

THE MONITOR

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED PRIMARILY 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.

BECOMING SERIOUS

THE apparent determination upon the part of a certain class of white people in cities throughout the country to prevent respectable colored citizens from purchasing, building or occupying property in certain localities is becoming quite serious. The urge that moves progressive colored people to improve their living conditions is the same as that which moves other race groups. This is something which our opponents refuse to understand. They seem to think that while it is perfectly proper and lawful for white people to move into any neighborhood which their circumstances will afford it is absolutely wrong for colored people to do the same thing and that they must be restricted to such neighborhoods and localities as the elect few shall designate. This attitude is of course fundamentally wrong. And the attempt to exclude our people by violence and intimidation will only beget violence. It also must be evident that if colored people are to be removed from block to block at the behest of some objector, the logical outcome of this procedure will mean expulsion from the country. The United States needs to get a new viewpoint as to the rights of all citizens, black and white, and the authorities must see to it that these rights are respected and that self-constituted groups shall not be allowed the lawless pleasure of interfering with the homes and property rights of law-abiding citizens. This is the issue in the residential segregation mania which is sweeping the country.

MENTAL STAGNATION

THERE is no need for mental stagnation in these days. Literature is at hand in abundance on almost every conceivable subject. Opportunities for study are generously afforded. No one is so driven but that he can take a few minutes every day for improving his mind by judicious reading. One should plan some systematic course of reading during the long winter nights for mental improvement and as a counterpoise to the jazz craze of the times. Do some solid reading. Seek proportionment between all elements of recreation. There is real danger of mental stagnation, even in these days of large opportunities for mental growth and alertness.

A PIONEER PASSES

THE death of Cyrus D. Bell removes one of Omaha's early colored pioneers. Those who were his contemporaries are very few. The ranks of those sturdy, outstanding men of our race, who wrought well in the early days of our city, are very thin. And we are inclined to forget that Omaha has had men, some few of whom remain, of our race who have rendered real, but unappreciated service. Cyrus D. Bell was one of these men. Independent in mind and character, he was often misunderstood; but that he loved his race and stood ready at all times to champion their rights none who knew him intimately can deny. The files of the Herald and its successor the World-Herald and of the Bee will disclose many able articles and letters from his pen in the defense of his people and principles which he conscientiously believed to be right.

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 powerful 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."

lone man in the South. In the North, the mobs gather under cover of night and threaten and intimidate and hurl stones upon a man and his family—COWARDS ALL!

The more timorous under the guise of respectability and out of fear of the law form secret covenants not to sell to colored people. In the South he is urged to be industrious and thrifty, to acquire lands and homes. When he has followed their wise advice, moves North in search of freedom from oppression, and purchases a home in a sanitary district, with healthful surroundings, the Klan gathers and would divest him of every God-given right vouchsafed by the Constitution and the laws of the land for which he shed his blood upon a hundred battlefields.

The time has come when it is more glorious to die for a principle than for some high-sounding meaningless phrase coined during the war only to be repudiated and forgotten after the war is over.

The heroic defense of their homes exhibited by those brave and fearless Detroiters against those who would drive them from their sweat-purchased homes makes every Negro in this country their debtor. And so it ought not be left to that splendid organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, to undertake their defense—ALONE. Every Negro in the United States should pay the debt we owe them. We helped with our lives to pay Germany for the horrors of the Belgian invasion. Should we do less in the face of what our own citizens inflicted upon our own flesh and blood in Detroit?

There should be a "Defense Day" observed in all our churches throughout this land so that EVERY NEGRO might empty his pocket and pay his debt to these courageous defenders in Detroit. Will you do your part and back up the patriotic virile movement started by the N. A. A. C. P.? WILL YOU?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN NEGRO HISTORY

(This column is conducted by George Wells Parker, author of "The Children of the Sun" and founder of the Hamitic League. He will be glad to answer in this column all questions of a reasonable length. Where space will not permit, he will answer correspondents who inclose postage for a reply. Questions for him should be addressed to George Wells Parker, 3423 Indiana Avenue, Chicago, Ill.)

Could you assist me in finding a photo or likeness of Benjamin Baneker?—W. W. T., Norfolk, Va.

Mr. Arthur Schomburg of New York informs me that you will find a picture of Benjamin Baneker in an issue of the Journal of Negro History, edited by Woodson. As far as he (Mr. Schomburg) knows, this is the only photo of the scientist extant.

