

# THE MONITOR

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## CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS is the festival of good will. The very atmosphere seems surcharged with a spirit of kindness and goodfellowship as this joyous and sacred season rolls around each year. The season manifests a subtle and potent alchemy which has a softening and enriching influence upon every human heart. Harshness and gripping avarice and selfishness, like jangling bells all out of tune, strike stridently discordant notes with the spirit of Christmastide. It is indeed the season of goodwill. And the spirit of goodwill, regnant even in the hearts of those who may not be willing to accept the theological truth or doctrine which the festival attests, is evidence of the truth that very Christian tenet, "Emmanuel," God with us. Christmas tide proclaims the truth that "for us men and for our salvation" Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and became man. A tremendous, awe-inspiring, love-compelling mystery. Efforts to explain it fail. The Fact remains undisputed. "Jesus Christ, our Saviour was born on Christmas Day." God gave His great Gift of Love to the world; showing thereby His goodwill to the world. Therefore the angels sang the song which reaches in the hearts of men today "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace to men of goodwill." It matters little that the world has not yet fully accepted the Gift. It has been given and slowly as the ages run towards the silent river of Eternity the influence of that Wondrous Gift is sweetening the lives of the human race and the spirit of goodwill which manifests itself each Christmastide is the earnest of that coming time when the whole world will give back the song which now the angels sing.

May Christmas bring its richest blessings to all mankind. May the spirit of the Christ Child enter into the hearts of men everywhere that they may prove themselves worthy of the love that brought the Son of God from heaven to dwell among men on earth that earth might become a befitting dwelling place for the sons of men.

## JUST PEOPLE

THE other day we were in one of the large department stores and happened upon the manager whom we have known for many years. Always cordial and pleasant he engaged us in conversation in the course of which he said, "We have a good many of your people employed here and they average up with the rest of our employees."

"We replied, "Of course, they do; the more you learn about us, the more you will realize that we are just people."

"Just people," he rejoined. "You are right. After all, we are all made out of the same kind of clay, aren't we? Just people."

This is worth remembering when we are wont to think of the foibles and weaknesses of mankind.

WHITENED, AS EXPECTED  
 NO one has been disappointed in the report of Secretary Daniels' committee which investigated the charges against the marines in Haiti. It was a foregone conclusion that such a committee would administer a most liberal coat of whitewash. The application of the coat is thicker than was anticipated. The charges should not be permitted to drop. There should be a thorough and rigid investigation by a disinterested congressional committee who are interested in nothing but the truth. The American people will not stand for banditry upon the part of their representatives even in Haiti. General Barnett and independent investigators like Seligman of The Nation, James Weldon Johnson and others are not

given to making charges in so grave a matter as this which are "ill-considered, regrettable and thoroughly unwarranted reflections" on the work of the marine corps in Haiti.

## AMERICANS OR ALIENS?

THE question that the United States has got to face and answer honestly and squarely is this: "Are 'Negroes' Americans or aliens?" This is not an academic, but a vital, practical question. It lies at the very foundation of the well-being and stability of this republic. Until this question is answered, honestly, unequivocally and fairly, there will be friction between two large groups of the population of this nation. If this government be, as it is loudly proclaimed to be, a democracy, then there cannot be two grades of citizens; one entitled to full rights and the other to limited or partial citizenship rights. As matters exist today, there are nearly fifteen million who are restricted in the enjoyment of their rights as American citizens. They are regarded as a thing apart, to be separated from other American citizens, to be discriminated against in public places, conveyances and public carriers, and as to the rights of domicile. This group growing in wealth in culture, in self-respect, cannot and will not be satisfied with anything less than the full rights of American citizenship. So the United States has got to face the question as to whether people of color who reside within her territory, obey her laws and meet every requirement demanded of them are Americans or aliens.

## THE MONITOR AND THE NEW ERA

THERE seems to be a determined effort upon the part of some people or group of people to stir up a fight between The Monitor and The New Era. When The New Era was started it was an impression among some people that it was started to run The Monitor out of business. Whether this impression was or was not justified, the present editor of The New Era does not know; but he wishes to state now and emphatically that no fight shall be inaugurated as long as it is his privilege to edit these columns.

