

# THE MONITOR

A Weekly Newspaper devoted to the civic, social and religious interests of the Colored People of Nebraska and the West, with the desire to contribute something to the general good and upbuilding of the community and of the race.

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### HAPPINESS

There are few words better known than the word "happiness," but how many of us have ever paused in the midst of life's hurry and hustle to ask ourselves what happiness is? If one were to ask you, you might say love, wealth, health, and any one of many beautiful things. Perhaps you would never say that happiness is something only possible in yourself. When one depends upon extraneous things for happiness he or she is searching for a phantasm that never will have reality. If you think that a little more money, a few more friends, or some more beautiful clothes will balance your books of happiness, your account is already overdrawn and your balance will show bankruptcy. It is up to you to make happiness as the gentle spring rains make violets or the summer nights make dew, and if you haven't learned this lesson, go back and start all over again. Things never did make happiness, for things are transient and happiness perpetual. Once you learn the subtle elements of happiness you can synthesize sorrow, trouble and grief in mystic crucibles and bring out the precious gold of joy. You have no need for the baser chemicals of life. They are all dross. Only that which can enter into the mind and become a part of it can produce the wonder jewel of happiness. Think on these things and then light the poison-quenching fires of the spirit and make happiness.

### GOVERNMENTAL POWER

The summary action taken by the federal fuel administrator in compelling certain industries to shut down for five days, in order that fuel might be saved to relieve a serious situation, makes us realize the power our government possesses whenever it finds it necessary to invoke that power. It brings home to us the fact that war is serious business. War is going to teach us that this government of ours has the power to do anything it desires to do to conserve the best interests of the nation.

The federal authorities can control public utilities and they can suppress lawlessness in any section of this country whenever they make up their mind that it is to the public weal to do so.

### AUTHOR "SKITS OF SOLOMON"

The clever "Skits of Solomon," which are so much enjoyed by Monitor readers, are contributed by our talented contributing editor, George Wells Parker. We know of no special feature writer of this character on any publication in the country who surpasses Mr. Parker. We do not except Walt Mason or any other writer, who for articles by no means superior to these are drawing princely salaries. He also contributes the witty "Obvious Observations."

Many of our readers will not wholly agree with the position taken by Attorney Broyles in his letter published in this issue; but it will be admitted that he calls attention to certain racial defects demanding correction.

Pay your debts.

### SKITS OF SOLOMON

#### Camouflage.

Camouflage is the gentle art adopted by the Teutons and Allies to make each other think they are approaching a bower of beautiful roses, when, in fact, they are running into a bower of big guns. In other words, camouflage means the science of making things look like they ain't. The first recorded camouflage was the apple that hung in the Garden of Eden, and when Ad and the madame ran into it, they got the human race into so much trouble that folks have been a little nervous over apples ever since. There are also many other kinds of camouflage. A forty beans per month family trying to set a pace for Mr. Vanastorbilt; roast beef hash made up of onions, potatoes and something else; handsome automobiles with bad engines, and crooked humans reaching out for haloes, are all camouflages. The bad thing about a camouflage is that when a wise canoof finds out that what it is ain't what it tries to make out it is, before it is proven that it ain't what it is, there is something stirring. Thirty-third degree wisdom never fools with camouflages. It doesn't pay. It is too much like looking down a gun barrel to see if the thing is loaded. Camouflage may be all right when it comes to trying to fool the enemy into thinking that a division of artillery is a lovely landscape, but it doesn't pay in everyday life. War will stand for lots of things that peace will hand the sleep-easy. Call a spade a spade and a diamond a diamond, and don't try to call three colors a royal flush.

### OBVIOUS OBSERVATIONS

Papers say that peace is in the air. Sure, peace is in the air, but each side thinks the other side is bluffing and is scared to take hold of the olive branch for fear it might prove a cactus.

A "nut" from Texas claims that if the war department doesn't use jim-crow methods in Texas, he is going to raise a rumpus. Let him raise it. Several other states have stars in the flag besides Texas.

The Mayor Mitchel slush fund and the crooked war relief societies of New York have tumbled into such a scandal that the big guns are hiding under the beds. Roosevelt is scared to peep and the society dames are sending out "Not at home" cards.

Coal always was a valuable product on the expense account, but none of us ever thought it was darned important.

One bad thing about memory is that it often makes subscribers forget that they owe a few nickels for the weekly paper.

