

THE MONITOR

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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.

A GREAT RELIGIOUS SEASON.

NEXT week a great religious season begins. It will be observed throughout the entire Christian world. In some countries with more strictness and sincerity than in others. But wherever and by whomsoever sincerely observed with spiritual enrichment. Spiritual or religious enrichment from its observance will be in proportion to what those who acknowledge its value will put into it. The rule holds true of religious observances, services and customs, as of other things, that men and women get out of them just what they put into them.

The penitential season of Lent which has been observed from the primitive days of the Christian Church by untold millions of believers has clearly proven its value as an agency for lifting men and women to a higher plane of Christian living. Were it not so, its observance would have fallen into disuse. The fact, however, that year by year increasing numbers outside of the great Anglican, Greek and Latin communions, to whom with the Lutherans it was almost exclusively confined originally, are beginning to observe it attests a growing appreciation of its value and adds another credential to establish its authority.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It derives its name from an ancient custom of blessing the ashes of palms distributed on the Palm Sunday of the preceding year and signing the cross with them on the foreheads of those who knelt before the officiating minister for that purpose while he said, "Remember, man, that thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt return. Repent thee of thy sins." The purpose of this is quite apparent. It was to impress men with the transitoriness of life, the necessity of repentance and to substitute the virtue of humility for the sins of pride and arrogance.

The word "Lent," as we have it, is of Anglo-Saxon origin, and means spring. This meaning passes over into and has become fixed as the name of the great religious fast or season of penitence which always comes in the spring and lasts for forty days and is commemorative of the forty days and forty nights in which the Saviour of men was fasting in the wilderness and at the conclusion of which He met and overcame the Tempter. Christian piety has felt that this was an appropriate time to call believers to a special season of penitence, self-examination and prayer. And so the custom has become firmly established that this period of forty days—to be exact, forty-six days, for the six Sundays are not considered as fast days—between Ash Wednesday and Easter, shall be especially used or observed as a great religious season, or time for spiritual stock-taking.

Underlying the observance of Lent is a great psychological truth: the value of united or concerted action along any given line for the accomplishment of any given thing, and the inspiration and help that comes from people being of one heart and of one mind. Millions of people throughout the world, with varying degrees of understanding, earnestness and devotion, it may be, and yet feeling within themselves the mighty urge of a desire to rise to a higher plane of individual and national righteousness, will observe this great religious season and they will be lifted up and strengthened by its observance.

Never was there greater need than today for emphasizing what the Lenten season seeks to do—raise individuals and nations to a higher plane of Christian living and practice.

Would it not be much better with our country, with the world and with ourselves, if all of us resolved to try honestly and earnestly to keep Lent, as the phrase runs? Suppose we all

try in some way to observe this great religious season, which so many have found helpful.

TWO LEXINGTONS.

L EXINGTON, KY., has shown the only way to deal with mobs. A man accused of a heinous crime was on trial. A mob formed to storm the jail and murder him. The members of the mob were bent on murder. The authorities determined to maintain law and order, did their duty to protect the prisoner. The mob was warned not to advance upon the jail. They ignored the warning. The military forces were ordered to fire. They obeyed. Five men were killed and fifteen wounded and the mob retired. The incident is regrettable. But it is the only way to deal with mobs. The supremacy of the law must be maintained. When mobocrats learn that their lives will be the penalty for lawlessness, mob violence will cease. America must put down mobs, or mobs will destroy her.

It is rather significant that as the first shot for American independence was fired at Lexington, Mass., the shot that should free America from the tyranny of British rule, so the first shot has been fired at Lexington, Ky., which it is hoped will prove the first shot that will free America from the tyranny of the lynchocrat.

Lexington, Mass., and Lexington, Ky., will doubtless loom large in our national history as playing an important part in emancipation from tyranny.

PUPILS IN HIGH SCHOOLS.

THE MONITOR is gratified to learn that an unusually large number of our students have entered the Central and Commercial High Schools. The largest number in the history of the city are now enrolled in these two schools, which shows a commendable determination upon the part of our young people to take advantage of the splendid opportunities for education offered here. It also shows the increase in our population and the character of many who have recently come from the Southland, seeking better industrial advantages for themselves and better educational opportunities for their children. Many of the recent entrants at the high schools are migrants from the South. We feel confident that they will make good. We are quite sure that they will be exceedingly careful of their conduct and that all, and this applies with equal force to our young people who have been reared in Omaha, will do their level best to reflect credit upon themselves and their race, which is now on trial in them. All our students should be animated with the determination to excel in scholarship and in gentlemanly demeanor. Let politeness, gentility and good manners be the prevailing characteristics of our young people and these with strict application to study will win and compel deserved recognition.

DOUGLAS.

