

THE MONITOR

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

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OATH OF COLORED AMERICAN YOUTH

"I will never bring disgrace upon my race by any unworthy deed or dishonorable act; I will live a clean, decent, manly life, and will ever respect and defend the virtue and honor of womanhood; I will uphold and obey the just laws of my country and of the community in which I live, and will encourage others to do likewise; I will not allow prejudice, injustice, insult or outrage to cower my spirit or sour my soul, but will ever preserve the inner freedom of heart and conscience; I will not allow myself to be overcome of evil, but will strive to overcome evil with good; I will endeavor to develop and exert the best powers within me for my own personal improvement, and will strive unceasingly to quicken the sense of racial duty and responsibility; I will in all these ways aim to uplift my race so that, to everyone bound to it by ties of blood, it shall become a bond of ennoblement, and not a byword of reproach."

THE DULUTH MURDER

MURDER is the proper name for lynching, any lynching. Dr. Ryan, rector of St. Paul's Church, Duluth, says quite truly of the lynching in that city, that it was "murder, pure and simple." He is right. And until the American people come to look upon lynching as "murder, pure and simple," little progress will be made in rolling away this notorious crime which makes the United States, with all our boasted enlightenment and high idealism, a stench in the nostrils of the nations. Unfortunately, the American conscience, and we have in mind, of course, the white American conscience, does not regard lynching, and especially the lynching of colored Americans, commonly called Negroes, as murder. One reason for this is that the average white American does not regard "the negro," written generally with a lower case "n," which shows the disesteem or contempt in which this ethnic group is held, as a man, but merely as an animal, with some degree of intelligence or cunning. If at any time one of this species runs wild, then there is no more harm in killing "it" than there would be in killing a mad dog or some other ferocious animal. This is the psychology, whether admitted or not, which underlies the increasing number of murders of black men and women by mobs in the United States. And this attitude of mind upon the part of the white American must be changed before Negro-baiting and lynching will cease. Until this is done any American city, no matter how orderly or law-abiding it may be considered, is liable to have its eschuteon stained by the blood of some unfortunate black victim, accused and perhaps guilty of some heinous crime, for which he should pay the lawful penalty. But whether the accused be innocent or guilty, the mob bent on vengeance does not care one whit. All it wants is a victim. No American city is mob proof, so far as the colored American, accused, suspected or guilty of crime, is concerned. And this is directly traceable and due to the average white American's attitude of mind towards colored Americans chiefly and proportionately to other dark-skinned races. This attitude of mind, due to false education, must be changed if our country is to hold an honored place among the nations of the earth. And to this task all who love our country must seriously address themselves. Americans are at heart a kind, sympathetic, humane and justice-loving people, and why they should have such murderous hatred in their heart for members of the colored race, which these far-flung, ferocious outbreaks show, can only be explained upon grounds here stated of a wrong attitude of mind. The law is adequate to punish heinous crimes. Crimes against women are most heinous. The color of the woman does not count. Whether she be white, black, red, brown or yellow, her ravishment is a heinous crime. The race, creed or color of her assailant does not increase or mitigate the heinousness of his offense. Taking for granted that the Duluth crime was as reported, there was no excuse whatever for several thousand

citizens to become murderers. For murderers every active participant in that lynching was.

Duluth, a progressive, representative, orderly, well governed city, today hangs her head in shame because of its citizens who showed contempt for law and have brought upon themselves the brand of Cain. But will the American people learn from this latest manifestation of mobocracy the serious condition our country is in and set their hearts and minds upon planting in the hearts of all people such respect for law and order and such horror for murder that such outbreaks of savagery become unthinkable and impossible?

When lynching is regarded as murder, pure and simple, lynching will end.

FAMILY PRAYER

We have gotten away from the good old-fashioned custom of family prayer. There are hundreds of thousands of homes in which children never see their father and mother kneel in prayer and never hear the voice of prayer, and then we wonder why so many children are becoming indifferent towards the claims of religion. We wonder why there is becoming such a wide-spread disrespect for law and such prevalent disobedience. Is it not possible that if parents showed greater respect for their Heavenly Father that their children would show greater respect for them?

POSTPONEMENT

The editor must postpone the publication of his observations and side-lights on the Republican convention and his visit to Chicago until a later issue.

