

THE MONITOR

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS

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Thanksgiving Reveries and Queries

Thanksgiving is the first of America's own holidays. As the earliest to be set apart its observance runs through the whole history of the nation. Like most other distinctive features of our American order of life it sprang up out of the local soil. It was at first and for many years colonial. It became national only as its observance spread from town to town, from colony to colony, from state to state.

While it has a historical interest all its own, Thanksgiving is identified with no single event, no special occasion, no definite date in our history. It recalls no single act, as does "Independence day." It commemorates the name and service of no man, as do the birthdays of Washington and Lincoln. It is not shared with other peoples as are Christmas and New Year's.

Day Identified With All.

The American Thanksgiving day is identified with the soil we till, for whose harvest we give thanks. It is, therefore, identified with the toil and the toilers whose tillage and productive labor, inventive skill, constructive and distributive enterprise feed, clothe, shelter and develop our own people and many of their kith and kin in the old fatherlands across the seas.

"Thanksgiving" is another and greater Labor day. It recalls and calls forth all kinds of effort by all classes of people. It merges the common product of the common toil, for the national possession of which the President and governors of the whole people call upon them to thank their Father-Creator and the good providence of the Great Provider. In thus reminding us that our harvests are the joint product of Mother Nature, the children of men and Father God, Thanksgiving is first of all the American people's expression of grateful appreciation for their "country"—its land and waters, its fertility and beauty; for our great out-of-doors nature, its response to human effort, to man's discovery and his working with natural law. Thanksgiving is, therefore, nature's harvest-home holiday.

Celebrates Entire Year.

And yet it celebrates the full round year. While held after harvest, Thanksgiving does not let us forget the seed and sowing of the springtime, the plowing and weeding of the summer as vital to the all-inclusive process of reaping. Moreover, and above all, in this linking soil and skies, earth and the heavens, it is the Day of Remembrance of the Father of us all, as the great giver not only but as the greatest worker, with whom we may work and who works with all for the common good. "My father worketh hitherto and I work," said the greatest of the sons of God and the children of men. This reveries awaken queries, also. "Ibrahim Taylor declares, in the Chicago Daily News. They spring from the sincerest recognition and most appreciative acknowledgment that the American people are and always have been, a composite race, and that adopt-

ed citizens from many lands have done very much to make America what it is. The early history of the United States interweaves fine, strong strands of English, Scotch, Celtic, French, Spanish and Jewish life, with not few or feeble negro traits, and toils, and some relics of Indian and old Mexican civilization. The human conquest and amazing development of this new continent cannot be accounted for without crediting much to the toil and many other enrichments of the Latin, Slavic and southeastern European immigrants. Contributions to our culture in art and philosophy and to our cultivation of the land and our commerce of the sea come from the older civilizations of China, India and Japan.

Founders of Country's Faith.

Foundations of America's faith were laid by pilgrims and cavaliers, Catholics and Protestants, each in its own way, yet all to the same great end.

They are merely listed here as queries raised by our Thanksgiving reveries, their discussion being reserved for timely opportunity. Their mere statement, however, makes bold the undoubting faith and hope that these, and all other problems of American life, can all and only be solved and settled by the spirit inspiring Katherine Lee Bates' great patriotic hymn that breathes the soul of our American Thanksgiving:

O, beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain,
America, America,
God send this grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

O, beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life
America, America,
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness
And every grain divine.

Holiday of the Home.

Thanksgiving is a day sacred to the home. More of it is spent at home

OCCASIONS FOR THANKSGIVING

THAT we have bread enough and to spare for the hungry of the earth.

That our ancient order of obedience and orderly change stands fast.

For the hope of better social understanding and just dealings.

That our great opportunities of world-wide helpfulness remain.

That the idea of brotherhood among the nations has taken root.

For the true men and women who are giving lives of service.

For leaders raised up and the opportunity of following them.

For the open door of knowledge and the desire for truth awake in men.

For joys of simple living and the unnoticed saints.

For work and rest, the patience that continues, the ideals that soar.

For the love of home in all of us, and its satisfaction when it comes.

That the world is bigger than we, and the joy of adventure which it brings.

