

# 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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## THOMAS KILPATRICK.

The death of Thomas Kilpatrick, head of that splendid firm of Thomas Kilpatrick & Co., has removed one of Omaha's best, most generous-hearted, liberal-minded and public-spirited citizens and a warm friend of our race. We account it an honor to have known and enjoyed the friendship of this noble-hearted gentleman who, having rounded out more than the allotted three score years and ten, has been called to rest and entered that "low green tent whose curtain never outward swings."

Our heart warms within us as we recall his cordial manner when we were introduced to him nearly twenty-five years ago, and the sincerity of his words when he said:

"I am so pleased to know that you have come to be a minister in our city and I wish you success."

In his speech we recognized that delicious, indescribable Scotch accent, which recalled the memory of our boyhood days in our Canadian home, where our dearest chum was Abraham Riddle and a favorite playmate, Thomas McPherson, and a schoolmate, Maud McCouvery. Do you wonder why the strength and fair-mindedness of the Scotch character has always appealed to us. It is directly due to these never-to-be-forgotten impressions of our childhood, and our fortunate contact with men and women of like mindedness in our later years.

We felt the kind-heartedness and sincerity of Thomas Kilpatrick when we first met him. Often thereafter did he call us into consultation when some local or distant appeal came to him to help some charitable or educational work among our race, something he took delight in doing if only the cause were worthy.

Here is a fact our people ought to know: Some years ago Miss Victoria Newsome graduated from our high school. She sought employment. We gave her a note to Mr. Kilpatrick asking if there was any employment he could give this girl. He sent for us.

He and Mr. Robert Cowell, then vice president and now president of the firm, another magnanimous gentleman, greeted us with their accustomed cordiality and invited us into the private office. There Mr. Kilpatrick told us that he and Mr. Cowell were most favorably impressed with Miss Newsome and regretted keenly the injustice which barred the doors of opportunity in the commercial world to worthy and ambitious colored boys and girls. He said that in his opinion many business men would like to give employment to our race were it not that they feared it would injure them

with the public, who unfortunately are narrow-minded.

"Someone has to run the risk. Someone must pave the way," he said. "Mr. Cowell and I have decided to make the experiment. So far as our employees are concerned we can handle them. We are a little apprehensive about the public. We do not know how they will take it. We think we can manage it. We will give Miss Newsome employment in our crockery department, where she can hold herself in readiness to wait on customers. If any of them seem to be reluctant to have her wait on them, she can easily be discreet and find other matters to employ herself with such as arranging and dusting the stock and so on. Where opportunity offers she can wait on customers just like the other clerks. We want to help her, and as she seems to be a sensible young woman, we believe that she can be gradually worked in so that there will not be the slightest objection or embarrassment. If we make this opening in our firm, probably some other merchant or business firm will do the same, and colored boys and girls may be given an opportunity in the business and commercial world, which now, unfortunately, they are denied. You will advise Miss Newsome and we want to tell you that it is a pleasure for Mr. Cowell and myself to make this experiment, which we hope will prove successful."

Miss Newsome was employed and was eventually taken into the office force, where she remained several years, finally resigning to attend the University of Kansas to prepare herself for teaching.

A few other business firms in other lines have followed the example set by Thomas Kilpatrick & Co. For some reason no other young man or woman of the race has taken Miss Newsome's place, but we hope the day is not far distant when the just and fair-minded spirit manifested by him who has been lately laid to rest will be shown by the merchants and business men of Omaha generally, and a liberal-minded public and a righteous American sentiment, which advocates equality of opportunity for all who are willing to do honest labor, will support and not handicap them in their willingness to give employment.

Thomas Kilpatrick, one of God's noblemen, farewell. In God's book of golden deeds thy name is written large.

## SAVING AND HOME BUYING.

We publish in this issue the annual reports of the Omaha Building and Loan association and the Conservative Building and Loan association.

Our people in increasing numbers are taking advantage of the opportunities offered by institutions of this kind for saving money and paying for homes. During the five minutes in which we were talking to Mr. Helgren about publishing their annual statement in The Monitor, no less than THREE of our race came into the Omaha Building and Loan office to make deposits. This company does a large business among colored people. The Conservative also has several of our people among their customers. Incidentally we note that none of these institutions give any employment to any member of our race, not even a janitorship. We believe that some of them could and should find some employment for some of our people somewhere in their business. In the meantime we advise our people to use these institutions in saving their money and commend to these institutions the justice of giving some employment to some member or members of our race. From a business point of view it would be a good thing to do.

One of the best political jokes we

have run across lately was the advice that President Wilson gave to Bishop Walters a few days ago when regretting his ability to appoint a colored democrat to the recordship of the District of Columbia because there would be opposition to the appointment, he advised the colored democratic leader to wait upon Secretaries Burleson and McAdoo to see if there were not some positions they might give to colored men. Burleson and McAdoo! Save the mark! Reactionaries of the reactionaries who have segregated and Jim-crowded the colored federal employees in their departments until it has become a stench in the nostrils of the nation! Woodrow Wilson is too serious for a joke, but in this case he shows himself a prince of jokers.

We would like to see Henry D. Estabrook next president of these United States. Can he secure the nomination? Here's wishing him success.

Our choice for United States senator from this district is the Hon. John L. Kennedy.

## Snow and Ice

At this season of the year, when the ground and street car platforms are apt to be covered with snow or ice, especial care should be taken by passengers when getting on and off cars.

REMEMBER: Wait until the car stops, then board or alight the right way.

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