will not—and will set to work valiantly to put her house in order, in this task the patient and untiring assistance of the right thinking people of our group will be abundantly applied. We ask punishment, severe and impressive of all evildoers, of all classes, without exception; we ask the splendid grand army of right thinking whites to get a better understanding of the right think-

ing, industrious, sensible and peace-loving people of our group; we ask that good American common sense, on both sides and not hatred, on either side, be used as the basis of the program of reconstruction—for that's the job. Then these upheavals—with those that will follow unless there is eternal vigilance—will not have been in vain "By this sign we conquer."

## Flashes of Most Anything

THE enemies of true democracy are not the Germans, the enemies of true Americanism are not the Bolsheviks or the I. W. W., but those narrow, prejudiced, short-sighted individuals who in a vain effort to keep their darker brethren down and victimize him and lynch him and prescribe him would shatter the very nation they profess to love.

THE moving finger writes and "having writ moves on." No reactionist, no sectionalist, no Negro-phobic can lure it back to cancel half a line, nor mob-mania wipe out a word of it. The day of force has passed, the knell of autoocracy has sounded, and rationalism and reason are about to come into their own.

LIFE, without the things that go to make life fair, is not worth the living. To die for principle and right is to carve an epitaph for oneself that lasts while time lasts.

## PRESS COMMENT

### Here's the Keynote

It is not known which race was chiefly responsible for the Chicago riot or which committed most of the acts leading up to the fierce antipathy that found violent expression yesterday. Perhaps this is of no present importance, but it is highly important that both whites and blacks should do their utmost to tolerate the other. The two have to live side by side and there should be no permanent cause for friction. Nor should one race assume the role of master. These affairs disgrace the whole American people in the eyes of the world, and, of course, give pain to all our citizens.—Brooklyn, N. Y., Standard Union.

### A Fine Idea.

In place of race riots lets us have mutual esteem and friendship. Accord the Negro his full rights, give him full justice, full opportunity for education and advancement and lend him a helping hand. It is the only solution. Mob violence can only make the problem more acute.—New York, N. Y., Evening Sun.

### An Effective Reminder.

It should be an effective reminder that the United States had a serious and difficult racial and sociological problem at home, quite enough to engage the attention of its humanitarians and deserving precedence over the problems of the Balkans, or of other European races which are now being lifted out of their submergence.—Philadelphia, Pa., Bulletin.

### And Now It Is Chicago!

Just as the good news came that law and order had triumphed in the national capital to the extent that 2,000 regular troops brought there to keep the peace between whites and blacks could be withdrawn, Chicago proceeded to distinguish herself with a race riot of her own.

It is a very serious question whether this outbreak of race rioting in cities wide apart is altogether a matter of chance. It is just possible that behind it is some clever propaganda which finds in the appeal to race prejudice—as mean an appeal as exists—the instrument for causing industrial revolution. If that is so, the problem should be capable of quick solution by an intelligent secret service. If not, the prospects are more ominous.—New York Mail.

## VENIUS

WE are coming, Father Abraham, One hundred thousand strong, And with our blood, we will avenge Each injury and wrong. The spirits rise at Carrizal, The dead arise in France; Their voices join in unison Adjoining us, advance.

Can we ignore these noble dead, And shall they plead in vain? Or shall we sacrifice our lives Their wishes to attain? Their object was democracy, In the pursuit of which they died. And can we rest complacently While to us it is denied?

We are coming, Father Abraham, And the time is drawing nigh, When prejudice and lynch-law Like slavery must die. Rest us, our weary brethren, For we have heard the call Of liberty, fraternity, And equality for all.

—E. S.

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