

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.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

PUPILS are now or soon will be returning to school. The Monitor wishes abundantly success to the great army of boys and girls who will soon resume their studies. May we urge upon you all to do your level best. Enter with the will and the determination to be the very best in your class. Do not be willing to admit that any pupil can do better work than you. Start with the belief that if any other pupil can do good work, can get his lessons, so can you, and work to that end. The harder the lesson may be to get, the more determined you must be to get it, remembering that the mastery of the hardest lesson gives you by so much mental strength. There are great opportunities awaiting our boys and girls in this period of reconstruction who have well-trained minds and good characters. School days, properly used, will give you this training and character. Returning to school is a great privilege. Accept it as such.

A CRIME AND ITS LESSONS

LAST week a trio of boys, aged 14, 15 and 17, attempted to hold up a grocer who resisted. The man was shot and almost instantly killed. It is alleged that the 17-year-old boy fired the fatal shot that snuffed out the life of a useful citizen, a kind husband, a loving father and a good neighbor, for Nathan Shapiro, it is asserted by those who knew him was all of these. It was a terrible tragedy, which teaches several serious lessons. In the first place it sounds a note of warning to parents who permit their boys vastly too much liberty to run the streets with questionable companions. It cries with trumpet voice against the procuring of firearms with comparative ease by minors and others in this city. There is entirely too much laxity in this regard. Any boy who pleases can find someone to sell him a gun. This practice should be put down by the authorities with a stern and impartial hand. It warns boys, and The Monitor hopes they will take due warning, how easy it is for those who will not submit to kindly restraint of home and advice of parents to enter upon a career of crime, which will soon bring them to the penitentiary or the electric chair.

TAKING UNDUE LIBERTIES

SOME Texas postmasters have been taking undue liberties with the mail. The Monitor has a number of subscribers at various points in that state. Recently from one point, fourteen copies were returned marked "missent." The paper had been going to these same addresses for more than a year. The matter was taken up with the Omaha postal authorities who quickly straightened it out. We have received complaints from other subscribers that they were failing to receive their papers. Consulting the mailing list, we found that these copies were regularly mailed and delivered to the Omaha postoffice. The fault of non-delivery, therefore, is not here. One agent writes that his bundle is always broken open and one or two copies missing. Two others have written to discontinue their orders "for the present" because there is such decided opposition to the circulation of Negro newspapers in those localities that it is not safe for agents to sell them.

We do not know what other newspapers are going to do about it, but The Monitor intends to promptly take up every complaint of non-delivery of this publication with the postal authorities, and ascertain whether postmasters or employees in certain sections are superior to the United States government.

We desire to state that The Monitor, in common with other race newspapers, has published at the government's request column after column of spe-

FOOLING NOBODY

AN Associated Press dispatch from Austin, Tex., tells of some convention participated in by "2,000 Negroes and 100 white persons," held in that city Sunday, at which resolutions were adopted opposing the "intermeddling without relationship" by the people of the north who do not understand conditions in the south," in the affairs of the south. Of course, granting that such resolutions were passed, the south is fooling nobody. Anybody who understands conditions in Texas, or any other section of the south, knows perfectly well how exceedingly easy it is by spending a few paltry dollars or by intimidations to get a large number of ignorant, religious "leadahs an' preachahs" to put across among their easily duped followers anything a self-seeking and designing white man, or black man, either, for that matter, desires. And that's just what was done in Austin.

The Monitor is not speaking as a northerner, who does not know or understand conditions in the south. These are the sentiments of one of The Monitor staff who was born and reared in Texas and has lived in other sections of the southland, which in spite of her glaring faults, he still loves. We write, then, with full and accurate knowledge of conditions there.

We thank God, that type of leadership, which can be subsidized, bribed or intimidated, is being rapidly supplanted in the south and in the north, for it must be confessed with shame that that type is here also, by a new type of leadership, by some considered radical, but which is well poised, because well trained; fearless, because of its firm conviction that right must ultimately prevail; honest and incorruptible, because race-loving and not selfish.

PUNISH THE MURDERERS

THE murderers of Eugene Scott, the bellboy, who was shot and killed early Monday morning must be punished. Justice and the welfare and reputation of our city demand this. Scott was discharging his duty at the Plaza hotel where he was employed and where his employer, Mr. Kilkenny asserts he was a conscientious, trustworthy and dependable employee. Among his duties was the ringing in to the Western Union every hour of the fire and burglar alarm on each floor. At 1 o'clock Monday morning he was engaged in this work. He had rung on the upper floors and was descending to the third, when he was accosted by two officers, and charged with delivering whisky to a guest of the hotel, according to their story. He started downstairs when one of the men rushed after him. It is stated that one of the officers upstairs yelled, "Stop him; knock his head off." The frightened boy ran through the alley. Two of the "morals squad" pursued him firing their pistols and shouting "Stop him; kill him; kill the ———." At the intersection of Thirteenth street Scott fell dead, shot through the heart.

