

THE MONITOR

A National Weekly Newspaper
American to the Interests of the Colored
Nebraska and the West

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

\$1.50 a Year. 5c a Copy

Omaha, Nebraska, April 7, 1917

Vol. II. No. 40 (Whole No. 92)

"A Record to Defend But No Treason to Atone or Explain"

Speech of Roscoe C. Simmons Recently Delivered at Louisville, Kentucky.

"Let me speak for one-ninth of the entire population of my country. Rejected, scorned, forgotten, smitten by the hand of power upon both cheeks of patience, still they authorize me to declare before the thrones and authorities that the enemy who stands against their country stands against them. They dictate the announcement that no sword drawn against their flag is too sharp for their courage, or too strong to stay their defiant hand. In the valley, degraded but not discouraged, contemned but not conquered, their only cry is 'Our country first, free and foremost!'"

Insult to Patriotism

"What will the Negro do? That question is heard in mart and forum and read in the day's print. It is both an insult to patriotism that runs from Lexington to Carrizal and the gentle alarm of remorse upon the door of American conscience. But we would still the troubled nerve of our nation and steel the nerve of our leader and commander. We do not take our grievances to the lines of any enemy.

"Treason does not appear in our history. In a moving list of wars no Negro has ever proved traitor to the flag of his love and heart. While in chains he fought to loose the chains that held his country and unfetter the intellect of the Western World.

"I know the suffering of the Negro, for I suffer with him. I know his yoke, for it is about my neck. I know his burden, for I bear it with him. But I would remind him, and all, that we move by faith, and must remember that hidden, altogether from our view, are the plans that directed us here by way of the middle passage, and then under the shining sun of freedom, to the music of battle, broke the chains that gave to bondage.

"If the bugle calls and the flag is unfurled, what will the Negro do? Let me tell you what he will do. He will come from shop and field, north and south; he will put on the uniform of the only country he ever knew. -He will write his name on the roster, and without a tremor take over the gun of a soldier, and breathe upon it the deadliest aim any soldier ever claimed. He will forget the sorrows heavy upon his heart, and only remember that he belongs to a warlike race, whose patriotic blood watered the earliest fruits of American liberty, and tracked Lincoln's conquest from Port Hudson to Petersburg. He will ask for no honor save the honor of facing the stoutest foe on the field.

Ready to Do and Die

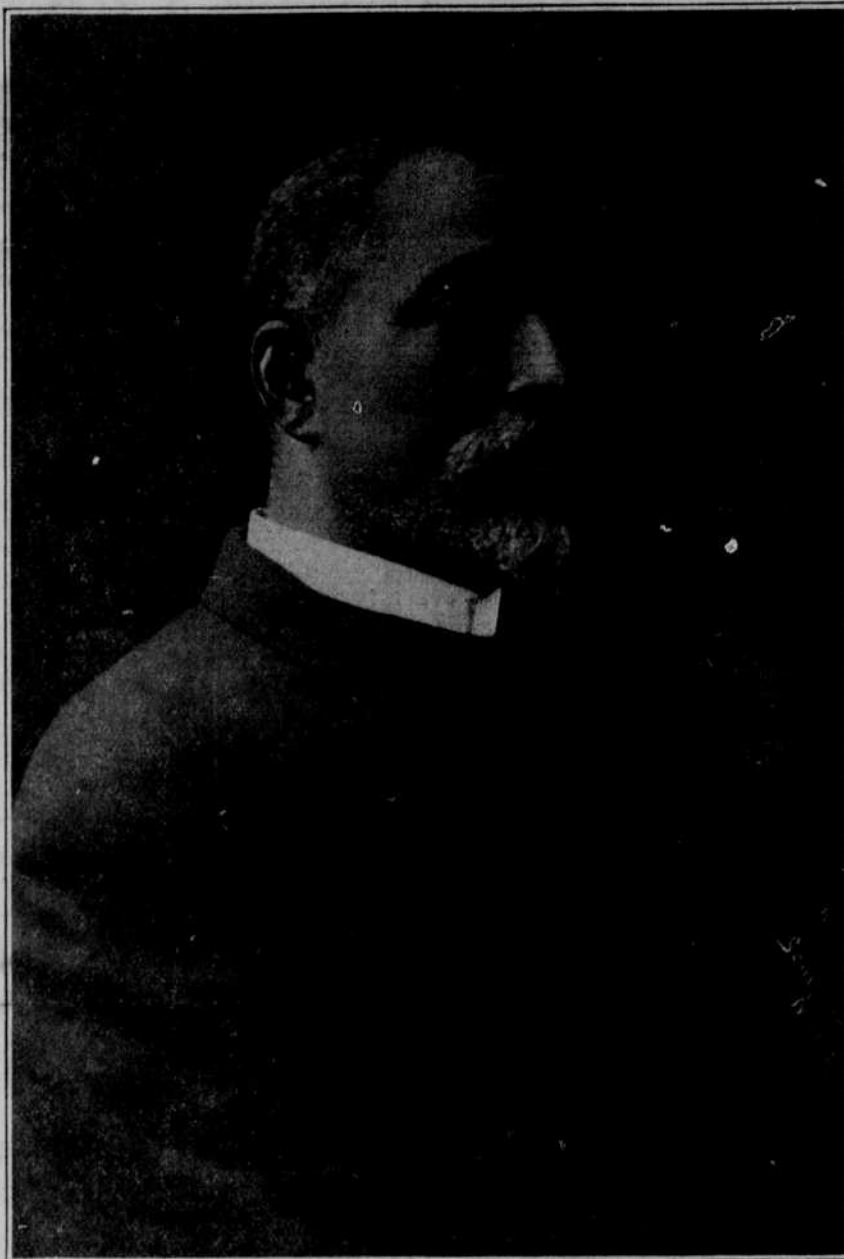
"With no Plattsburgh; poverty stricken; denied training at West Point; rebuked for his ambition to

