

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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"HOWL, FIR TREE, FOR THE CEDAR HATH FALLEN"

What the towering cedar was to the lower trees of the forest, that was Booker T. Washington to the Negro race. He towered aloft and was seen from afar.

However men may have differed from him, the fact is conceded that Booker T. Washington, who has just been called away in the prime of his manhood and when, humanly speaking, the country seemed to need him most, occupied the most commanding place of any member of his race in the confidence and esteem of the nation. His services have been of untold value, not only to his own race, but to the entire country of which he was such a distinguished representative.

His rise from penury and obscurity to a career of far-reaching usefulness and affluence not only demonstrates the ability of the Negro to meet the pragmatic test of today, but offers a splendid example to the youth of our land to strive to make their lives count for something. No people in America today need this inspiration as much as do we.

There were many who felt that Dr. Washington was too apologetic for the South in his attitude and utterances. We confess ourselves to have been among that number and frankly told him so, because we had the honor of being numbered among his friends; but maturer judgment led us to perceive that he, as every man, must do his own work in his own way, taking into account his environment and limitations. By temperament he was a conservative and only a conservative could have accomplished his great work. A radical would have failed. He served humanity well and has won an enduring place in the historic halls of fame, and we of the Negro race should sacredly cherish his memory, emulate so far as we may his usefulness, rise to the standard he has set and thank God for his life and useful career.

What do you think of holding back the anti-ignominy ordinance until the public-sentiment-defying photoplay gets ready to leave town? Frankly, we do not call it a square deal. It looks to us like a double cross. Talk about fairness. We have been absolutely fair. The other side has been unfair. Pass that ordinance NOW.

Christmas is only four weeks off. Do your Christmas shopping now and be sure to patronize our advertisers and tell them why.

We all have cause to give thanks. Let us do so with grateful hearts on the national Thanksgiving day.

ENDORSES OPPOSITION TO PHOTO DRAMA

Editor Monitor:

I was in Nebraska City the other day and chanced to see a copy of your valuable paper, The Monitor, and I read of the manly fight you are making to prevent the exhibition of the obnoxious photo play, "The Birth of a Nation."

I most heartily endorse the course the Negroes are taking, wherever and whenever they can, to stop this insult to our race. I wish to thank the city authorities for sustaining your objections to its showing in the Auditorium, and I also thank the city authorities elsewhere for showing their disapproval.

The people whom Mr. Dixon now seeks to belittle and humiliate have been in the school of his forefathers for more than two hundred and fifty years, and in many instances fared worse than some of the dumb brutes owned by the same master, and we were not allowed to own or believe that we were human beings with souls.

Mr. Dixon should remember that there are those of us yet living who, like himself, could write a play of the slave-owners in the dark days of slavery in this country, that would make young Americans and the civilized world sit up, take notice and blush.

But we would not be allowed to put those horrible pictures on canvas. And God forbid that even Mr. Dixon himself should ever see what some of these folks he is now holding up before the world saw in his people in those days. I think he would call his play off, hang his head in shame and retire from view.

Some years ago, some of the refined and influential white ladies, especially mothers, succeeded in having the play, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," stopped in some of the southern states, because they did not want their children to see and believe that their fathers were ever as cruel as that play represented them to be.

Now, Mr. Editor, we hope that the time is not far distant when another noble set of brave-hearted mothers, sisters and brothers will rise up in the southland and stop Mr. Dixon from exposing further and any longer the kind of education the southern people gave their Negro slaves for more than two hundred and fifty years. They had no other teachers than their masters and overseers, and they alone are responsible for these pet schemes of Mr. Dixon, namely, "The Clansman" and "The Birth of a Nation," which he is now holding before the world in order that he and his may dodge the responsibility for the condition of these people.

It may be true that the Ethiopian

cannot change his skin, nor the leopard his spots, but the fact remains visible to all fair-minded people that the emancipated slaves, from the day of their freedom until now, have striven to and succeeded in changing their condition morally, intellectually, financially, religiously and in every other way. I regret exceedingly and acknowledge that some Negroes fall into and commit crimes, but neither before nor since their emancipation I know of no crime they have committed that has not been committed also by the white race, who boast of being their superiors.

J. C. C. OWENS,
Presiding Elder Omaha District, A. M. E. Church, 1914 North Sixth St., Kansas City, Kan.

LIKES MONITOR.

Topeka, Kan., Nov. 15.

Dear Father Williams:

I am reading The Monitor and like it so much that I am sending you a year's subscription, and may the paper prosper from year to year.

Very sincerely yours,

ELLA M. GUY,
244 Topeka Ave.,
Topeka, Kan.

SOCIALISTS APPROVE.

Headquarters Local Omaha Socialist Party, 307 Lyric Bldg., Omaha, Neb.

Omaha, Nov. 16, 1915.

Rev. John Albert Williams, City.

Dear Sir:—Permit us to assure you of our hearty agreement with you concerning the character of the photoplay "The Birth of a Nation." We regard it as a blow in the face of the most enlightened public opinion, and a menace to the peace and welfare of the country. As Socialists we are firmly opposed to any division on the race question, knowing that division should occur along economic lines alone and that the duty of the workers of all races is to unite and

fight together for emancipation.

We are always glad to extend the right hand of comradeship to our colored fellow workers, and give them a standing invitation to be present at our meetings and to take part in them.

Sincerely,

EDMUND R. BRUMBAUGH,
Sec. Local Omaha Socialist Party.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON CALLED AT TUSKEGEE

(Continued from first page.)

The institute started in a rented shanty church and today it owns 3,500 acres of land in Alabama and has nearly 100 buildings valued at \$500,000.

In addition to his prominence as an educator, Dr. Washington gained considerable fame as an author. An honorary degree as master of arts was conferred upon him by Harvard university in 1896 and in 1901 he was given an honorary degree of doctor of laws by Dartmouth college.

Married Fellow-Teacher.

He was married October 12, 1893, to Miss Maggie J. Murphy. He was a teacher of the Hampton institute until elected by the state authorities to the principalship of Tuskegee, which he organized and has made success-

As a speaker and writer on racial and educational subjects, he has gained a nation-wide reputation. "Up From Slavery," "My Story of My Life and Work," "Sowing and Reaping" and "Character Building" are from his pen.

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Through these remarkable buying transactions we acquired great lots of manufacturers' samples and special lots; also many from regular stocks—all at tremendous discounts. That we have succeeded in securing some wonderful values will be demonstrated here next Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

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