

THE MONITOR

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American of Nebraska and the West

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Fundamental Civil Rights to Be Guarded

The Shifting of Population From North to South Presents New Problems.

CONGRESS NEEDS WATCHING

Roy Nash Summarizes Important Task to be Assumed by the National Association.

The new year presents the opportunity of a generation for advancing the status of colored people. Heretofore the only place where the Negro was sure of a living was in the South, which not only pays twelve or fifteen dollars for a month in the cotton patch, but throws in lynchings, insults and disfranchisement for good measure. Now, however, as a result of the stoppage of immigration, over half a million laborers have already come North, finding employment chiefly in the steel mills and on the railroad gangs. In the spring of 1917 will come a greatly accelerated exodus.

To see that this migration is not too much hampered by the police and town councils of southern cities; to drive home the growing conviction in the South that the time has come when they must make it a place where Negro labor wants to stay and work; and to be vigilant lest the prejudices, which will inevitably follow the Negro in his migration, rob him of the fundamental civil rights which he now enjoys in the North—this is the great task before the National Association for the Advancement of Colored people in 1917.

The New Opportunity.

This is the new opportunity; the old perils persist. With the South in the saddle at Washington, the present Congress must be watched and fought if the Negroes in the District of Columbia are not to be segregated and jimcrowed, and the constitutional rights of the colored man still further diminished. Senator Vardaman's joint resolution calling on the attorney-general to submit to the Supreme Court all information bearing on the validity of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments is but one of a dozen moves aimed at the Negro's civil status which this association will undoubtedly have to fight. And upon the outcome of the Louisville segregation case, which will be reargued before the full bench of the Supreme Court by our national president, Moorfield Storey, depends the status of the entire colored population in a dozen great cities. If we lose, the Negroes in Baltimore, St. Louis, Louisville, all through the South, and within a few years probably in New York, must accept the status of the Jews in the darkest ghettos of Russia.

A More United Front.

The last son of William Lloyd Garrison died last week; the present generation knows not the name of his

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HEY, YOU FELLOWS, CUT IT OUT!



—Chapin in St. Louis Republic.

Slaves Once Sold In Nebraska

Newman Grove Reporter

That slavery was actually practiced in the state of Nebraska in its early days will probably be news to most Nebraskans, but is nevertheless a fact. H. Halderson, a local attorney, in the course of his studies a couple of years ago, found what he thought indications that slaves had been bought and sold in the state at one time. History gave no mention of it whatever. But as a thorough student he began an investigation, more to satisfy his curiosity than anything else. He wrote to various places where he thought information on the subject might be forthcoming, such as the State Historical society, etc., but nothing definite could be given. They, however, encouraged him to continue the investigations and finally he traced a case of this kind to Nebraska City. The clerk of the district court of that city after going over the records, first claimed he could find no indications of anything of the kind, but later wrote:

"Since my reply to your recent letter, I find the return of the sheriff in the 'Slave Sale Under Execution:'

" 'Sheriff's Return—This writ came to hand Nov. 15, 1860, and was served

by levying on the following described property, to wit: One Negro man named, Hercules; one Negro woman, named Martha, Slaves, and belonging to Charles F. Holly, said levy being made on the 17th day of November, 1860. I caused a notice to be published in the Nebraska City News according to law (See Execution) that I would offer the above described property for sale at public Auction in front of the Court House in Nebraska City in said County on the 5th day of December, A. D., 1860, between the hours of 10 o'clock a. m. and 3 o'clock p. m., of said day and at the time and place specified in said notice. I first offered Hercules and there being no bidders for him, I then offered the said Hercules and Martha together and sold the same to William B. Hail for the sum of Three Hundred Dollars, he being the highest bidder and that being the highest sum bid for the said property the same was sold to him. WILLIAM P. BIRCHFIELD.

" 'Sheriff,'

"The case is entitled: 'William B. Hail vs. Charles F. Holly,' and this return is found in Execution Docket 'A,' page 149.

COLORED SOLDIER WINS IRON CROSS

The Golden West, a Hungarian magazine, makes a note of the fact that Leon Welchin, a Colored soldier fighting in the Austrian army, has been

decorated with the Iron Cross for bravery under fire. Welchin led a charge against the enemy and, altho wounded, pushed on until his aim was accomplished. He is a West Indian who has lived in Austria for many years.

The Justice of God in History

By the Very Rev. William R. Inge, D.D.
Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, England.

"Behold the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumb-line with a plumb-line in his hand,

"And the Lord said unto me: 'Amos, what seest thou?' and I said, 'A plumb line.'

"Then said the Lord: 'Behold, I will set a plumb-line in the midst of My people, Israel; I will not again pass by them any more.'

Amos, a keeper of sheep and a dresser of vineyards, in the country about Tekoa, was the first of the literary prophets and one of the profoundest moral revealers of any age. He was not afraid of the face of clay. He dared to say before any man, or any group of men, what he actually thought. He understood the movements going on around him as clearly as he understood the habits of his sheep.

"He read each wound, each weakness clear,

He struck his finger on the place; And said: Thou ailest here, and here."

But the great thing, after all, which he announces in his plumb-line figure is the fact of an unescapable, inexorable, pervasive law of moral gravitation in the universe. There is no caprice about moral results. You cannot hoodwink the forces which fulfil events.

"By no clever trickery," wrote one of our sound present-day teachers, "can profligacy or low living come into possession of the beatitudes." There hangs the plumb-line, dropped as from the hand of God and by it every deed is tested. There is no favoritism, no wheedling, no capricious exception. If the life is unplumb, if the deeds and policies of it swing away from a line of rectitude, nothing can save the structure from collapse—nothing but a rebuilding of it in conformity with the moral laws of gravitation.

The man himself, as William James says, may not "count" his wrong deed, "and a kind heaven may not count it; but it is being counted none the less. Down among his nerve-cells and fibres the molecules are counting it, registering it and storing it up to be used against him when the next temptation comes."

Apparent "success" and a seeming "efficiency" that brings coveted "results" are poor substitutes for a rightly-fashioned life. "The world with its crasser judgments may approve the men who seem to hit the desired goals," concludes Professor Rufus Jones, "but the triumph is dearly bought if it has been won by the sacrifice of the growth of the soul itself."