

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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ASH-WEDNESDAY AND LENT

Next Wednesday, February 13, is Ash-Wednesday, the first day of Lent, a penitential season of forty days' duration—forty-six, to be exact, because the Sundays are not counted—observed by millions of Christians, real and nominal, throughout the world. Its wide observance is significant. Its persistence through the centuries challenges attention. Religious seasons, customs and observances which have stood the test of centuries and proven spiritually helpful to mankind, persist only because they answer some real need in human nature.

Now, Lent is one of those religious seasons which has stood the test of centuries and has been found spiritually helpful to numberless millions. It must, therefore, answer to some real need in the souls of men. What is the need which it supplies—what the call to which it answers? Let us see if we cannot learn what are some of the needs of every rational human soul which it supplies.

First, then, is there not the great need of Knowledge—knowledge of God, knowledge of self, knowledge of others and knowledge of the relationships existing between these three? What is necessary for the attainment of this knowledge? Is it not quiet, stillness, opportunity of retirement for awhile from the ordinary cares and duties of the average life? "Be still, then, and know that I am God," and in knowing God one learns truly to know one's self. This season of retirement and penitence, if you please,—for self-examination, which is a necessary element of self-knowledge, will so reveal one's shortcomings of what he really ought to be and wants to be that penitence must follow,—answers to the soul's cry for the opportunity to know itself.

Then next self-knowledge reveals other needs, if improvement would result. One of these is self-discipline, which strengthens the will and leads on to self-control. Self-knowledge, self-discipline, self-control, may be obtained and have been obtained through the observance of Lent. This explains why this season, despite its misuse and abuse, has such a strong grip upon the hearts of millions.

Surely this year of all years, when men's hearts are falling then because of fear and of the things that are coming upon earth, Lent should be observed with prevailing power and helpfulness by all who believe in the power of the Christian religion to save and uplift mankind.

Ash-Wednesday and Lent, 1918! The world has never seen its like before. Will it ever behold its like again?

May it lead the war-distracted world through penitence to peace.

THE COMPENSATIONS OF BEING COLORED

If people should ask me, as they ask Bert Williams, "Would you not give anything to be white?" I should answer as Mr. Williams answered, "Emphatically no!"

As a Colored man I am relieved of great responsibilities, not because I am unwilling to assume them, but because they are denied me. I have no voice in the destiny of this democracy. I, too, have brain, ideals and strength, but I am not permitted to help in making the pattern.

As a Colored man I am without the pale. I am a looker-on. I can see the follies and faults of the white race, and though sometimes I myself am scared and burned, it treats itself worse than it treats mine.

For me to become a success is a real triumph over great obstacles. No white man has any good reason for being a failure.

My race is born with an innate sense of humor. I resent injustice, but injustice cannot make life any less interesting. I do not expect perfection in an imperfect world. Grief weighs lightly.

I never lose my soul in the race for dollars. Climbing the dizzy heights of the social ladder is not my ambition. Eating my heart out because of fail-

ures is never a chapter in my existence.

The white man is forever seeking happiness. Mine I find in myself, my home, my family, my friends, and in my labor.

The most of my work is known as menial work, but the blessing of it is there is so much of it to do. The field is never over-crowded. I never want. A white man is nearly always afraid of his job.

My race never begs. Poverty with mine is never a problem. Sometimes I may be hungry, but the world never knows. I have too much pride.

And the greatest compensation of all is that I come of a happy race. My blood is as old as human kind and it learned the lesson ages ago that all things are transient. Mine shall come into its own again. All I need do is wait, and I wait contented.

DETECTIVE FRANK ROONEY

All who knew him sincerely regret the death of Detective Frank Rooney, who was shot by robbers last week. Gentlemanly and kind-hearted, while fearless in the discharge of his duty, he had made a host of friends, whose sympathy goes out to his bereaved family.

KINDNESS

Cultivate kindness. Never nourish bitterness. Kindness eventually wins where harshness and bitterness fail. Kindness always brings a glow of warmth around the heart which every one should envy. Cultivate kindness. You can if you will.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

My Dear Mr. Magney:

As you are well aware, two serious crimes shocked the community in the closing days of August, 1917. On Saturday night, August 25, Mrs. Anderson, an aged woman, was murdered at Fortieth and Decatur streets. On Saturday afternoon, August 26, Mrs. Claude L. Nethaway was murdered at Florence. For some unaccountable reason investigation of the first crime seems to have been overshadowed to the point of forgetfulness by investigation and prosecution of the Nethaway mystery. Will it not now be possible for you to order a renewed and thorough investigation of the Anderson murder mystery? That case should be investigated so that, if possible, the person or persons guilty of the crime should be discovered, convicted and punished.

Respectfully yours,
JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS.

FOOD SPEAKERS SAY WAR IS "JUST PLAIN MURDER"

"What we saw was not warfare; just plain murder. Direct attempts on the lives of non-combatants." That is part of the message the Federal Food representatives are bringing back to this country and will give to Nebraskans the week of February 25 to March 2.

Roscoe Mitchell, Everett Colby, Dr. R. L. Wilbur and John Barry are the speakers who are assigned to this state and who will tell Nebraskans just what the conditions are "over there."

