

THE MONITOR

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A FRIEND OF OUR YOUTH

W. ALLISON SWEENEY! We can see his kind face now as memory goes back to our boyhood days in Detroit, Mich., more than forty years ago. We were a high school student and a newsboy. Some friends had told him some nice things about us! At all events we met. He took a liking to us and we to him. He had come to Detroit to publish a colored newspaper, "The Voice of The People." Would we sell it for him on the streets Saturday? Would we? Indeed, we would and we did. That was the beginning of the friendship between us and W. Allison Sweeney, the great journalist and author who has recently been called to his well-earned rest at the ripe age of seventy-two years. So sunny and genial was he that the years dealt gently with him as was his wont to deal with his fellow men and one did not realize that he had reached his three-score years and ten. His life was a useful one. In his summons home not only the race of which he was such a worthy representative, but America has lost a great journalist. May light perpetual shine upon him.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

PRESIDENT Harding delivered a notable address at Birmingham, Alabama, last week. When one considers who the speaker was and where he spoke the speech stands without a parallel among the utterances of the chief executives of the nation. It is from the viewpoint of a Republican president, speaking in the heart of the South, upon a subject which the South considers itself alone qualified to speak with authority, that the speech is to be judged. It is to be judged, not from isolated statements or propositions, from which some of us would differ with the distinguished speaker, but as a whole and in reference to the chief points advanced. Frankly, there are three propositions with which The Monitor does not agree with President Harding, which it is not pertinent that we discuss here, but there is so much with which we do agree and for the fearless enunciation of which principles we are profoundly grateful that we can afford to let other principles, which from our viewpoint are equally important, because basic and fundamental, await adjustment. Pres. Harding's contention that the colored American must have increased economic, educational and political opportunity is fundamentally sound, and should be so apparent that one marvels that any thoughtful person would attempt to gainsay it. The fullest enjoyment of the rights of citizenship is what the colored American is contending for; not the privilege of entering any white man's home or society, where he is not wanted, or marrying into his family. The colored American would not be worthy of American citizenship if he were satisfied with any less than the fullest measure of political, economic, educational and civil rights. These he wants and for these he will contend until they are granted. These are not questions of "social equality," whatever this much-abused term may mean, or "social intermingling." In

pleading for these fundamental things, President Harding is right. His suggestion that the race should divide along political lines has been the teaching of many thoughtful colored Americans for years. In giving this advice President Harding is but interpreting the hand-writing on the wall. Considered as a whole, the speech is sane and statesmanlike and diplomatic. It will repay careful reading and study. It points the pathway towards a solution of the color-problem which looms large among the nations of the world, a problem which like all other world problems can only be solved by the application of the principles of the Christian religion. This solution is involved in the President's plea for a "partnership of the races in developing the highest aims of all humanity." Partnership, be it also noted, implies friendly association, which may not have been clearly in the President's mind when he used this suggestive phrase.

COLORED AMERICANS MUST ACT

The Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill has been reported favorably by the committee of the judiciary.

It is known as the DYER ANTI-LYNCHING BILL, H. R. 13.

Now is the time to flood Congress with telegrams, letters, even personal visits to Washington.

We must let this Congress know that a failure to bring the Dyer Bill to a vote will be regarded as a betrayal.

We must let each representative know that a vote against the Dyer Bill will be known as a vote for lynching.

GET BUSY, COLORED AMERICANS!

WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN DEAR EDITOR:

Please permit me to urge upon every man and woman of the race and upon every friend of the race to telegraph or write their representatives in congress urging them to vote for the passage of H. R. 13 known as the Dyer Anti-Lynching bill, now before Congress.