—*Constitutionalist and Advocate*

than at church, in family reunions that in public assemblies, in serving the needy, the lonely, and the homeless than in formal services of worship. Its sanctuary is the thoughtful, thankful heart more than the house of worship. Who that has lived in any of our oldest colonial states, especially in New England, can ever forget, or fail to have a glow of heart at every giving day as observed on the soil from which it sprang? At the very mention of it, what visions reappear, of the long preceding preparations for it at the old family homestead; of the letters flying forth and back between the old folks at home and the scattered young folks in their new homes, or transient abodes; of the railway station platforms and cars thronged by merry home-bound children-of-an-older-growth, and children's children; of greetings at the threshold of the old farm house or village home, mingling the smiles and laughter of the living with tears or silent, sorrowing, undying yearning for "the touch of a vanished hand and the sound of a voice that is still"; of the beautifully laden, beautifully decorated family table, with America's fatted turkey as a "welcome home," instead of the "fatted calf" of ancient days.

National Development.

In the truest American homes the Thanksgiving family reunion is all that Robert Burns sang of "The Cotter's Saturday Night," and still more for being more joyous, though no less religious for all that. And there are Americans, not a few, who feel deep down in their hearts for their own country what the Scotch singer sang of his: "From scenes like these old Scotia's grandeur springs."

Out of this population more wonderfully composite than constitutes the citizenship of any other nation, a very distinctive national development has evolved. It is recognized by ourselves and other peoples as a distinct contribution to the world's possessions and to the heritage of mankind. It is here and now being considered, without any comparison with the characteristics of other nations, as better or worse.

This life-spirit of the American people is a fact, and a fact that raises these two queries at least: Is this American life or spirit distinct and valuable enough to be conserved, developed and perpetuated? If so, how can it maintain its distinct identity and value, enriched by the accessions from abroad which are appreciated and welcomed, without being transformed, diluted, or deteriorated? These are not only fair questions, but are queries that are forcing themselves upon the more or less strained attention of our people.

Thankfulness and Hope

Thanksgiving is not, at its best, what anybody says or does, but rather what he feels. And so it is, that all of us, equal members in a free democracy, are privileged to draw our inventories together, to total up the credit side of our ledger of life as one united people, and to join together in a festival of good cheer and hearty thanks for what the past has yielded; to face the future with a mutual hopefulness in what it holds in store.—*Farm and Ranch.*

PINCH AUCTIONEER TO BID AT SALE

New York Bowery Has an Unusual Sale.

New York.—A silent auction, where the bidders pinch the auctioneer and where transactions run to as high as \$250,000 a day is one of the most unique markets on the Bowery. It is here that three-fourths of the unredeemed pledges of pawnbrokers in the large Eastern cities are disposed of. Nothing is dealt in but jewelry, watches, antiques and such valuable articles as high-class field glasses. Several buildings on the west side of the Bowery, between Hester and Canal streets, house the auction rooms and exchanges. The membership is exclusive. The personnel seldom varies, except as sons or nephews of the traders succeed to the business as the older men retire or die. Nearly all are wealthy.

Sales Are Held Daily.

Pawnbrokers bring their unredeemed pledges to the auction rooms where sales are held daily. A pawnbroker hands in for sale, for instance, a diamond ring and tells how much he wants for it—confidentially to the auctioneer. The auctioneer passes the ring from hand to hand in a circle of speculators about him. He is seated in a chair on an elevation. When the article is returned, he asks for a bid.

The bidders express their ambitions by pinching the anatomy of the auctioneer at various points from his ankle to his neck. When the bidding opens he is literally covered with hands. Each hand has its allotted place. The auctioneer knows, for example, that the hand on his right knee is that of Morris Hirsch, the hand on the left knee is that of Jacob Rabinowitz, the hand grasping his left elbow is that of Hyman Cohan, and so on. He feels a certain squeeze repeated in a certain way. That means Morris Hirsch has offered \$200.

Pay After Auction.

That may be the only squeeze the auctioneer gets on the article on display; or he may get a dozen others. He hands the article to the man whose last squeeze indicated the highest bid. A memorandum is made and another article offered. No cash is exchanged and settlements are made at the end of the auction.

Sales are made with bewildering speed. When the stock is disposed of, the buyers troop downstairs to the ground floor exchange rooms and get ready for business. The dealers have little stalls in the main exchange where jewelry purchasers visit them. Little time is wasted in bargaining and business is usually brisk.

N. A. A. C. P. ACTIVE IN MISSOURI POLITICS

(By the Associated Negro Press.) Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 21.—Active participation in the election in this city Tuesday, November 4, by the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P., through questionnaires to candidates and recommendations on balloting, was one of the features of voting here.