PLEASE NOTICE

Many subscriptions expire with this number. Please notice the label on your paper, and if it is marked "7-20" or "July 20," it means that your subscription has expired and we will be pleased to have you promptly renew your subscription.

TAKES CHARGE OF MONITOR CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

Mr. Morris Wright, vice-president of the Nebraska State Health Accident and Insurance Company, who has had experience in newspaper work in New York and Chicago, and who is very much interested in The Monitor because of its high standard of excellence, has consented to devote a portion of his leisure hours each day to the circulation and advertising departments of The Monitor. He has not severed his connection with the insurance company, which he has built up so successfully, but will lend such time as he can spare to supervising and building up the circulation of The Monitor. The Monitor bespeaks for Mr. Wright the hearty co-operation of all our people, among whom he has a large and favorable acquaintance. He has undertaken this work because he believes that The Monitor ought to be put and can be put in every colored home in Omaha. Mr. Wright wants active, alert and dependable high school boys and girls to act as canvassers. A good paying proposition for the right kind of people. Those who mean

business can see him at The Monitor office, 204 Kaffir block, any morning between 10 and 11 o'clock.

PINKETT'S CHARGES FALL FLAT.

An article was recently published in The Bee to the effect that H. J. Pinkett had filed charges against Officer Harry Buford for having offered insolence to Mr. J. R. Lemma, a salesman for a local corporation. While the charge has fallen flat, Mr. Buford feels that the following letters should be given publicity. They are self-explanatory:

Omaha, Neb., June 10, 1920. Mr. J. D. Ringer, Superintendent of Police and Sanitation, City Hall, Omaha, Neb., My Dear Sir—A few days ago an employe of the Police department, Harry Buford, accosted Mr. J. R. Lemma at 24th and Patrick avenue, and very roughly demanded what he was working at and what he was doing. He was very courteously told what he already knew, that Mr. Lemma is now and for the last three months, has been engaged as one of our two salesmen to dispose of stock in a company which is to open a department store in the colored section of the city.

Mr. Lemma feels that he has been outraged by the insolence of Buford, and the members feel the same way about it.

There was a perfectly legitimate way to gain lawful information with respect to business corporations, and the method and manner Buford made use of was not one. There had been no complaint that this company which I represent was acting illegally, or that any of its agents have been.

I wish that you would advise me whether there was any authority given Buford to make an investigation of the Co-Operative Workers of America. I think, too, that Buford fairly owes an apology to Mr. Lemma. H. J. PINKETT.

Omaha, Neb., June 17, 1920.—In re charges filed against Police Officer Harry Buford.

Referring to the matter of meeting Harry Buford at 24th and Patrick av-

enue on or about the 10th day of June where the interview took place referred to in Mr. Pinkett's letter to Mr. J. Dean Ringer, Superintendent of Police, I will say at the time of meeting Mr. Buford I had no thought that Mr. Buford was meeting me in an official capacity.

After going to the office, room No. 19, Patterson Block, office of the Co-operative Workers of America, and hearing an article read on the subject of taking into custody seven stock salesmen, I came to the conclusion that possibly Mr. Buford might have been approaching me in an official capacity, and I lightly commented on the fact, but as far as I personally was concerned that closed the matter.

This was taken up with Mr. Ringer without my knowledge by Mr. Pinkett and I am sorry that it was construed that way. This is all I know about the matter.

I will further say that Mr. Buford has been a friend of mine and I a friend of his family for the past sixteen years and during that time we have had no matter occur of an unpleasant nature and I cannot construe or recall any of his actions to be that of an unfriendly nature. On this occasion I did not feel insulted in any way, but it occurred to me that possibly he might have been acting in an official capacity, but he did not insult me.

J. R. LEMMA.

SERIOUSLY BURNED

BY GASOLINE
Russel Taylor, Jr., son of the Rev. Russel Taylor, is in St. Catherine's hospital where he was taken last Wednesday, recovering from burns on his leg received from gasoline at the Windsor hotel, where he is employed. In filling a gasoline torch, gasoline dripped unnoticed on his shoe. In lighting the torch his shoe ignited and the boy's leg was badly burned before the flames were extinguished.

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