

THE MONITOR

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

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ARTICLE XIV. CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

Citizenship Rights Not to Be Abridged.

1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

FAITHFULNESS

LAST week a large circle of friends were saddened by the death of one of their number. She was a woman who was never in the public eye. She did not pose as a woman of brilliant attainments. But there were two particular spheres in which her influence was felt—her home and her church. In these a dominant trait of her character was pre-eminently displayed and that was faithfulness. No woman was ever more faithful and devoted to her domestic life than she and in her church life she was equally so. For nearly twenty-three years she was treasurer of the Ladies' Aid society of her church; for twenty years a member of the choir and for eight years a teacher in the Sunday school, and it is recorded that weather was never too inclement to keep her from her duties.

What a splendid record this is, especially in these days when people are so quick to become weary in well-doing and turn over duties which they can so well perform to others.

Mary Elizabeth Parker has left a record of faithfulness which others may well strive to emulate. Brilliance of mind, great intellectual attainments count for little compared with faithfulness in the discharge of the ordinary duties of the ordinary everyday life. It has its reward here and hereafter, for the admonition and promise of Holy Writ is true: "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."

CHANGING THE JURY SYSTEM

BECAUSE of failure of conviction in several of the riot cases, which in the face of evidence many believe to be a flagrant miscarriage of justice, there are those who are advocating a change in the jury system. It is being urged by some that a five-sixths, others that three-fourths vote determine a verdict, rather than a unanimous vote. In other words, there are those who would have the vote of ten men or nine men out of the twelve jurors determine the verdict, which now requires the unanimous vote of the whole twelve jurors. One man or two men can "hang a jury" and prevent a verdict.

Even with the abuse of the jury system, and when jurors say, as some have said in empanelling juries for the recent riot cases that they would be reluctant to bring in a verdict of conviction no matter what the law and evidence might show, one realizes how the system may be abused and made to defeat justice and thereby encourage lawlessness. The Monitor believes it is better to adhere to the present plan of a unanimous verdict. There is of course nothing magical about the number twelve, but whatever may be or might be the number of jurors determined upon we believe that justice in the long run will be best conserved by adhering to a unanimous verdict. Efforts should be made to secure intelligent and uncorruptible men to serve as jurors, men who regard this as a sacred duty, and will regard their oaths as jurors in the same light as they would wish to have others regard theirs were they themselves to be on trial and this, despite apparent evidence to the contrary, we believe is the attitude of the average juror, drawn as they must be from all classes of our citizenship. Of course there will be now and then found men who will be swayed by their prejudices, or influenced by mercenary motives, but we believe that the average juror really wants to conscientiously discharge his duty in the interests of justice. Change in the jury system will cause no change in the character or personnel of jurors.

THE PASSING OF THE BEE INTO OTHER HANDS

NEWSPAPERS have a personality. Those who found them, direct their policy and speak through them give them that personality. When you

think of a newspaper, you think of its editor. A change in the editorship impresses one as the passing of some more or less striking personality. When one thinks of the Omaha Bee which for so many years was unquestionably one of the great newspapers not only of this section, but of the entire country, he invariably thinks of Edward Rosewater, its founder and for thirty-six years its brilliant and versatile editor. And after his lamented death, the quill which fell from his hand was lifted by his son Victor, whom he had liberally educated and trained as his successor. It was a case of "The king is dead; long live the king." Rosewater succeeded Rosewater and that honored name impressed itself upon the Omaha Bee. The son for some years maintained the standard set by his illustrious sire. Then, for or from some unaccountable reason, the Bee began to decline and lost its hold upon the people. Sensationalism in its news columns, supplanted its sanity, reliability and poise. As a climax to all this comes the announcement of the sale of the Bee to Nelson B. Updike, the millionaire grainman, and the passing of the Bee into other hands. After nearly half a century the Bee passes from the Rosewater family.

Whatever may have been its mistakes, and newspapers like all personalities are liable to error, the Bee under the older Rosewater and in a lesser degree under the younger, can look back upon an honorable record of achievement in the upbuilding not only of Omaha, Nebraska and the west but also in shaping national policies. As it passes into other hands, The Monitor desires to pay a tribute to the Bee and its splendid work under the Rosewaters and to wish for it under its new management unbounded success and restoral to its former prestige. The era of reconstruction calls for strong and fearless newspapers. This the Bee has been and may again become.

BIG BUSINESS

MEMBERS of our race in many cities are launching out into big business enterprises. They are organizing and incorporating stock companies with large capitalization for developing not "get-rich-quick" schemes, but legitimate commercial and industrial enterprises which in time will give good returns upon the capital invested. We are learning to do just what others have long been doing, pooling our money, taking one share of stock at \$10, or ten shares for \$100, or as many as we can afford—and investing it in some commercial or industrial enterprise. The Standard Life Insurance company, the Black Star Steamship line, and other corporations might be cited as examples of these legitimate business ventures on a large scale which are making good.

This is the thing to do. We can only learn to do things by doing them. The Monitor ventures the prophecy that within the next ten years the United States will see many big corporations financed and successfully managed by Negroes capitalized at millions of dollars, giving employment to thousands of people. Think what this will mean.

