

THE MONITOR

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of the Eight Thousand Colored People in Omaha and Vicinity, and to the Good of the Community

The Rev. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

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Momentous Political Movement in Memphis

Memphis Citizens Take Decisive Step in Making Use of Their Constitutional Privileges.

CHURCH CHOSEN AS LEADER.

Organization Well Prepared for the Crucial Test in the Political Arena. Met Feb. 1st.

The Negroes of Memphis, Tenn., were presented with one of the greatest surprises in their history Tuesday night, Feb. 1, 1916. Remember the date, for in all likelihood it is to become historic.

In times past when the Negroes have had under contemplation matters of importance, and have called the people together, either one of two things has usually happened. Either the people have been called together only to find out that nobody had definitely thought out or wrought out beforehand what was to be done, thus rendering the meeting largely ineffective; or, if a few men have had charge of the preliminary planning, too often they have planned so narrowly and with such show of personal favoritism that the thing planned did not commend itself to the general body of people when called together.

Both Mistakes Avoided.

But in the case of a meeting called for Tuesday night, Feb. 1, at Church's Park, this city, both of these mistakes were carefully avoided. Somebody had done a lot of careful thinking beforehand. Everything needful for action was ready to hand. There was nothing to be referred to some future meeting to allow time for whipping it into shape. It was already in shape. The action of those who quietly had gotten together was ideal in every way. There was not a blemish in anything that had been done.

What Had Happened.

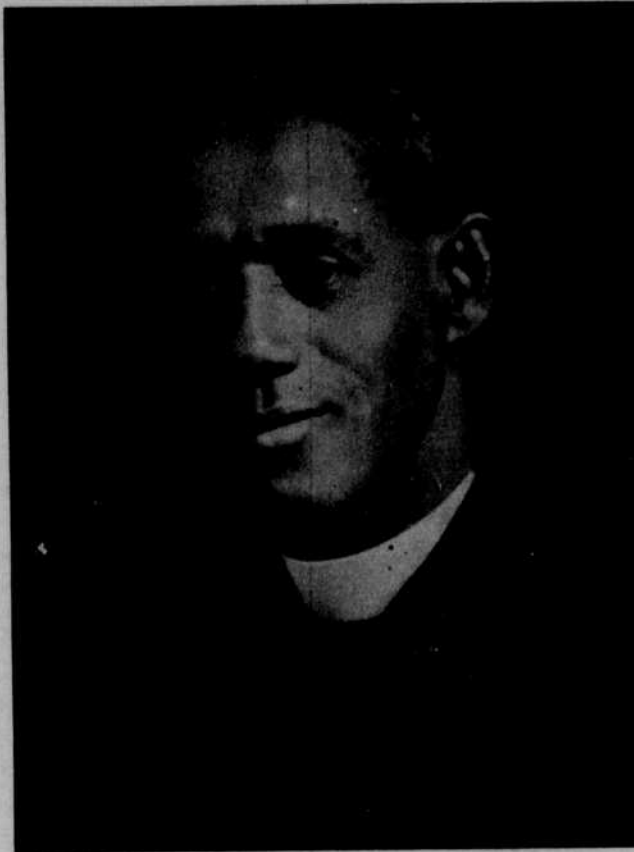
Led by Mr. R. R. Church, Jr., a number of men had come together and formed the Lincoln Republican Club of Tennessee. A splendid constitution had been drawn up, and a corps of officers had been selected. The constitution was so well drawn that no objections could be found with it on any score. Every line of it met with general approval. The official staff could not have been improved upon. On Tuesday night, Feb. 1 (remember the date, the Negroes of Memphis were called together for the purpose of registering their approval or disapproval of what had been done. Everything had been so well done that not a discordant note was heard. When members for the new organization were solicited there was a ready response.

The Purpose of the Organization.

In a republican form of government, where men gain office by the favor of the people, the one means of com-

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THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS
Rector Church of St. Philip the Deacon
Editor and Publisher The Monitor.

Something to Make You Think

Why the Difference?

(By James W. Johnson in the New York Age.)

The nomination of Louis D. Brandeis to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court caused a sensation; and there are indications that his confirmation will meet with some opposition. Most likely he will be confirmed, but he is sure to come in for a great deal of discussion.

In the opinion of many this action of President Wilson bears all the marks of a political stroke. Perhaps it may so prove; but if Mr. Wilson had in mind the advancement of his political chances, he would, in our humble opinion, have made a far more effective stroke had he named ex-President Taft.

But we have no intention of discussing the Brandeis nomination from a political point of view. We do not believe the appointment will add greatly to the President's popularity, so we let it go at that. However, we were struck by the following, clipped from the Washington despatch to the New York Sun:

"A telegram was received to-day at the office of the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate as follows:

"We protest to the end and resent vigorously the appointment of the Jew to the United States Supreme Court bench. We American Gentiles feel bitter and will no longer support the President. Where he gained one Jew he will lose 10,000 Gentiles. It is a disgrace and a shame.

"Southern Gentile Democrats."

Mr. Brandeis is not the first Jew to be appointed to high office in this country. Jews have held important places in our diplomatic service; and President Roosevelt appointed a Jew to a place in his cabinet. Of course, a place on the bench of the Supreme Court is higher and more important than any diplomatic or cabinet position, and the Brandeis appointment will therefore be a greater shock to people of anti-Semitic sentiments than any they have yet experienced. It may not be necessary to add that persons in this country who have anti-Semitic sentiments are numerous.

Nevertheless, in spite of the number of people who hate Jews, in spite of

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Prominent Ohioan Answers Call

Civil War Veteran and Father of Ralph Tyler Dies Surrounded by Family.

JAS. S. TYLER ANSWERS CALL

Recites Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar" A Few Moments Before Life Ends.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 11.—James S. Tyler, one of the oldest race men living in the state of Ohio, and father of Ralph W. Tyler, former auditor of the United States navy, died at his home Wednesday, January 26, surrounded by his family, a few minutes after he had recited Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar." Mr. Tyler was born in Columbus seventy-nine years ago when this city was only a hamlet. He was a self educated man. Despite the fact that he never attended school more than a month in his life, because he did not have the opportunity, he was a ready writer, a most excellent speller and grammarian, and a great reader. He gained great prominence in the politics of Ohio a few decades ago. Few race men in the United States have been so favorably known as he and few have done so much by example. He was a constant counsel and was of faithful service for the uplift of the race.

Knew McKinley Personally.

He was a personal friend of the late President William McKinley and the friendship began on a southern battlefield. James B. Foraker, while governor, was his personal friend and gave him a position as capitol attache. Many other men of prominence knew him intimately and thousands liked him for his cheery smile and pleasant disposition. His knowledge of history was unusual.

Many years ago Mr. Tyler began to arouse the interest of members of his race in educational affairs and current events by contributing the Afro-American department of the State Journal. Although the days of his own schooling were less than those embraced within one year he was a student and man of ideals throughout his life.

Was In Civil War.

Mr. Tyler served in the Fifth United States colored regiment during the Civil war. At the close of the conflict he was mustered out as a quarter-master sergeant. For years he was affectionately called "Captain."

He was the first colored man to be elected clerk in the Ohio House of Representatives and served during three sessions. Under Sheriff J. U. Rickenbacker he was appointed court bailiff.

He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Joseph Hardesty and Miss Ethel

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