

Letters from Our Readers

THE FACTS IN THE CASE.

To the Editor:

Dear Sir—I have before me a clipping of an article which appeared in your paper and signed by Banks & Wilks, undertakers, regarding the burial of my nephew, Cecil Smith. The facts as presented by them in regard to this matter are absolutely untrue, and I respectfully ask that you publish the following statement, which is the correct circumstances of the case:

Herein are the facts:

After arriving in Omaha I found out that Messrs. Banks & Wilks had taken charge of the body of my nephew, Cecil Smith. I immediately called upon them to make arrangements to bury the body. However, before they would attempt to proceed with the funeral they demanded of me the cash money or the turning over to their lawyer an insurance policy of \$200, which I carried for my nephew and of which I was the beneficiary. The insurance company, however, refused to enter into such an agreement. As I did not have the cash that they demanded to bury the body I called upon another firm of undertakers, Messrs. Jones & Chiles. This firm informed me that they were willing to wait for their fee until I had collected the insurance money which was due me. I accepted their terms and upon receipt of the insurance money I paid them their fee in full.

Before Banks & Wilks would allow Jones & Chiles to take the body they demanded \$25 for embalming and \$10 for two days' storage, a total of \$35.

This amount had to be paid them before the body was turned over to the latter firm.

I take this occasion of publicly thanking Messrs. Jones & Chiles for the efficient way in which they handled this matter for me and for the extreme kindness and consideration shown me in my sad bereavement.

Very respectfully yours,

MRS. M. L. CESSNEY.

—Paid Communication.

THE SMARTER SET

A show which is attracting general attention this season from the lovers of both music and comedy, is the "Smarter Set" which is headed by Salem Tutt Whitney, J. Homer Tutt and Blanche Thompson, supported by the strongest troupe of Afro-American actors ever assembled, presenting a preparedness musical comedy entitled "How Newtown Prepared" with lots of melodious bombardments, and will be the attraction at the Brandeis Theatre on Friday and Saturday nights of next week, February 16 and 17. From information received from our exchanges, our theatre-going people can rely on witnessing a bright, sparkling, refined musical show, containing the best singing and amusing situations, devoid of the slightest trace of anything to offend. It is highly commended for its quick action, as there is nothing dragging or tedious about it, for it goes along with a hearty vim from the rise to fall of the curtain. It is undoubtedly a meritorious attraction and should be liberally patronized.

FUNDAMENTAL CIVIL RIGHTS TO BE GUARDED

(Continued From First Page)

father; race prejudice is scarcely less bitter in the North than in the South. But the growing enmity toward the Negro is solidifying his forces in self-defense, and the appointment of James Weldon Johnson, contributing editor of the New York Age, as field secretary for this association, is a practical guarantee that the unanimity of opinion expressed last summer at the Amenia Conference by the leaders of all schools of thought will work out during 1917. A more united front than colored Americans have presented to their enemies heretofore will result. Nineteen hundred and seventeen may see, also, the beginning of an organized Negro party, which, if the exodus continues until two million colored voters are in the North, will be a considerable political force.

The ancient and peculiarly American institution of lynching will probably receive a setback during 1917, not so much because the N. A. A. C. P. has just raised a small fund which will enable us to put the facts of the more spectacular burnings before the American people, but rather because the combination of the boll weevil and northern opportunity have made the mob an expensive luxury, and the South is becoming convinced that the day is here when they may be lynching their own precious pocketbooks.

—The Survey.

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PEARL OF THE ARMY

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