master the science of war; dared to present himself in Commonwealths where is most populous, as an armed guard of State and nation, yet when the bugle sounds and the flag blushes and his country calls, beneath the breeze of promise, the Negro will kiss his loved ones farewell, and march away to do and die, to vindicate Carney, brack but brave, who announced at Fort Wagner that 'the old flag never touched the ground.'

"I speak no word of anger against Germany. The people of that wonderland are the marvel of time. They alone remained unconquered by Caesar. They are the only people of the world who never have been conquered. As settlers in America they were the first abolitionists, and first to oppose African slavery, and sanction by their conduct the brotherhood of man. I do not speak against Germany. I speak simply as an American, talking about my duty to my country, and moving simply as a citizen. Nothing else concerns me. Nothing else concerns you. Nothing else concerns any American, white or black.

Some Things Money Won't Buy

"The Congress of the United States recently made two purchases. For \$25,000,000 Congress purchased the Danish West Indies. With American citizenship, as expressed in the ballot,



RIGHT REV. H. BLANTON PARKS, D.D.

Bishop of the 5th Episcopal District of the A. M. E. Church, will lecture at St. John's A. M. E. Church Tuesday evening, April 10th, at 8:30 sharp.

the freeman's weapon, Congress purchased the loyalty of Porto Rico. But in Government, as in life, some things money cannot buy.

"Congress deserts my plea for education and shuts both eyes while the rights of franchise is taken from me, state by state. I am a child, not of a distant isle reared by nature to relieve the tempestuous sea, but of the heart of my country.

"Here I was born, here I was bred. I speak the language of my country. I live beneath the folds of the flag that set me free. The only law I ever knew is the Constitution, the sublimest document in human affairs. Without money and without price, with nothing save love of home and faith in God, who still moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform, the American Negro offers himself, the life of death and the death of life, to his country in war, if war should come, as in peace, through two hundred years.

"When the guns awoke Lexington we were there, 'far in front.' We followed Washington and stacked arms only when Cornwallis came to grief. We followed Perry through the dangers of northern waters to stand with him against the foe. We followed Taylor through Texas to the bad lands of

(Continued on Page 7)

The African Origin of Grecian Civilization

Speech of George Wells Parker, Delivered Before the Omaha Philosophical Society, April 1, 1917.

I imagine, ladies and gentlemen, that when you first read the subject of the address to be delivered before this society today, you were a bit surprised, and, I trust, a bit interested. To claim an African origin for the Grecian civilization is hardly in keeping with the historical traditions inherited from our school days. It savors of a sort of heresy and passes far beyond the limits of popular opinion. There is a peculiar unanimity among all historians to state without reservation that the greatest civilization the world has ever known was pre-eminently Aryan, but historians are not always to be relied upon. They write for their own race and times and are careful to give as little credit as possible to races and events which fall within the pale of their prejudices. I question, however, if these is to be gained any ultimate good by subverting truth and popularizing error. Indeed, I believe that if today our historians, authors, press and pulpit would give the public the truth as far as it is possible to attain to, tomorrow would find us filled with a new vigor and a fresh determination to conquer the wrongs and inconsistencies of human life.

The old idea of the Grecian civilization was that it sprung, like Minerva, full armed from the brow of Zeus. It seemed to have no tangible beginning. The fabled kings and heroes of the Homeric Age, with their palaces and strongholds, were said to have been humanized sun-myths; their deeds but songs woven by wandering minstrels to win their meed of bread. Yet there has always been a suspicion among scholars that this view was wrong. The more we study the moral aspects of humanity the more we become convinced that the flower and fruit of civilization are evolved according to laws as immutable as those laws governing the manifestations of physical life. Historians have written that Greece was invaded by Aryans about 1400 B. C., and that henceforth arose the wonderful civilization; but the student knows that such was an impossibility and that some vital factor has been left out of the equation. When the Aryans invaded Greece they were savages from Neolithic Europe and could not possibly have possessed the high artistic capacities and rich culture necessary for the unfolding of Aegean civilization. "Of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes."

Speaking of the two foremost Grecian states, Herodotus writes as follows: "These are the Lacedaemonians and Athenians, the former of Doric, the latter of Ionic blood. And, indeed,

(Continued on sixth page.)