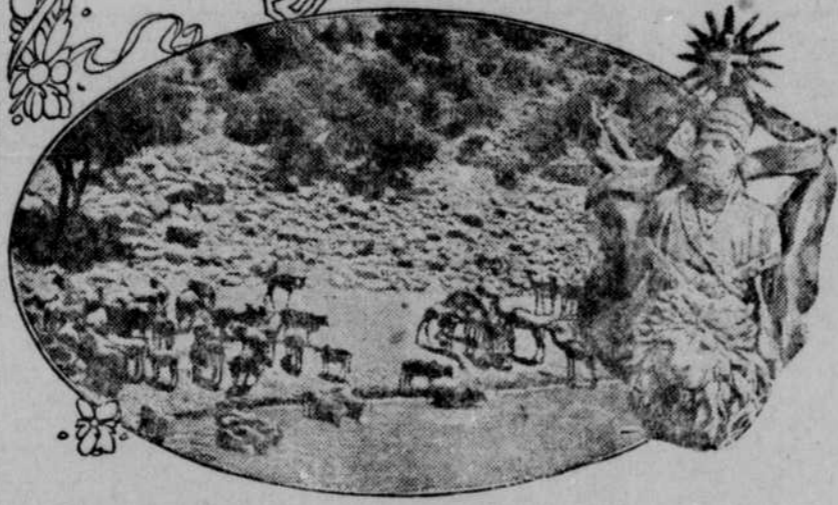
At the same time, I wish to warn each one communicating with congressional representatives, to avoid all threats of political retaliation and useless expressions. Remember these men are human and will resent some things at whatever cost. Many are the good measures that have been defeated and to my knowledge, at least, two great friends of the race have gone to their political graves due largely to some indiscreet utterance of the colored press but to some who should pursue a more conciliatory manner of treating matters that are of vital interest to the race. Soft methods will prevail, where blustering will fail. A hint to the wise is sufficient.

J. D. CRUM, Sec'y.
 1417 North 24th St.

Right Now is a Good Time to Pay

Your Subscription

Independent Abyssinia



Cattle and Camels at a fero.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

A Christian nation when our ancestors were floundering in paganism, now as for centuries an African empire—one of the three or four remaining empires of the world—and the only bit of land on the great continent of Africa, with the exception of the little republic of Liberia, which has not been made a possession of a protectorate of a European power—such is Abyssinia, little heard of in the world's affairs, but possessing a history and a promise of future economic importance which make it deserve a different fate.

The country owes its independence in large part both directly and indirectly to its geographical environment. Set upon a great plateau, it is a natural fortress; and while the natives of most other sections of tropical Africa dwell in enervating jungles or inhospitable deserts, the people of Abyssinia, thanks to their altitude, fertile soil and temperate conditions in general, have an invigorating climate and a land literally of "milk and honey." A situation near Arabia and Palestine, too, has drawn Arabian and Jewish blood to Abyssinia and has given the people of the country a racial advantage which the African tribes of pure negro blood have not had.

While geographical situation has in many ways been an advantage to Abyssinia, it has brought its disadvantages also. Without access to the sea for centuries, the Abyssinians, held to their inland tablelands, failed to contact with the outside world, failed to make the most of their possession of a lofty religion and an early start toward civilization, and have remained a semibarbaric people. It is perhaps remarkable that, isolated as they were, they maintained their Christianity in any recognizable form. Observers marvel at the fact that the principal tenets and observances of the faith are practically pure rather than at the growth beside them of certain superstitions and fancies.

Cut Off From Sea and Nile.

As the situation now stands, Abyssinia is entirely cut off from the sea and the Nile by the colonies of European powers; Italian Eritrea, French Somaliland and British Somaliland on the north; Italian Somaliland on the east; British East Africa on the south and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan on the west. But this is a mere holding of the gates by new keepers; since the rise of Mohammedan power in the Near East the country has been cut off about equally as effectively by various Mohammedan tribes. Those people of Arabian blood were able to take possession of the low desert lands, but on their invigorating highlands the Abyssinians were, with rare exceptions, masters.

Abyssinia is more than twice the size of the German republic and of about the area of California, Oregon and Nevada together. The country lies in the same latitude as Venezuela and the southern islands of the Philippines, well in the tropics; but because of its general high elevation it has, like Mexico, a much cooler and more healthful climate than its proximity to the equator would indicate.