It does not make any particular difference whether Edgar Holman fired the fatal shot, or the pursuing police officers. All are equally guilty of murder; all should be indicted; all should be punished. The officers who pursued him firing their guns and yelling "Kill him," are just as responsible for this crime as the man whose bullet pierced Scott's heart.

The officers are primarily responsible. They had no business firing at this boy. At most, granting that the raiding officers' story be true, Scott could have been charged only with a misdemeanor. There is no justification whatsoever for his pursuit and death.

The whole city is justly roused and indignant over this crime which adds to the inexcusable blunders and high handed methods of the police force which are open to the most severe censure.

The Monitor has been entirely free from censoring and criticising the blundering methods of the police, but it now joins with the other papers of the city in demanding genuine reform, not sham reform in the methods and administration of the police force of our city.

There must be no white-washing of those who are responsible for the murder, wanton and inexcusable, of this bellboy. His murderers must be punished. The city must be delivered from the peril of easily provoked, pistol-firing policemen.

UNIQUE SORORITY AT IOWA UNIVERSITY

(By Associated Negro Press.—Buenos Aires, Sept. 3.—President Sigma Theta, a unique sorority organization of colored girls at the University of Iowa, will enter their beautiful sorority house when school opens in September. This organization represents Iowa's young womanhood at its best in refinement and culture. Miss Mamie Diggs is president of the sorority.

Smile, work, think.

Flashes of Most Anything

The Hymn of Peace

GEORGIA is still busy at her favorite sport of baiting Negroes. A mob of whites shot to death a Negro in a church and then burned other churches and a lodge. The reason they gave was that they had heard the report that the Negroes were planning to rise up and wipe out the white people. The Negro has always been on the side of constitutional authority, of law and order, and his patience under provocation has almost become proverbial.

But now the Klu Klux rides again; fiends and fanatics and fools are out to drive him to desperation. There never was a time in all the history of the United States when the demand for strong public utterances from those wise rational patriots who love their commonwealth needed to make themselves heard above the din, as they need to do now. What would it profit America to save Belgium and Poland and Timbuctoo if she lose for herself the bright jewel of liberty, and chaos and ruin become her portion?

Roosevelt, mighty American, you should have died hereafter. Were you at the head of our nation today long since would we have heard you speak out against the damnable policy that leaves domestic wrongs to flourish unmolested. But thou art dead, and as yet no one has risen big enough nor great enough to take thy place.

Shylock said, "The villainy you teach me I shall execute. It shall go hard, but I shall better the instructions." An apt pupil is a joy to any teacher. But, O God of hosts, give us a new teacher and a better precept and example. The most destructive principle in the world is hate. A curse to him who hates and a blight to him who is hated. We want a new pedagogy that will destroy the discords of hate and teach us the harmony of tolerance and the hymn of peace.

PEOPLE IN LEAGUE WITH PROFITEERS

Extravagance in Living and Carelessness in Buying Largely Responsible for Maintenance of High Prices.

Washington, Sept. 2.—The people in many parts of the United States are virtually in league with the profiteers, according to William Mather Lewis, director of the savings division of the treasury department, who has just returned to Washington after visiting the various federal reserve districts.

"A vertiable orgy of extravagant buying is going on," he said. "The reaction from the careful use of money during war is widespread and disturbing. Retailers are securing goods from jobbers without arguing about prices, if they can only be assured of immediate delivery. They know their customers will scramble for the goods, regardless of cost. Thus, with an abnormal demand and a limited output, nothing else can be expected than high prices. It is a natural, though deplorable, consequence that profiteers abound.

"The people must return to the policy of careful buying and regular saving if they wish to help the situation. The treasury department in order to combat this artificial situation, is intensifying and speeding up its thrift campaign. Statements on the principles of finance and the laws of investment and budgetry are being brought to workers in factories; to farmers; to business and professional men, and members of women's organizations by means of printed publicity and the spoken word. A nation-wide attack upon swindlers who are persuading people to dispose of their liberty bonds and war savings stamps is also being inaugurated.

"Throughout New England, savings and thrift organizations already are exerting their combined efforts to combat increased cost of the necessities of life. Savings directors and hundreds of officers of savings societies are to king the lead in disseminating information as to fair prices.

"In their communities they are aiding the determination and publication of fair prices and in curbing unjust profits. They are following the plan of campaign recently outlined by Governor W. P. C. Harding of the federal reserve board, to promote regular and efficient work to increase production and insure reasonable economies to devote that production to necessities rather than extravagances or luxuries.

"Steps are being taken to insure similar efforts throughout the other federal reserve district."

"Not all at once the sunshine streams, The gold above the gray; It takes a thousand little beams To make the day, the day."

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