

THE MONITOR

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS

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THE RHINELANDER VERDICT

FOR a studied, deliberate, impassioned appeal to decide a legal question solely upon the grounds of race prejudice, it is difficult to conceive of anything that could surpass Judge Mills' plea to the jury to bring in a verdict for his client in the Rhinelander case. It is perfectly astounding that a man of Judge Mills' reputed character and standing could so prostitute the legal profession as to make the appeal he did. In substance it was this: "I, as a white man, appeal to you, who are white men, to free from his humiliating position this white man who is bound to a Negro woman. No matter what the evidence is give your verdict for my client because he, like you, is a white man, and the defendant belongs to the black race." This was the burden of his appeal. It was an unblushing, unqualified appeal to race prejudice.

But, thank God, there were real WHITE men on that jury. Men white, not simply as to skin, for that is an unimportant matter, but white in heart and mind and soul and conscience, which is the important thing. They valued their oath to weigh the evidence and bring in a verdict, according to their best judgment, in accordance with the LAW and EVIDENCE in the CASE. The verdict was in favor of the defendant. That verdict has met with the popular approval. It was a verdict in accordance with the law and evidence in the case. It was a just verdict.

The Rhinelander verdict is a far-reaching and most important one. Few realize its full significance. So far as the state of New York is concerned and other states which have not disgraced their statute books with anti-marriage laws forbidding the marriage of persons of different races it plainly declares that men who enter into the marriage relationship cannot cast off their lawfully wedded wives for any superficial whim or fancy. Whatever one may believe as to the expediency or in expediency, the wisdom or unwisdom, of mixed racial marriages, there can be only one opinion held by people who stand for morality with reference to men and women, who, of their own free choice, desire to live together and that is that they should be married. To hold otherwise is to justify adultery, harlotry, and bastardy. So called "miscegenation laws", which are upon the statute books of some states not only justify but encourage such nation-destroying vices. Miscegenation laws, forbidding the intermarriage of colored and white people, permit lustful white men to wrong colored women and lustful colored men to wrong white women—for it applies both ways only that the weaker race furnishes by far the larger number of unhappy victims—without being held to legal and moral accountability for their acts. Fortunately New York has no such anti-social laws. Under the laws of New York Rhinelander married Alice Jones knowing well that she was a colored girl. It is alleged that she had revealed her past to him, and whatever may have been her moral lapses, she was just as good as he was, and knowing all he voluntarily married her. She is his lawful wife, colored or race being no bar to wretchedness and the marriage stands as stand it should. Hence the verdict is just.

FRED BRODEGARDE

The sudden death Wednesday morning of Fred Brodegarde, the pioneer jeweler, removes another one of Omaha's broad-minded and outstanding business men. Mr. Brodegarde was a genial, generous-hearted Christian gentleman, whom it was always a pleasure to meet. He was one of our warm personal friends whose cordiality, genial greeting and pleasant smile, we shall miss. The title "Noble Dane", for he was a native of Denmark, aptly fitted him, as he was a man of noble nature. May God grant to his loved ones who remain the comfort and consolation which He alone can give, and to him the crown and joy which is the reward of a well spent life.

RANDOLPH'S PHILLIPIC

A Phillip Randolph, editor of The Messenger and organizer of the Brotherhood of Pullman Porters, spoke here last Thursday night to a large audience in St. John's A. M. E. Church, as we announced in our news columns last week. Mr. Randolph is a young man of intense earnestness and a good speaker. He made out a good case for the cause which he has espoused the unionizing of the Pullman porters. He, however, in our judgment, weakened his cause and invited censure by his vitriolic attack upon Bishop Carey, Perry Howard and other individuals who attended the recent conference in Washington and, as it is charged by The Pittsburgh Courier and Randolph, were tools and catspaws for the Pullman company. His wholesale charge, too, that Negro newspapers, with their hungry editors were purchasable by the waving of a fifty dollar bill before their faces is unjustifiable and not calculated to win supporters to his cause. Unsupported charges are not proof. Men have a perfect right to differ in their views concerning any plan or policy without being charged with either ignorance or venality. This liberty to think which the speaker rightfully claims for himself he

ought willingly to grant to others. The cause of better wages for the Pullman porters is too important a matter to be jeopardized by the interjection of personalities into the argument. Give the public facts, not denunciations. Mr. Randolph presented some pertinent facts which denunciations weakened. Randolph's Phillipic against old-line leaders did not strengthen his argument.

