

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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A NOTABLE EDITORIAL.

A highly esteemed Omaha friend, who is an enthusiastic Socialist, has thoughtfully sent us a notable editorial on Booker T. Washington, which was published in The Call, of New York City, the leading Socialist daily of the country, in its issue of November 16.

The editorial discusses Washington's influence and the future task before race leaders with a breadth of vision rarely found among the newspapers of the day.

The Call perceives clearly that there is still a task before the race in this country and that is the securing of equality of opportunity and privileges as American citizens.

That contest is here and now. The American Negro, because he is an American, with American ideals, will never be satisfied until he receives every right to which he is entitled. He will not shirk his duties, but he will be and must be, insistent for his rights.

The Call well says: "It IS necessary to fight, that the rights of citizenship, of the franchise, of education, of the right to live their lives be given to the Negroes."

But here is the editorial. Read it, meditate upon it and take courage:

"It is difficult to speak of the late Booker T. Washington without enthusiasm. The story of his life is a romance, a miracle. The story books tell of such careers as the one that has just closed at Tuskegee, but real life shows few of them.

Washington was one of the most vital leaders of a great race, and he came in a time when leaders like him were needed. He made his mark. And long before he died other leaders, other messages and other ideals were the need of his race.

The South never loved the Negro unless he was a slave. Today the South hates the Negro unless he is a good lickspittle. After the civil war had closed its murderous course the Negro was in a position that would have meant massacres on a terrifying scale if it were not for leadership of the kind that Washington furnished.

At the close of the war the Negroes were free men and women, and the Confederate soldiers, were, temporarily no longer citizens. That meant that practically every white man in the South was without a vote and that every Negro had a vote. The Negroes had just come up from slavery; the whites were thrown into spasms at the sight of their former slaves in the saddle politically. Hence, the Reign of Terror of the Ku-klux bandits; hence the blood that was shed.

The Federal Government was in the hands of Union veterans, and the motto was: 'To the victor belong the fruits of victory.' And that meant the degradation of the South and 'the

galling yoke of Negro domination' on the high-spirited Southern Bourbons, slave holders, aristocrats and sublimated gangsters. Into this atmosphere surcharged with electricity, into this country full of hate and terror, came Booker T. Washington with his message to the Negroes to be gentle, to cease being arrogant, to learn to be good workers in various trades to fit them for their new citizenship before learning the classics and the frills of education.

That was Washington's message, and it was well taught. The Negroes who followed him, the thousands of children who went through his school, the hundreds of thousands who looked up to him, felt that the one thing to be desired above all else was the goodwill of the Southerners. And they proceeded to get it. They got it by personal service. They got it too often, by making themselves nothing but men and women with the souls of servants and Pullman porters.

Washington's work is done. Other men and women with the broad outlook of life that Washington never had are taking it up and teaching the Negroes to be men, to demand the rights of American citizens.

The war is fifty years in the past. It is over. The wounds have healed. It is no longer necessary to lick the boots of lynching parties in order to be allowed to live. It IS necessary to fight that the rights of citizenship of the franchise, of education, of the right to live their own lives be given to the Negroes. That fight was not Washington's fight. Other men are taking that fight up. But when Washington began his work his task was as great as the task of the present day's fighters for absolute equality of opportunity for the Negro. And for the courage, the intrepidity, the heroism of that fight there is the greatest honor due the former illiterate, fatherless slave."

BETTER HOUSING CONDITIONS.

We publish elsewhere in this issue an item from New York City dealing with an effort to provide better housing conditions for the colored people of that city. To one who is only slightly acquainted with rental conditions confronting the race in all large cities and especially where there is such congestion as obtains in New York, the need for such a movement cannot be questioned.

In Omaha such congestion does not obtain, but the situation controlling proper housing conditions for respectable colored tenants is relatively as acute here as elsewhere. This condition must be met here sooner or later. Morality depends to a large degree on proper housing conditions and the segregation of the vicious and depraved.

Press dispatches from Muskogee, Okla., tell how two colored men accused of shooting a policeman, while resisting arrest at his hands, were prevented from being lynched by the presence of 200 armed men of the race who announced their intention of opening fire on the mob should the mob obtain custody of the prisoners. The presence of these determined men prevented the lynching. The authorities managed to get the militia on the ground, the sheriff managed to remove the accused. If these "200 armed Negroes" had not been on the ground, the same old bluff of pretending to protect the accused would have been given to the public and the

bullet-riddled, dangling bodies of two Negroes, murdered by a civilized American mob, of "the superior race" would have been "viewed by thousands, etc." We are pleased to note in Oklahoma this evidence of manhood. If this spirit is manifested elsewhere lynchoocracy will go.

February 1st we raise our subscription price to \$1.50 a year. Send in your subscription now and get the benefit of the \$1.00 rate.

Make one good resolution and keep it. Don't attempt too much at one time.

A happy and prosperous New Year.



Our JANUARY WHITE SALE Begins Monday, January 3

This sale is going to be the greatest of its kind in our history. Although cotton prices are at a great height, we placed our orders months ago under favorable conditions, and we have plenty of the fine, dainty materials for this great sale.

It comprises the following departments, which will offer their best values and best assortments: American Muslin Underwear, White Petticoats, Kimonos, Corsets, Boudoir Accessories, Negligees, Yard Goods, Linens, French Underwear, Silk Petticoats, Infants' and Children's Underwear, Lingerie Dresses, Blouses.

And all departments in which white merchandise is a feature.

And, quite as important to the success of the sale, we found some of the best manufacturers more than willing to co-operate and make concessions to secure large and early orders. The results of patient and painstaking preparations are splendid and well assorted stocks of white goods at prices that make it well worth while to buy a plentiful supply.

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