

General Race News

Billy Kersands Is Dead.

(From New York Clipper.)

The original Billy Kersands, the oldest and one of the best-known colored comedians on the American stage, died of heart failure at Artesia, New Mexico, at midnight, June 29. Mr. Kersands started his career as a minstrel comedian forty years ago, and had never missed one performance during his long career. He starred at the head of the largest colored minstrel organization, and played in every city, town and hamlet in America. He was born in New York city seventy-two years ago, and was married twenty-two years ago. His wife survives him.

Billy Kersands' first engagement was with Calander's Georgia Minstrels. Later, the Calander show was sold to J. H. Haverly, and with Kersands as principal comedian, made a tour of Europe, under the management of the late Charles Frohman, where the show appeared before the crowned heads of numerous countries, including the late Queen Victoria, at her special request. Upon his return to America he organized the Hicks' and Kersands' Minstrels, touring the United States for five successful seasons, then the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Kersands joined the Richard & Pringle show, with which he remained for many years as principal comedian. After the death of Richards and Pringle the company was taken over by Rosco and Holland, who retained Kersands as star, touring the country for several seasons. After the dissolution of this firm the Kersands Minstrels was again launched, and ran for four successful seasons.

During his long career Kersands circumnavigated the globe several times. His last tour abroad was with the Hugo Brothers' Minstrels. Starting at Honolulu, the show covered the entire Orient, and afterward followed the line of inhabited sections toward the South Pole, going as far as West Fergogo.

At the time of his death, Mr. and Mrs. Kersands were under the management of Nigro & Stevenson, running their own show, the Dixie Minstrels. Death came suddenly, he having been in apparent perfect health. Mr. Kersands appeared with his company to the biggest business of the season, and had been working with more vim and spirit than he had for weeks. After the performance he returned to his private car, as usual, and had just seated himself for a chat before retiring when he fell over dead. A few weeks ago, when he read of the death of Charles Frohman, he exclaimed: "Mr. Frohman, one of my best friends, has gone, and it won't be long before I join him."

Philadelphia, Pa., July 14.—The city appropriated \$500 toward the entertainment of the Northeastern Federation of Colored Women's clubs, which held its nineteenth session last week at Allen A. M. E. church.

\$200 to Colored Man for Discrimination
The appellate division of the supreme court of New York has affirmed the verdict of the lower courts awarding \$200 to Benjamin D. Gibbs, colored man, from Arras Bros., saloon keepers, at 242nd street and Broadway, for vio-

lation of the civil rights law of the state.

The charge was that Arras Bros. attempted to charge Gibbs and his companion 50 cents for a glass of beer and \$1 for a glass of gin.

Veteran Editor with Tribune.

Philadelphia, Pa., July 14.—T. Thomas Fortune, former associate editor of The New York Age, is now on the editorial staff of the Philadelphia Tribune.

Mr. Fortune has lately been connected with the Indianapolis Ledger, but severed his connection with that paper on July 3. He has been doing the editorial work of The Tribune for some time.

Wins Rutgers Scholarship.

Somerville, N. J., July 14.—Paul T. Robeson, son of the Rev. W. R. Robeson, pastor of the St. Thomas A. M. E. Zion church, took the required examinations on July 5 and 6, and won a state scholarship valued at \$650 at Rutgers college.

Young Robeson was a recent honor graduate of the Somerville high school, and will enter Rutgers in the fall.

BISHOP ALEXANDER WALTERS ADDRESSED ENDEAVOR CON- GRESS IN CHICAGO LAST WEEK

(Continued from first page)

give to these backward races their rightful place in the great Christian family.

"America is the leader in present day civilization. She is given a wonderful opportunity to do service for God and humanity in taking the lead in solving the race problem on Christian principles. I am of the opinion that the purpose of God in allowing the black man to be brought to these shores and to become a part of this civilization was to prepare the white man by contact, discipline and education, for world leadership in the spread of pure democracy and of the brotherhood of man. Equal treatment, fair treatment, just treatment, of the darker races is the test of the white man's religion. When the white man can treat a Negro, Japanese, Chinaman and African as a brother, and accord him all the rights of a brother, that white man can pass—he is pure gold and fit to lead any people and anywhere. I am expecting a wonderful change to come over this American people, a change for the better, when all the discriminations, all hindrances and barriers against the Japanese, the Chinese, the Negroes, and Indians, etc., will be eliminated, and all be considered brethren dwelling together with the white man in unity and peace, and all the results of Christianity.

"The Christian church can hasten this great work. First, by being more aggressive in insisting upon the rights of men in the future than it has in the past. Heretofore, the church has been more negative than positive, and this is why the work has gone on so slowly. The call has come for a more aggressive struggle than heretofore. The pulpit should be called upon to contend for the rights of all men, regardless of race or color, and this the great Christian Endeavor Society is doing. The press should be more aggressive than heretofore. We only retard our work and delay our cause when we

single out a backward race and make the fight for it. We should put them all together; Japanese, Chinese, Africans and Negro and make a straight out fight for the backward races and it would not be long before we would see the results of our labor.

"The first thing to do is to combine to stop all inimical legislation on the part of our government. This can be done by united effort on the part of the Christian church. There are people that are so blinded by their prejudices that they are willing to have this country place a premium upon bastardly by not allowing a white man to father his child and protect the Negro woman he has betrayed. This matter has got to be dealt with in a most fearless manner. As long as we wink at prejudice and countenance immorality of any kind—there can not be much real Christian progress made. The truth is, the times call for a vigorous opposition against all manner of sins. The Gospel is the remedy for all these ills; all we need to do is to apply it in the manner it should be.

"We have seen the effects of Christianity in civilization and the industrial pursuits of men; we have observed its impregnation of literature and its refining tendency in art; we have witnessed its initiation of reforms and its place in home life, but its chief excellence is in its effects on human character. Christianity must, in the last analysis, be judged by its ability to deliver men from sin and uproot existing evils—and this much needed work it is doing."

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Parents

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