A questionnaire was sent all candidates on state and county tickets, asking their stand on the Ku Klux Klan and upon local issues affecting colored citizens. The questions and replies of candidates classified merely as satisfactory, unsatisfactory or failed to reply, together with a recommended ticket was placed on a half page advertisement purchased by the association in the local weekly. Workers from the branch passed out the association ballots at all polling places.

This method of procedure was used effectively in the city campaign last spring by the branch. It is the theory of the association here that it can spend its money to no better advantage than by giving wide publicity to the office seekers who will give a square deal if elected. It asks no favors of newspapers, buying political space at political rates, as the candidates do.

DR. W. S. ELLINGTON WEDS

Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 21.—Miss Louretha Ursa Chambers, one of the leading teachers of Tennessee, was united in matrimony to the Rev. W. S. Ellington, pastor of the First Baptist church, each Nashville, at the residence of Prof. and Mrs. L. E. Brown, 1044 Mississippi avenue. Dr. Ellington is one of the foremost preachers of the race in America.

NOTICE TO NON-RESIDENT DEFENDANT

To Hurrel Greenway, Non-Resident Defendant: You are hereby notified that on the 29th day of July, 1924, Marie Greenway, as plaintiff, filed a petition in the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, against you as defendant, the object and prayer of which are to obtain a divorce from you on the ground of desertion. You are required to answer said petition on or before the 22nd day of December, 1924. Marie Greenway, Plaintiff, By W. B. Bryant, Her attorney.

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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.

OUR BIG JOB

THE Negro in the United States of America and in almost every community in America has a mighty big job on his hands. If he were not worthy of this big job or capable of doing it he would never have been given it. His job is this: To work out his civic, economic and political salvation in the face of an increasingly hostile sentiment and environment. Be the cause whatever it may the fact remains that the job before us is not growing less arduous; but it is our job and we've got to tackle it with a will and with a smile. Nor is our case unique. Most of us think so, but it is not. Progress upward and onward has always been marked by struggle and the overcoming of obstacles. Prejudice has striven to thwart the advance of every forward-looking group in humanity's march towards a larger freedom.

year. He made good in the house when he was there before and will maintain his honorable record again. The elections this year have shown many significant results.

WHEN DO WE GET IT?

WHEN are we going to get that much-needed municipal playground on North Twenty-first street? The Men's Service League and other agencies were busy and successful in securing favorable action by the city commissioners but up to the present there are no signs of fulfillment of the promise. What's the trouble? When is our wideawake park commissioner going to begin to move things? The playground has long been needed. Speed up, Joe.

AND THAT REMINDS US

SPEAKING of the municipal playground reminds us that there are a good many other improvements needed in the North end of the city which all classes of citizens should go after in dead earnest. More street lights and better paved streets can be secured if we go after them right.

JUDGE GEORGE'S VICTORY

The victory of Judge George, significant as it is, is yet not so significant as the way it has been received. It is true that Mr. George's election is due partially to the republican landslide. But it is also true that Mr. George was supported loyally by a large constituency of Caucasians, who were fair enough to feel that in return for the support of colored voters they should give their support to them.

Still up and above even this good augury is the friendly, even kindly way in which the city over whose judicial affairs he must preside has accepted him. Lawyers have been unstinting in their praise. Jurists have voiced welcome. And the newspapers have been as they should have been—fair.

After all, it is upon the attitude of the newspapers that much of your public sentiment depends. And Judge George and people of color are to be congratulated upon having had so signal an event as the election of a judge received with such an attitude of friendliness.

The Tribune particularly comes in for a full measure of appreciation. The News, the American and the Examiner deserve thanks. It is something new in journalism as regards the relationship of the races. May Judge George's election be the beginning of a city-wide feeling of better will and understanding.—*Chicago Whip.*

MISSOURI AGAIN ELECTS

Mrs. Josephine Smith, mother of Mrs. John A. Smith, 2511 North Twenty-second street, after a pleasant visit here left for Chicago Monday morning, whence she will subsequently return to her home in Atlanta, Ga.