Tennessee held first place in the annual murder record. Isn't that nice for the virtuous South?

Woman suffrage has finally kicked goal. It was a long time bucking the line, but it finally saw an opening in the line of defense and ran through.

Thanking you kindly for your mental occupation, we will now sprinkle salt on the ice and borrow a shovel.

There will be a hot time in the old town the night of the Camouflage Ball given by the O. N. E. Club boys at Peterson Hall, February 22. Something new and novel. Be there!—Adv.

### MUSICAL DEMONSTRATION

Pupils of Mrs. Florentine F. Pinkston Delight Large and Appreciative Audience, and Show Talent and Thoroughness of Teaching.

On Saturday afternoon, January 19, a demonstration was given in Volk's Hall by the pupils of Mrs. Florentine Pinkston, teacher of music and piano-forte, and it was without a doubt an event that the people of Omaha may mention with pride.

In the first place the program was started promptly at the time stated. The pupils were seated at the front of the hall just as they would be for a regular class lesson in the studio. As the different individuals or classes recited they took their places at the tables, blackboard or piano, as the case might be, with a willingness and eagerness that alone speaks volumes of praise for their teacher.

As for the program itself, it would be worse than futile to attempt to draw comparisons or to pick out one or more and say that he or she was better than the others, for the class represented pupils in all the stages of progress, from the beginner of three months or less up to the advanced student of several years' experience. Even to the casual observer, however, there is no mistaking the fact that among Mrs. Pinkston's pupils there are some who give evidence of unusual talent along musical lines. Into no better care could this talent have been placed for proper development than into the hands of Mrs. Pinkston.

If the pupils could have realized the difficulty of the task they so easily accomplished they would be well repaid for their efforts, for there could be no greater compliment given them and their work than the behavior of their audience. Only those who have tried know what it means to hold an audience of more than two hundred (including several small children) quiet and interested for more than three and a half hours. The continued applause greeting each performer was further testimony of the success of the pupils' work.

"Demonstration" is, indeed, an excellent word to describe the occasion, for the event has demonstrated amply that Mrs. Pinkston possesses unusual qualifications as a teacher. Those who heard her in her own recital knew that she was prepared to teach, and those who saw and heard her pupils now know that she is capable of teaching. The perfect naturalness of the pupils in their recitation work and ease in playing on the piano were unmistakable signs of the thoroughness of the training, for lack of self-consciousness in a person performing in public comes only as a result of knowledge. The unhesitating answers to questions and the accuracy in playing on the piano show a wonderful mastery of infinite detail on the part of the pupils and an equal degree of patience, sympathy and interest on the part of the teacher. The admiration and love that the children show for their teacher, and the interpretation they put into even the simplest exercises, is a lasting tribute to the manner in which Mrs. Pinkston has given her pupils an appreciation of the art of music and an understanding of its deeper values. As was noted by many of those present, there was an air of polish and refinement about the conduct of the pupils that is plainly a deserved compliment to the beautiful character and manner of their instructor. It is an acquisition that will be of inestimable value to the children in their everyday life for all time.

Mrs. Pinkston is deserving of all the praise and encouragement bestowed upon her by the delighted audience. Judging from the many remarks overheard the next public demonstration by Mrs. Pinkston's pupils will be looked for with eager interest, and the Auditorium will probably be better suited to the size of the audience.

The program so well rendered is given complete, with the exception of one or two added numbers, as follows: Hand Culture, Class Drill of Notation, Rhythm, Ear-training, etc. Class Drill of Key Signatures, major and minor scales. First studies in Transposition by scale degrees.—Frances Gordon, Ozelia Dunning, Lovejoy Crawford, James Jewell, Otis Watson Class—Drill of Intervals and Chords Gills, Historical Pageants (duet)..... Pauline and Beatrice Black Beethoven, Minuet in G..... Lyla Johnson Kohler, Book I— Exercise 138-89-129..... Grace Adams Exercise 64-67-69..... Robie Turner Exercise 81-74-29..... Bernice Williamson Exercise 136-102-122..... Nathalie Brown Exercise 97-94-85..... Lyla Johnson Exercise 34-28..... Elizabeth Allen Exercise 35-41-72..... Walteretta Seals Exercise 57-58-87..... Elaine Smith Exercise 73-75..... Beatrice Black Exercise 82-100..... Pauline Black Engleman, Melody of Love..... Ruth Washington Porter, Duet..... Elaine Smith and Teacher Rubinstein, Melody in F..... Beatrice Taylor Papers on Life of Rubinstein..... Otis Watson Krouse, Mazurka Caprice..... Luey Allen (a) Wollenhaupt, Gavotte (b) Godard, 2d Mazurka (c) Chopin, Prelude..... Ozelia Dunning Morrison, Meditation..... Lillian Wells (a) Burgmuller, Ballade (b) Miles, Morning Serenade

