

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.



TRUE SPORTSMANSHIP

PROPOS of the principle at issue in the question of mixed bouts, The Monitor would respectfully call attention to the spirit of true sportsmanship which was shown at the Elks' recent picnic for boys in the athletic contests. There were certain qualifications laid down for all entrants in the respective events. Any boy who could meet those qualifications was permitted to enter. In every event boys of all nationalities entered. It happened that several colored boys captured prizes. They proved themselves to be the best athletes in certain events. Many white boys won prizes too as was to be expected in certain events outclassing their colored competitors. It was simply a case of the best runner or jumper as the case might be. There was no feeling but that of emulation. The spectators enjoyed it as much as the boys. Had white boys only been permitted to compete with white boys and colored boys with colored boys it would not have been a fair test of the athletic ability of the boys of Omaha. It would simply have been a contest between those respective groups, that's all. But as it was a fair field, open to all competitors, and the best athlete won, whether he was of Irish, German, Italian, Hebrew, African or any other abstraction entering into the composition of a representative American community, such as Omaha is. That was true sportsmanship.

MIXED BOUTS IN NEBRASKA

THE boxing commissioner of Nebraska is absolutely wrong and is exceeding his authority in his ruling on mixed bouts in Nebraska. There is nothing in the law which authorizes him to rule that mixed bouts shall not be permitted in this state. They have been hitherto and no evil has resulted therefrom. True sportsmanship bars no competitor. Some states of the North have lately been following the ruling of the South forbidding colored athletes to compete with white, and the boxing commission of Nebraska is falling for this same small business. The inconsistency of this position is readily apparent to any individual with even the brains of a goat, when one considers that, for example, Jack Taylor, Omaha boxer, has just gone to Michigan City, Ind., to box with and train Jack Dempsey, but should Taylor or "Bearcat" Wright, another local boxer, desire to pull off a boxing bout in Nebraska, with some white boxer, by the ruling of our sapient boxing commission, the event would be forbidden and declared unlawful. A boxing bout in this state between boxers of different racial groups IS NOT UNLAWFUL. If boxing bouts between whites and whites, red and red, yellow and yellow, black and black are lawful and permissible, then mixed bouts are equally lawful and permissible. The Monitor would like to see a test case made of the absurd ruling of Nebraska's boxing commission.

THE MONITOR APOLOGIZES

THE Editor of The Nation, a fair-minded and influential national

weekly which we cannot too highly commend, as we have hitherto done, to our readers, courteously calls our attention to the fact that in our issue of July 28th, we failed to credit The Nation with the scholarly address of Mordecai Wyatt Johnson, captioned "The Faith of the American Negro," which we republished from that publication. It was an oversight, which we regret, hereby acknowledge and apologize for. It has always been a point of honor with us, in conformity with the ethics of journalism, to give credit to our contemporaries for any special articles or editorials appearing therein which we have given place in our columns. This is the rule of all reputable publications. Errors and oversights in the matter of giving credit to contemporaries occur in all publications, but editorial courtesy demands prompt correction of such errors when discovered or called to one's attention. Incidentally it may be stated that it is a matter of pride to The Monitor to know that our columns are regularly scanned by such publications as The Nation, The Literary Digest, The Republic, and similar journals.

BE CONSISTENT, JUDGE

LAST week, Judge Charles Leslie, sentenced three colored boys sixteen years of age to from three to five years in the penitentiary for highway robbery. One of the boys, Clarence Watts, was within a few days of being sixteen. According to newspaper reports, Judge Leslie, in sentencing these young highwaymen, stated that they were too bad to be sent to the State Reformatory, and for that reason he would sentence them to the penitentiary. The law allows the sentence, no doubt. That there are entirely too many holdups in Omaha and coddling of criminals there can be no question. That many of these holdups are staged by mere boys in their teens is a regrettable fact. Drastic measures to suppress crime are imperative. And yet we are wondering if like punishment will be meted out to white highwaymen of the same age as has been measured to these misguided and foolish colored youth. There is no excuse for their crime and we do not consider their punishment excessive. Judge Leslie is a broad-minded and fair-minded judge. The Monitor simply expects him to be and believes he will be consistent in meting out deserved punishment to all youthful offenders, irrespective of their racial affinity who like these three boys start out on a desperado's career and believe they are doing something smart.

COMPETITION.

COMPETITION in any line stimulates one to do his best. One need never fear competition, so long as he is doing his level best, and plays the game fair. He will be sure to win out in the long run. One gains nothing, but in the end loses, by misrepresentation of competitors either by misdeed or by direct falsification. Any one who believes he can build up himself PERMANENTLY by pulling someone else down makes a serious mistake.

COLORED RACE'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN AMERICA IS MARKED

By John L. Hill

Education is always the true measure of progress. From this viewpoint advancement of the Negroes has been even greater than from the standpoint of economics.

In 1868 90 per cent of the colored population was illiterate; in 1919 only 20 per cent was illiterate, a gain of 70 per cent in literacy in fifty years. At this rate of improvement it is but a question of little time when there will be practically no illiteracy among Negroes in America.

Negro education is by no means limited to grammar school courses, but proportionately measures up to the higher standards of academic, vocational and professional learning.

When they were liberated the Negroes had only 15 colleges and normal schools; now they have 50. Then they had 100,000 students in public schools; now they have 1,800,000. In all schools 50 years ago, there were about 600 Negro teachers; now there are 38,000. The value of property for higher education was then about \$60,000; now such property owned by Negroes is worth \$22,000,000. The annual expenditure then for Negro education was about \$700,000; now it is about \$15,000,000. Of these expenditures the Negroes raised, then, about \$80,000; they raise annually now about \$1,700,000.

The "separate school" system in the South, which forbids blacks and whites attending the same schools, colleges, universities, etc., while a hardship upon the Negroes, has not been without its distinct advantage to the colored race, in the long run. Were the Negroes in the South to be educated at all, they were forced to the necessity of providing the means of their own education; at least, it was necessary for them to have separate schools.

While the per capita part of the public school funds was available for the Negro schools, and while distinguished individuals of the white race were personally interested in Negro education, it was up to the colored people to demonstrate their ability to "educate" and to become "educated" or else their aspiration to maintain and enlarge the means of their education in the South was doomed to disappointment.

How well they have succeeded, the facts and figures, the distinguished attainment of scholarship by many Negro individual and the general average of information and intelligence among Negroes in the South, give emphatic testimony. The high standing of Negro schools, colleges and universities in the South is unquestioned in the educational circles of the Nation.

Of course, the Negro with gratitude acknowledge the help they have received from their white friends. The name of the late General Clinton D. Flake, together with that of Mr. Julius Rosenwald, the one who founded the great Flske University at Nashville, Tenn., and the other who has done and is doing so much to aid Negro education in the South, have become household words throughout the land. The names of many others, did space permit, might be mentioned for conspicuous aid to Negro education.

This fifty years of progress has demonstrated that Negro education is not an experiment. There is no longer any question of the Negro, as a class, being able to master and successfully apply the arts and sciences; creative and imaginative, gifted in expression and fervent in spirit, he excels in music, poetry and oratory.

Estimating future possibilities by past achievements in Negro education, within another fifty years, in intellectual attainment and educational culture, this strain of blood in America will be second to no other.

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