A FEW days ago we mentioned the name of Frederick Douglas in the presence of a young high school girl. She opened her eyes in amazement and asked who he was and what he had done. This set us to thinking. Of course the public schools never mention Frederick Douglas. Text books are silent concerning him. Perhaps this girl had never heard Douglas' name mentioned in her home. Was she so much to blame, after all? How many of our homes contain pictures of our great men and women, among whom Douglas holds high rank? There is need for a campaign of education, that our people may know those of our own race who have been illustrious in our republic and throughout the world. The anniversary of Douglas' birth offers a splendid opportunity for direct-

ing the attention of our people to him. No year should be allowed to pass without some fitting memorial celebration.

CONFIDENT OF WOODS' NOMINATION.

THE MONITOR, which is uncompromisingly for General Wood's nomination for the presidency may be a little impatient. We are wondering why such little publicity is being given to his candidacy. We are being flooded with press releases and publicity matter for other candidates, which you will notice we have not published, but very little, practically nothing, has been released for General Wood's campaign. Is it because his managers are so confident of his nomination by acclamation that they do not deem publicity necessary? The Monitor wants to see more publicity given General Wood's candidacy.

Of course General Wood is the man. The Monitor is convinced of this fact, but we want to see that fact given the widest publicity.

JUDGE GOSS.

CHARLES A. GOSS has been appointed to the district bench to succeed Judge Day, who has been elevated to the supreme bench. Judge Goss is an eminent lawyer and a broad-minded, high-class gentleman. His promotion is merited. The Monitor congratulates Judge Goss upon his selection. Omaha is also to be congratulated upon his elevation to the bench.

PERISCOPE.

(By Associated Negro Press.)

"THE BROWNIES" BOOK.

By Wm. Piekens, Baltimore, Md.
 At last somebody is paying especial attention to the soul-needs of the little colored child. They are publishing a child's magazine, which contains pictures of colored children and stories about them and their own colored folk. In the first issue of this periodical, for January, 1920, is a picture of the tiny black queen of Abyssinia, and of other children of the sun. This will put ambition, self-respect and "dreams" into the hearts of colored children. And you know the dream anticipates the waking up. If Dr. DuBois had done nothing else but found this little magazine, he should be remembered for it. In some respects this little monthly book is more important than The Crisis; it begins at the beginning—with the children. And the children are the ancestors of the race to be. Some things are so plain that most people do not see them. Most people do not reflect that little children and big ones, too, must have ideals of their own kind in order to inspire. Most people never see the sky—it is so evident.

We must remember that all the school books are made for little white children in this country. The books do not seem to know that the little "True Brownies" are alive. A colored child in an American school could easily get the idea that he is not human, and that only white folks are such beings as human stories can be written about. When Jack and Jill go up the hill, they are both white. When the Little Boy Blue blows his horn he is white. Even Old Mother Goose is white and stringy haired. And all the sign-boards of civilization paint the little Negro child in the same direction. As he trudges homeward from school, he must even no-

tie that the little fairy that sits on a cake of soap, is always a white fairy. And all the folks that his history was willing to mention, were white—except some black slaves.

Consider the plight of this child! At last, "The Brownies" book has made its appearance, to hold up to these little brown angels as their ideas their own kind—themselves.

A GOOD MAN'S MEMORY.

(Houston, Tex., Post)

In renaming the Emancipation Park Negro school the Blackshear school, the Houston board pays a fitting tribute to the life and work of one of the worthiest Negro citizens who ever lived in Texas.

Prof. E. L. Blackshear who passed away a few weeks ago at Hempstead, was one of the foremost Negro educators in the state for many years. He was the first principal of the school which now bears his name, and later became the head of the Prairie View Normal for Negroes, which may be best described as the Tuskegee of Texas.

He labored unceasingly for a generation for the normal, mental and economic advancement of his race. He worked along practical lines, holding to the belief that the Negro could improve only as he becomes a more useful and more responsible citizen. He at all times stood for the best interest of the Negro people, sometimes against strong opposition. Throughout his career he entertained a friendly regard for the white people, sought their co-operation and good will, and in turn he was rewarded with the confidence and high regard of the better elements of the white people of the state.

The citizens of Houston, white and black, who recognize the great value of the service rendered by the late Negro educator to his race and to his state, will heartily approve of honoring his memory in this city, where his work is so well known. His life was an example every Negro youth might well emulate.

THE MONITOR'S PRESS DAY.

THE Monitor goes to press Wednesday of each week at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. To insure publication in the current week's issue news items and articles must reach our office by Tuesday night. One form, that is to say, one chase, the iron frame in which one page of the type is "locked up" to go on the press is held open for emergency advertisements, the copy for which cannot be obtained before Wednesday morning, until noon Wednesday. Now and then we can get late news on that page, but ordinarily not. Copy, therefore, that reaches our office Wednesday later than 10 o'clock in the morning stands a slim chance of getting in that week's issue. Frequently copy reaches us Wednesday afternoon or Thursday and some irate individual calls up to know "Why isn't my item in this week's issue?" Too late, dear friends, that's all. Get your news in on time.

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