

# THE MONITOR

A Weekly Newspaper devoted to the civic, social and religious interests of the Colored People of Omaha and vicinity, with the desire to contribute something to the general good and upbuilding of the community.

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## The Reason for Our Opposition.

Many cannot understand the opposition of colored Americans to "The Birth of a Nation." That they are tremendously aroused over it must be apparent to the most superficial observer. Why is this? There must be some reason for it. What is it?

Here is the answer. The south, speaking broadly, has two distinct parties, differing radically in their attitude toward and treatment of the Negro race. One is the party of progress, desirous of helping the Negro make the most of himself; the other is the reactionary party, composed chiefly, not of descendants of the kindly old gentle folks, but of the poor whites, or "white trash" as they are contemptuously called, who are unequivocally and uncompromisingly enemies of Negro progress, and advocate repressive measures, curtailment of educational privileges, disfranchisement and the repeal of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments. They seem to be obsessed with hatred toward the Negro.

To this party Dixon belongs. He is the incarnation of this spirit of hatred. He is its mouthpiece. He, with others of his ilk, have undertaken a propaganda which has as its object the engendering of a hatred toward the Negro in the United States which, if he could have his way, would result in the colored Americans' forced expatriation or his annihilation.

Not only does he hate the Negro, but he hates the north and the Union. He has used his literary gifts not only to vilify the Negro, but to besmirch, by subtle innuendo, the men who wore the blue and saved the Union, and to glorify those who sought to destroy it. "The Leopard's Spots" and "The Clansman" were the first vehicles of his propaganda of dual hatred. Then came the development of the moving picture. He took unto himself a creature, like unto himself, in the person of D. W. Griffith, and the scenic marvel, "The Birth of a Nation," which, if it had not been prostituted to the fostering of race prejudice, would be a tremendous agency for good, came into being as a powerful instrumentality for this propaganda of race hatred, which has as its object the engendering of the same spirit in the north as is found in the south among that class of which Dixon is the type and literary exponent. The motive back of the production, as expressed by Dixon himself, and the danger to the welfare of our common country, which involves not only black Americans—against whom it is chiefly aimed—but white Americans as well; because the insidious and subtle poison of the drama is hidden in scenic beauty; theadroitness and skill with which dramatic

scenes are arranged to stir the angry passions of men; and the types selected to represent the people to be vilified and discredited explains the reason for our opposition and indignation.

As to the motive and purpose of this "photoplay" we have only to quote the admissions of Mr. Dixon himself. In the sworn statement of Rolfe Cobleigh, associate editor of The Congregationalist and Christian World, published at 14 Beacon street, Boston, made before George R. Brackett, notary public, May, 26, 1915, he says:

"I asked Mr. Dixon what his real purpose was in having 'The Birth of a Nation' produced; what he hoped to accomplish by it. He said that one purpose in his play was TO CREATE A FEELING OF ABHORRENCE IN WHITE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY IN WHITE WOMEN AGAINST COLORED MEN. \* \* \* HE WISHED TO HAVE ALL NEGROES REMOVED FROM THE UNITED STATES AND THAT HE HOPED TO HELP IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THAT PURPOSE BY 'The Birth of a Nation.'"

We cannot refrain from observing that Dixon does not pay a very high compliment to the noble women of his race when he implies, as his words would indicate, that colored men are so attractive to them that they must be taught abhorrence of them. But doubtless he is too stupid to see the reflection in his words, as he is to perceive that his desire to "have all Negroes removed from the United States" is impracticable. But he leaves no doubt as to what his purpose is in "The Birth of a Nation," and that is to arouse and propagate race hatred; "TO CREATE A FEELING OF ABHORRENCE IN WHITE PEOPLE, AND ESPECIALLY WHITE WOMEN, AGAINST COLORED MEN;" to make that hatred and abhorrence so deep, if you please, that its prenatal influence is to engender hatred of white against black. Suppose this diabolical purpose succeeds, and the influence of this propaganda is being felt, what of America's future?

Sodus, Mich., Nov. 9, 1915.

Dear Father Williams:

I have been receiving The Monitor and have read it carefully and found it very interesting indeed. Enclosed find \$1 for one year's subscription or the paper.

Respectfully yours,  
MISS BEULAH WASHINGTON.

Fremont, Neb., Nov. 9, 1915.

Dear Father Williams:  
I enclose \$1 in payment of subscription for the paper.

With best wishes,

Very faithfully,  
VIOLA BRANNAN.

## A CLASS INHUMANLY CRIMINAL

"The artificial character of the whole show does not always occur to young people or older people who see such exhibitions. The result, or at least the effect of the show, is substantially to make out that the Negroes were then, and are now, a class so inhumanly criminal that something violent ought to be done to them; they ought to be dealt with in some new fashion. I protest against that as I would protest against any similar attempt to vilify the Irish or the Germans, or the Slavs, or the Scandinavians, or any other race that rests within the United States."

From stenographic report of address by A. Bushnell Hart, professor of history, Harvard university, before the New England Association of Teachers of English at Huntington hall, Boston, Mass., May 7, 1915, and published in Vol. XI, No. 128 of the English Leaflet.

"I have expressed my disapproval of "The Birth of a Nation," following each view of it on the grounds of falsifying history in a riot of emotions glorifying crime, especially lynching, immorality, inviting prejudice against the Negro race, falsely representing the character of colored Americans and teaching the undemocratic and unchristian doctrine that all colored people should be removed from the United States. I especially disapprove the play because Mr. Dixon frankly explained that his purpose in the play was to promote a propaganda with the desire to accomplish the results that I have stated."

ROLFE COBLEIGH,

Associate Editor The Congregationalist and Christian World.

"It is a grave and intolerable insult to the Negro race."

RABBI STEPHEN S. WISE,  
New York City.

## Something About Government Ownership

No. 6

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