THANKSGIVING DAY

BEFORE our next issue Thanksgiving Day will have come. It is, therefore, not unfitting that we anticipate a little to call attention to the purpose of this national holiday which has such a warm place in the hearts of the American people. The day is observed for officially calling the people of the nation to the duty of returning public thanks to Almighty God for the blessings vouchsafed this nation and people. And surely there is none, no matter what sorrows and reverses may have come to him, who cannot find some reason for sincere thanksgiving. The first part of the day should be given to public worship in one's accustomed place of worship, for to overlook this is to neglect its most important duty, and then the other portion of the day should be devoted to such recreation and feasting as may be fitting. And surely our day will be happily spent if we share our good things with others, who may be absent from home or have no home of their own. Make someone happy and you will spend the best and happiest Thanksgiving Day you have ever had.

MISSOURI AGAIN ELECTS

MISSOURI is one of the states which has elected a member of our race to the state legislature. Walthall Moore, who was defeated two years ago, has been returned this

THE NEGRO'S CONTRIBUTION NOT NEGLIGIBLE

A moment's thought will easily convince open-minded persons that the contribution of the Negro to American nationality as slave, freedman and citizen was far from negligible. No element of American life has so subtly and yet clearly woven itself into warp and woof of our thinking and acting as the American Negro. He came with the first explorers and helped in exploration. His labor was from the first the foundation of the American prosperity and the cause of the rapid growth of the new world in social and economic importance. Modern democracy rests not simply on the striving white men in Europe and America but also on the persistent struggle of the black men in America for two centuries. The military defense of this land has depended upon Negro soldiers from the time of the Colonial wars down to the struggle of the World War. Not only does the Negro appear, reappear and persist in American literature but a Negro American literature has arisen of deep significance, and Negro folk lore and music are among the choicest heritages of this land. Finally the Negro has played a peculiar spiritual role in America as a sort of living, breathing test of our ideals and an example of the faith, hope and tolerance of our religion.—*Du Bois, "The Gift of Black Folk."*

BOOK CHAT

By Mary White Ovington, Chairman, Board of Directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"The Gift of Black Folk."

By Dr. W. E. Burghardt Du Bois. Published by The Stratford Company, 234 Boylston St., Boston, 9, Mass. Price \$2.00. By mail \$2.15.

This volume is published by the Knights of Columbus in its Racial Contribution Series. Its preface is by Dr. Edward F. McSweeney, and contains a short historical sketch of the early settlements in this country and the diverse nations and religions that came here. He deposes the effort today to set up caste control in the United States. Then comes Dr. Du Bois' story of the Negro and his contribution to this conglomerate nation.

Dr. Du Bois in his prescript opens with one of his superb paragraphs: "We who know," he says, "may not forget but must forever spread the splendid, sordid truth that out of the most lowly and persecuted of men, Man made America. And that what Man has here begun with all its want and imperfection, with all its magnificent promise and grotesque failure, will some day blossom in the souls of the Lowly." Then he leaves this height and proceeds to tell us in 300 well massed pages of what the Negro has contributed to the civilization of America. He shows the value of the slaves dull labor, how it made possible the development of the South. And then he shows us what the free man and woman have done in industry, in the army, in art, literature, music, and last in religion. It is a clearly told, and to many will be a new, story.

How many people for instance, know that De Bore, a West Indian Negro, reared in Louisiana, discovered the process of sugar granulation, or that the Negro Rillieux invented a vacuum pan that revolutionized the method of refining sugar? Matzlinger, a New England Negro though born in Dutch Guiana, laid the foundation for the success of the United Shoe Machinery Company by inventing a machine for lasting shoes. But most important of all to the Americans of today, old and young, was the Negro caterer, who invented ice cream. Dr. Du Bois does not give us the man's name, but he assures us that the colored caterers, along with chicken is Maryland and Philadelphia terrapin, put this dish upon the table of the New World.

HISTORY FIGURES IN GREAT MEAT SHOW AT STOCK EXCHANGE

Chicago, Ill., Nov. 21.—A comprehensive educational exhibit of meat housed in a special building constructed in exact duplication of the dwelling in which the immortal Shakespeare was born, is to be a new and unique feature at the International Live Stock Exposition. This information has been made public by the National Live Stock and Meat Board, which is sponsoring the attraction. Finishing touches are now being applied to this replica of the house at Stratford-on-Avon, which occupies one of the most prominent sites in the exposition grounds. The novel idea of reproducing the poet's home for this occasion is explained by the fact that a portion of the old birthplace was utilized as a meat market. The exhibit building has been christened "The Meat Shop".

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