- (c) Adams, Dance of the Raindrops..... James Jewell
- (a) Schumann, Album Leaf..... Frances Gordon
- (b) Deppen, A Japanese Sunset..... Frances Gordon
- (a) Thome, Under the Leaves..... Frances Gordon
- (b) Grieg, Butterfly..... Otis Watson
- (c) Rubinstein, Romance..... Otis Watson

### NOTICE

The African Methodist Episcopal mission church has been established at 1825 North Twenty-fourth street. Preaching every Sunday at 3 p. m. The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

JAMES HUDSON, Superintendent.  
Residence, 5442 South Twenty-fourth street.

### HAUL IT DOWN

The following special dispatch was sent out from Richmond, "capital" of the confederacy. We found it in the informing Post-Dispatch:

"Richmond, Va., Jan. 12.—The 'stars and bars,' the flag of the Southern Confederacy, is laced side by side with the American standard in the grouping of Allied flags decorating the armory of the Richmond Grays, one of Virginia's famed state guard regiments.

"Throughout the South, it is reported here, there is a general disposition to place the Southern Confederacy standard with the flags of the United States and the entente powers."

"A general disposition" there seems to be to revive the rag of secession and place it side by side with emblems that stand for progress, liberty and the common destiny of man the world over.

The tri-color of France and the Union Jack might well refuse the breeze if the stars and bars—the stars of shame and bars of slavery—should be placed beside them by disloyal hands. While to entwine the flag of the dead confederacy with the Red, White and Blue that Grant hoisted above Richmond in '65 is a crime that the government should not tolerate and that every loyal citizen should condemn and rebuke.

When Grant took over the sword of Lee under the apple tree in lower Virginia he cut through the bars and put out every star in the emblem of secession, slavery and immorality. And now, when our nation is at war, and the call is to all, and not to a section; when it is Liberty pleading to us to save her from the wreck of war and the shock of battlefields, even to show the flag under which Jefferson Davis sought to tear down our government and make our constitution but a "scrap of paper" is too vulgar for easy patience.

Fifty years, we know, is but a moment on the clock of progress, but that short season is time enough to instruct the barbarous South that slavery is dead and that the cause for which the South and Lee stood against the stars of God is, like Hector's pup, a corpse with all the inglorious past.

The stars and bars—stars of shame and bars of slavery—is an emblem of the wretchedness that carried Lincoln to his grave. To exhibit that sign anywhere in this nation, particularly in time of war, is an insult to the sons of all Union soldiers and an offense to every Negro who wears the uniform of his country and offers himself to the cause of liberty.

Haul down the stars and bars! Haul it down in Richmond and everywhere through the South. Already the South has been left too much to its wicked idols. There is but one flag—"THE STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER!"—The Chicago Defender.

## Our Women and Children

Conducted by Lucille Skaggs Edwards

The problem of saving in food is a local and individual one, so that more precise and definite rules just to all cannot be formulated. It is a matter for the conscientious consideration of every individual that he or she should eat only that which is necessary to maintain bodily health and strength and unselfishly to select those foodstuffs the use of which relieves international necessities. In this winter of 1918 lies the period when there will be tested in this great, free country of ours the question as to whether or not our people are capable of voluntary individual self-sacrifice to save the world.

Food has now taken a dominant position in the war, and we must ask the American people to sacrifice far more than was at first thought necessary. We have exported the whole of the surplus of the wheat from this harvest, after reserving to ourselves an amount sufficient for our normal consumption of seed and flour until the next harvest. In other words, every grain of wheat or its products that our associates in this war receive from the United States from now on will be exactly the amount which our people have saved each month on their behalf.

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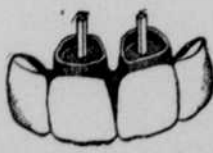
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