There is already too much division among the colored people of Omaha to invite more. From the inception of this paper until today the one slogan has been "Unity!" and for it to start a campaign against the only other colored paper of this community would be a contradiction of the very philosophy to which it holds. Our race cannot afford to be divided.

There is work in Omaha for two colored papers and room for each to work along harmoniously and without friction. If The Monitor has faults, it is only because the men publishing it are human. The New Era, too, has its faults and these rest upon the same human foundation. The editor who can please everybody is only the editor who reposes in a handsome casket and is unable to make any further use of his pen.

What Omaha colored people need is unity and there can be and shall be no quarrel upon the part of The New Era with any paper or organization which has unity for an ideal. The various methods and opinions of what should be the proper course for affecting unity may differ, but even different paths may reach the same end. Today, as never before, the race in Omaha needs to be cemented rather than disorganized and it shall be the purpose of this paper to aid in this work rather than to hinder.—The New Era, Dec. 18, 1920.

The Monitor fully reciprocates the sentiments expressed by our local contemporary, The New Era, in the above editorial.

## "AMERICAN BANDITRY IN HAITI"

THIS is the title of a scathing editorial in the December issue of "Jim Jam Jems," a snappy monthly published at Bismarck, So. Dak. Those seeking light on the Haitian situation should secure the magazine and read this article. They will find it fearless and illuminating.

## SNYCOPATED SPASMS

## PROHIBITION BOOZE

WE fought prohibition, and the more we see of it the happier we are in the fact that we did fight it. We knew as surely as we know that the furnace hogs coal that prohibition would introduce prohibition booze and it has. It is here and here strong. Folks who never thought of drinking booze in the world are drinking it now. Only the other day a woman was judged in Baltimore and she told the judge that it was honorable to get drunk these days. But don't believe it. Prohibition booze is pizen. When you slip eight or ten bones to some pussyfooting guy who hands you a pint of prohibition booze, the good Lord be with you. You can never tell what you are getting. Last week one of the district judges fell into a swoon when some booze peddlers told him that their booze contained sulphuric acid, ammonia and gasoline. We weren't in the court room at the time, but if we had been we guess we would have swooned, too. It was time to swoon. What we did do, howsoever, was to shake hands with ourselves over the fact that we never have bought or tasted any prohibition booze. And what we mean to say is that from now on we aren't going to. We have heard of rotten apple booze, wood alcohol booze, mule, and several other kinds of booze, but never in our natural lives did we ever hear of sulphuric acid booze. Leave it alone, friend; leave it alone. You can't afford to take a chance unless you feel like flirting with the undertaker and having friend wife or next of kin toddling down to the office to collect your life insurance. Another thing about prohibition booze is that it tangles the noodle. It makes you dippy. You start seeing things as they are not and very soon after you start doing things as they shouldn't be done. This leads to the smashing of the laws and before long you have got more trouble on your hands than the police department. So duck prohibition booze. And if you just must have something with a kick in it, just get on your knees and pray that very

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## FOR UNITED POLITICAL ACTION

Saturday night in response to an invitation sent by the editor to about fifty men and women, representing all classes of our people, fifteen persons met at The Monitor office and held an interesting conference on securing proper political recognition in the distribution of patronage—county, state and federal—from the republican party. Rev. John Albert Williams was chosen chairman and W. E. Alexander, secretary. The sentiment was unanimous that there ought to be united action in supporting competent persons seeking appointments to which we are justly entitled. An organization to be known as the United Colored Voters of Douglas County was the outgrowth of the conference.

## The Heart of Christmas

Christmas is not a day, it is a mood. It is independent of days. We celebrate it on Friday, Saturday, Sunday—any day of the week. Christmas is indifferent to days. It has nothing to do with the almanac. It has nothing to do with place. It is as independent of geography as it is of chronology. It has no relation to human government, or ever to race or blood. It is an institution which can be set up on any soil and under the folds of any flag. Christmas is a spiritual creation, and belongs to the kingdom of the heart. It is constructed by angels of the heart of a child. If it then be a mood, it can be extended over a week, a month, a year, a lifetime. It can be built upon time, upon eternity. If you confine it to a day, you miss the meaning of it. If you try to cram it into twenty-four hours, you crush it and lose the essence of it.

## See What Santa Brought



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