These highlands are from 5,000 to 8,000 feet above the sea. Their rolling prairies are well watered and have a good growth of grass. The climate of these uplands is superb, and if one desires cooler surroundings there are mountain chains rising from the plateau in almost all sections of the country. Some of these mountains reach a height of 15,000 feet and are topped by perpetual snow. Irrigation could be practiced in Abyssinia to great advantage, but the utilization of the abundant water supply in that way seems never to have entered the minds of the natives.

Canyons and Deep Valleys.

The great amount of water which runs down from the Abyssinian mountains has carved gigantic gorges through the tablelands, some of which, in depth at least, rival the Grand canyon of the Colorado. The gorge of the Blue Nile which flows for more than half its length through Abyssinia is from 5,000 to 6,000 feet deep in places. The material washed from this remote chasm has played an important part, incidentally, in the history of the world. Ground into silt and deposited through the centuries and millenniums in the lower valley of the Nile, it produced there a garden spot and made possible the growth of

one of the world's earliest civilizations.

In the bottoms of these deep valleys, some of which are fairly wide, and in other depressions, tropical conditions prevail, so that the possible products of Abyssinia range from those of the tropics to those of the northern temperate zone. Little has been done toward the development of agriculture beyond its primitive stages. The raising of cattle, sheep and goats for their milk, flesh and skins is the more popular pursuit.

The Abyssinian has been described by one American as "rather an independent, easy-going, battle-loving, raw-meat-eating, sensual, devil-may-care chap." Socially, the people are living in feudal times. The various reigning princes of the provinces owe allegiance to the emperor and must furnish soldiers to support him in time of war. The land is theoretically owned by the emperor and those who make use of it are his tenants. "Justice" is administered personally by the rulers and their representatives. When a person is accused of a crime the first step is to confiscate his property. Decision as to his innocence or guilt can follow in due time. Because property has been unseized for a long period people of wealth have buried what they could for safe keeping. Vast quantities of gold, silver and ivory are believed to lie underground at the present time, the latter, of course, deteriorating.

Good Roads Are Scarce.

One great drawback to the commercial development of Abyssinia has been the lack of roads leading up to the high plateau and over its surface. The routes of travel which have been used for more than a thousand years are mere trails, and the pack animals have been carried on mule and camel back since the days of the great Queen of Sheba, who, the traditions of the Abyssinians say, was the queen of Ethiopia. The royal line claims descent from her and Solomon. Some years ago the French began constructing a railroad from their part of Djibuti, just below the mouth of the Red sea, toward Abyssinia. The Abyssinians permitted this to be extended into their country and in 1917 it reached Adis Abeba, the capital. Over this road a large part of the hides, coffee, beeswax and ivory, which constitute the chief exports of the empire, are shipped.

Specialists in various fields who have visited the country believe that this is but a small part of the products that could be shipped to the world, and that the people are enjoying but a fraction of the prosperity that they might enjoy if they developed their resources along modern lines.

As the only African people which has been able to maintain its independence in modern times in a war with a European power, the Abyssinians have become rather conceited and are inclined not to recognize the superiority even of Western civilization and culture. Their victory was won over the Italians in 1896 at the battle of Adowa where the pick of the Italian army was cut to pieces. The Abyssinians have bought large quantities of modern rifles in recent years and could probably put in the field in case of war an army of 250,000 well-equipped soldiers, a large part of them mounted.

Tested the Saw.

Mr. Biggs was planning to build a motor shed in his garden, so he bought an expensive saw. He left his office early the next afternoon, with the intention of starting the job. Putting on a pair of overalls, he went out into the garden. An hour or so later he came into the dining room and flung himself down into a chair in disgust.

"That new saw I bought isn't worth 2 pence!" he stormed. "Why, the thing wouldn't cut butter!" His small son, Harry, looked up in surprise.

"Oh, yes, it would, daddy," he exclaimed earnestly. "Why, Ted and I sawed a whole brick in two with it this morning!"—London Answers.

Diabolical Joke.

Ted—Tom is a great practical joker. He made himself up as a ghost and appeared before a professional medium.

Ned—Yes, and as it was the first ghost she'd ever seen, it threw her into convulsions.

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