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Today's Opportunity

To the Editor of The Monitor:
The Negro of today has a thousand opportunities, where the Negro of yesterday had one.
The overwhelming majority follow the fashion whether in dress, manners, art or opinion. Most folks must have a path to walk in; and they follow the way taken by some stronger spirit, who went on untried ground, and started the path.
Those who can think and act independently are the leaders; those who must have another to blaze the way for them are and must always be the followers. Knowledge is power. A word to the Pullman porters: Let no man deceive you.
Why is the American Federation of Labor and many of the local unions inviting us into them now? Is it to secure equitable pay and better working conditions or is it that they want to get us into their unions so that they may stop our activities in dealing with our employers directly? The time has arrived when we should intercede for ourselves, go directly to your employer and demand consideration upon the merit of your service. The opportunity is ours; shall we make good?

In talking with one of the officials of the packing industry about employment of my people he promised that in the future our people would be considered in all departments. This opportunity is coming let us be ready to grasp it.

"Let us then be up and doing,

With a heart for any fate.

Still achieving, still pursuing,

Learn to labor and to wait."

—A. R. GOODLETT,
Omaha, Neb.

LINCOLN NEWS AND COMMENT

Some of the Lincoln young people who have been entertaining with the "Charleston" are Miss Valerie Crews and Mr. Shumpert Logan who have danced at the Country Club, the Lincoln hotel, and a number of the fraternity parties.

Don't forget the mass meeting to be held on December 14 under the auspices of the N. A. A. C. P. Rev. John Albert Williams of Omaha will deliver an address.

Chancellor Avery of the state university addressed the Non-Parille at Quinn chapel on Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Hazel Dean and Mrs. Ritha Banks scored quite a hit with their cabaret entertaining at the Elks Thanksgiving dance.

Mr. and Mrs. B. K. Mosley of Coffeyville, Kansas, are spending the week end in Lincoln visiting relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson of Cheyenne, Wyo., spent the week end as guests of Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Moore and friends. Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson are motoring to Atchison, Kans., to spend the winter there. Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Edwards entertained at dinner at one o'clock Sunday, covers were laid for six. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Houston honored the guests at a very delightful luncheon Sunday evening.

A joint floral installation of Princess Hatipha No. 9 Amaranth chapter No. 3 O. E. S. will be celebrated Tuesday at Masonic hall.

The banquet of the Civic Improvement League composed of men was a wonderful dream realized. Although disappointed by the absence of Bishop Carey, in whose honor the feast was given; the guests were delightfully and agreeably surprised by the substitute who appeared, namely Rev. John Adams, B. D., presiding elder of this district, who was the principle speaker on the "Possibilities of Our Group". His address was a masterpiece. Mr. Robert Johnson, Mr. Munroe Williams, Mr. Eugene Edwards, Mrs. Eugene Edwards gave words of appreciation and honor to the league.—Mr. Trago McWilliams, president; Mr. Arthur Johnson, secretary.

Mrs. E. L. Johnson and Mrs. Nettie McDonald were attendants at the quarterly meeting of the B. Y. P. U. and Sunday school conventions at Council Bluffs, Ia., last Tuesday and Wednesday, which convened in Beulah Baptist church.

The mass meeting of the Non-Parille society Sunday afternoon with Chancellor Avery of State University as principal speaker was a

success. The welcome address by Mr. Dewitt Lawson, the oration by Mr. John Adams, jr., were delivered to a well filled auditorium. Cancellor Avery spoke on "Progress". Two solos completed a splendid program.

The Quinn chapel rally Sunday was a gratifying success; the membership responded royally and in spite of the absence of Bishop Carey who was delayed on account of the condition of traveling. The day was a complete success and the program prepared was rendered to appreciative audiences.

Mr. Courtney Cooley arrived home last Wednesday from Boston, Mass., in answer to his mother's serious illness.

Mrs. Bertie Artis and son left last week for Chicago, thence to join her husband. She is said to have sold her home and will not return to Lincoln.

Mrs. Susie Wiley returned home last Wednesday from Omaha.

Mr. Marian is reported quite sick. He was removed to a local hospital this week.

Mrs. L. G. Forbes will entertain the Utopian Art Club at their home, 2410 Holdrege, Thursday night, December 31st. This being the last night in the old year, the meeting is expected to be a rousing one and a unique program has been arranged. All members and friends are urged to be present at 8 p. m.

A pre-Christmas Cantata, "Around the Great White Throne", will be presented Tuesday night, December 22, at Mt. Zion Baptist church, under the auspices of church auxiliaries. Mrs. E. J. Griffin, manager.

Mrs. Ollie Ray entertained the Utopian Art club at her home last Thursday night. Mrs. E. J. Griffin read a paper on the subject: "My Job", which brought out much thought.

Cornhusker Lodge No. 579 I. B. P. O. E. of W. will hold a celebration at Mt. Zion Baptist church next Sunday at 3 p. m. Rev. I. B. Smith will address the gathering.

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