Were the Moors who once governed Spain of Negro blood? Did Lincoln have Negro blood?—J. C. M., Elgin, Tex.

The Moors are an African people and Negro.

Lincoln is said to have had Negro blood, but the writer has never been able to secure any definite evidence upon the statement.

Does genuine Masonry consist of more than three degrees? What is the difference between the English and French Masonry? Who is the senior Grand Deacon of the Masons of North America?—C. C. Z. F., Rupert, Idaho.

Original English Masonry had but three degrees. French Masonry is said to have been formed for political purposes and possesses a rather unsavory history. It would require more space than the writer is allowed to go into details on the history of French Masonry. I do not know who is the Senior Grand Deacon of N. A. Masons.

How was the country of Sheba bounded and how far was it from the Temple of Solomon?—J. M. Patterson.

Sheba (or Saba, as it was called by the Arabians) is not a country but a city located in the southern part of Arabia. Anciently it was ruled by Ethiopians. It was about 1,500 miles from Jerusalem.

TO WORK FOR INCREASE OF NEGRO MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

Washington, D. C.—(By The Associated Negro Press.)—Negro supporters of the American Legion, during the convention in Omaha and at the inspiration of West Hamilton, major of the First Separate Battalion in the District of Columbia, met and covenanted to work for the increase of the Negro membership of the Legion.

Unanimous consent was obtained to have Major Hamilton send out letters to the various colored posts throughout the country apprising them of the action taken and urging them to join the movement to increase memberships.

REVIVAL SERVICES AT GROVE METHODIST

The Rev. N. J. Johnson of Oklahoma City, Okla., is conducting a ten days' revival at Grove M. E. church, Twenty-second and Seward streets. The services began Monday and will continue next week.

NEW PASTOR FOR BETHEL ARRIVES

The new pastor recently assigned to Bethel A. M. E. church, the Rev. Thomas W. Kidd, former pastor at Lexington, Mo., has arrived and assumed his pastoral duties. He is stopping temporarily at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Bowler, 2715 North Twenty-eighth avenue. His family is expected here soon.

PREACHED AT WALNUT HILL METHODIST CHURCH

Upon the invitation of the Rev. Dr. C. N. Dawson, pastor of Walnut Hill Methodist church, white, the Rev. G. W. Tipton, of Colorado Springs, Colo., and the Rev. J. Blaine Walker of Salina, Kans., preached at the morning and evening services, respectively. The visiting ministers were attending the Lincoln conference in session here.

CLEVELAND LANDOWNERS "TAX" THEMSELVES IN FIGHT TO SEGREGATE NEGROES

Reports to the N. A. A. C. P. from Cleveland state that white landowners in the Wade Park district propose "taxing" themselves to raise a fund with which they will fight Negroes buying property in that section.

At a recent meeting the white people assessed a tax of one-half of one per cent of the value of their property, the fund to be used to buy lots that might otherwise go to Negroes. At the meeting, the white property owners formed a permanent organization.

The whites also attempted to put pressure on Negro charities, asking the Community Fund to withdraw its contributions to Negro charities if Dr. C. H. Garvin, a colored physician, did not agree to sell his newly built house "at a reasonable figure".

This proposition was defeated, it being shown that Negroes contributed more money to the Cleveland Community Fund than was received by Negro charities.

"TRIP AROUND THE WORLD"

The Junior members of the Girls' Friendly Society will give a "Trip Around the World" Wednesday night,

October 28th, in the Guild Rooms of St. Philip's Episcopal church. Admission 10 cents.—Adv.

N. A. A. C. P. PROTESTS DISCRIMINATION OF U. S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Protest over discrimination against colored sightseers by white guides in the Treasury Department has been filed with Frank White, U. S. Treasurer, by the Washington Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The letter of protest, signed by Neval H. Thomas, president of the Washington branch, charges that colored visitors had been informed by the white guides that "there is nothing to be seen" in the treasury; or else they were told they would have to wait until enough colored visitors came in to have a colored messenger show them about.

"This is indeed a novel piece of discrimination," says the N. A. A. C. P. letter. "Beyond the memory of anyone living all citizens of this nation have enjoyed the privilege of visiting there without insult or humiliation of any kind. Certainly there is no need for the inauguration of such an unjust policy there now. I am sure, however, that your subordinates are not carrying out the orders of the Treasury Department."

Prompt suppression of the discrimination is asked for.

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