We are beginning to learn the necessity of putting our little savings or earnings together in such a way that they will count for much. We have begun to see that one man with \$100 cannot do very much in a business way, but that ten men, for example, each putting \$100 in a common fund, makes a working capital of \$1,000, which will go quite a distance in establishing some little business or towards the purchase of a business lot, or something of the kind; and that 100 men with \$100 each means a working capital of \$10,000 and that \$10,000 cash can swing a pretty good sized and well-paying business deal in real estate or almost anything else.

We have begun to learn that 10 times 10 are 100, or in other words that your \$10 and my \$10 added to Jones' and Brown's and Smith's, etc. gives US, a working capital of \$1,000, \$10,000, \$100,000 with which to do business.

This means as you can readily see, that in time we are going to be able to finance and develop splendid business, industrial and commercial enterprises of all kinds; to own well-paying business blocks in the heart of the leading cities of the country.

No, this is not a dream, but a vision of things which must shortly come to pass, and is already coming to pass in many cities of the land.

Our people have begun to realize, as never before, that we must make places in the commercial and industrial world for our children whom we are educating and that it is up to us to make these places and that we can do it and must do it.

Small business ventures are being made by our people in every community. Foster and encourage them. Big business ventures are being made. Support and develop them by investing what you can in them and boosting them. Big business will then be in a position to aid and help develop the smaller business ventures.

The era of big business is here. It is an open door into which we as a race must not fear to enter. "Be bold, be bold; but not too bold."

DEFENSE FUND FOR ARKANSAS FARMERS

READERS of The Monitor have been made acquainted with the exact conditions existing in Phillips county, Arkansas, where Negro farmers who had been robbed for years by unscrupulous whites, organized and employed attorneys to legally protect their interests. It has been made known that some of these same unscrupulous whites precipitated a "race riot" or "insurrection" by firing upon some Negro farmers peaceably assembled in a church and justified their actions by publishing the lie that Negroes were unlawfully assembling to attack the whites. Monitor readers will recall the articles by Mr. Kennerly, a southern white man, which exposed and excoriated the conditions complained of in the southern states. The Monitor therefore gladly publishes the following appeal from the Citizens' Defense Fund Commission of Little Rock, Ark., and will gladly receive, acknowledge and forward contributions, large or small for this fund:

Several days ago leading Negroes from all parts of the state of Arkansas assembled in the city of Little Rock and organized the Citizens' Defense Fund Commission. The personnel of the commission is as follows:

Dr. J. G. Thornton, chairman; J. H. McConico, secretary; Dr. H. W. Sugges, treasurer; Rev. J. P. Robinson and Rev. R. M. Caver.

The object for which this commission was created is to raise funds to conduct the defense of the 87 Negroes convicted in connection with the recent race trouble in Phillips county, Arkansas. The men composing this commission are well established citizens of wide acquaintance and represent the very highest type of spiritual, professional and business activity.

Twelve of the Negroes convicted in connection with the Phillips county trouble have been sentenced to die in the electric chair and 75 to serve sentences in the Arkansas penitentiary, ranging from five to twenty-one years.

Negroes throughout the state and nation feel that these Negroes should

be given full opportunity to prove their guilt or innocence and in view of that fact counsel have been employed to fight the cases to the end. A few days ago a motion was filed in the Phillips county circuit court for a new trial. The motion was overruled. On January 9th an appeal was taken to the Arkansas supreme court for a new trial. Every effort will be made to defend the rights of these Negroes both in the state and federal courts.

To fight these cases through the courts will require a large sum of money, and the Citizens' Defense Fund Commission is now calling upon Negroes throughout the country to contribute to this fund. The Negroes in every community are requested to make contributions through some well established organization like the church, club, benevolent, civic association, etc., or send contributions direct to the secretary.

J. H. McCONICO,
Box 112, Little Rock, Ark.
In this matter the race must act and act at once. Contributions should be made and remitted promptly in order that the progress of the defense be not handicapped for lack of funds.

HOME BUYING

WE have noted with pleasure the growing determination upon the part of many of our people to become home owners. Within the last few years the number who have begun to buy homes has increased rapidly, so that it has been asserted with those who are in a position to know that among no group of citizens in Omaha today are there proportionately more home owners, people who have paid for their homes, and home buyers, people who are making payments upon homes, than among the colored people. This is most gratifying. It speaks volumes for the character of our people.

The man who owns his own home or has the ambition to own his own home is a valuable asset to any community. It makes for better citizenship.

There is another gratifying thing to be noted in this connection and that is the pride our people take in keeping up their homes. They love to keep them looking nice.

Home buying should be encouraged. The record made up to the present has been quite commendable; but there is still room for improvement. Many of our young men who are making good money should invest some of it in real estate; they should begin buying a home.

Plans are being worked out in many communities by which any one who so desires may begin buying a home. Already there are numerous agencies through which this can be done.

The Monitor urges home buying.

COLORED AMERICAN COUNCIL BUSY

The Colored American Council, of which Henry Lassiter is president, had a conference with Congressman Martin B. Madden and other members of the house of representatives yesterday evening relative to reporting out of the interstate commerce committee the "Jim Crow car bill," which has been slumbering since twelve republicans voted for it some months ago. The plan now is to present it as a separate bill upon the suggestion of several congressmen and put it squarely up to the republican congress to pigeonhole, pass or defeat the bill. Then the colored American will know where he stands with the republican party.

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