The tour of these men will be the first wherein the first hand messages and the personal observations of conditions will be given. They will tell of the American troops in Europe, of their condition and their hopes. They will tell of food conditions "over there."

In short, their messages will be gripping, real live stories of conditions that have never got past the censors.

The Nebraska itinerary will be announced shortly and these speakers will visit as many cities and towns in the state as is possible during the week.

Get the church-going habit! Don't be a religious slacker.

Obvious Observations

Der kaiser is still talking on divine right. Isn't it too bad that he can't have a heart-to-heart talk with ex-Czar Nick?

Quite a solar plexus jolt when Secretary Baker answered Senator Chamberlain and told him that we already have considerably more than 500,000 men at the front, wasn't it? Reckon the next guy will watch his step before he tries to shy a collection of decrepit vegetables at the administration.

Of course the ground-hog saw his shadow! Why the heck didn't the weather man plug the hole so he couldn't get out?

Who cares anything about the shortage of coal—in the summertime?

Would you like to give the editor a real BIG SURPRISE? Then come across with your subscription.

A writer in the Kansas City Star says that the Colored cartoonist at Funston is a regular minstrel show. So are all the others. The white cartoonists are the ones that are hunting grief and finding heaps of it.

After last week's bandit stunt there will be no way in the world to prove to the effete east that Omaha isn't still a hangout for cowboys and ferocious Indians.

Why is it that everybody must wear a muzzle except Teddy Roosevelt? Give it up, Gracie; give it up.

The Monitor's blind traveling representative is doing things down South. The wise gazook who said he couldn't see is hibernating under a snowdrift.

Have you heard any news from the western front lately? Thanking you for letting us give you an eye-ful, we will now rest up by playing a few games of coon-can.

SKITS OF SOLOMON

Over the Telephone
Mrs. Conversational Goop gets central after a minute's wait.

"Hello! Did you have a good nap?"

"Number, please?"

"If you don't give better service I shall report you!"

"Number, please?"

"Mudriver 41144," in voice that gives central the earache.

"Hello! Is Edith there?"

"Just a minute and I'll call her."

(The expression of serene patience.)

"Some one on the line—get off!"

"You needn't be so rough. I didn't know YOU were on the line."

"Shut up! I hate party lines anyway."

"They still give out straight lines at the telephone office, don't they?"

"Dry up."

"Already dry. Nebraska is a dry state, isn't it?"

"What impudence!"

"I want to get acquainted. You have such a lovely temper."

"I shall report you."

"This is the fortieth time you've made this threat. I am greatly troubled."

"Hello! Edith is out. Won't you leave your number?"

Butting-in Party—"Please do."

Bang! All for today.

BUY THRIFT STAMPS AT THE WARDEN HOTEL

Now is the time for every Colored person, young or old, to start saving. The chance of a lifetime never offered before. Twenty-five cents will start a savings account now, with the United States behind it.

Buy your thrift stamps at the Warden hotel, Sixteenth and Cuming streets. Charles H. Warden has been appointed an agent by the government to sell these stamps, so buy them from one of the race and making a showing.

RETAILERS ARE BENEFITTED BY FARMERS BUYING AUTOS

At the recent convention of Retailers, Clarke G. Powell, Manager of the Omaha Auto Show, February 25 to March 2, pointed out to merchants how their business has been benefited by the large number of autos purchased by farmers. The farmer and his wife keep in closer contact with their local trading centers, which helps the merchant compete with mail order houses. The retailers were urged to come to the Omaha Show and bring their families.

"Last year three thousand dealers from Nebraska, Western Iowa and South Dakota attended the Omaha show," explained Mr. Powell, "and brought some of their customers with them. Of the thousands of dollars' worth of automobiles purchased, the Omaha distributors got only a small margin. Most of the money went to the local dealers, and the local retailers got part of it, to say nothing of the advantages they derive from having automobile-owning customers."

Corn Dodger.

Two cups cornmeal, 1 teaspoon salt, 2 teaspoons fat, 1 3/4 cups boiling water. Pour the boiling water over the other materials. Beat well. When cool, form into thin cakes and bake 30 minutes in a hot oven. Makes 14 biscuits. These crisp little biscuits are good with butter or gravy. Eat them with your meat and vegetables.

Our Women and Children

Conducted by
Lucille Skaggs Edwards

THE WHITE IN OUR FLAG

There is a menace to the white in that flag which we avoid speaking of and yet it must be faced. White means purity. It means clean bodies, clean minds, clean morals. It means, above all, honor to womanhood. Yet, during the first eighteen months of European war England had more men incapacitated by venereal disease, contracted in mobilization camps, than by all the fighting at the front. Our own mobilization camps along the Mexican border were ringed round by dives unspeakable. Whole companies—yes, almost whole regiments—took inoculation for diseases I shall not name. Do you know what that means? It means the transformation of gallant boys and men into walking pestilences, into pitiful lepers, many of whom will carry through life the terror of their sins and even transmit to further generations the seeds of blindness and insanity. Do I startle you when I tell you plainly that it is estimated that among the soldiers in Europe there are today 700,000 syphilitics? And your boy or mine is going to hazard his life for his country. Must he also lose his soul? The nation has listened to the appeals we sent in last winter. Protected zones have been instituted. It is to the credit of the United States that the government has done this and it is to the great credit of the Y. M. C. A., and the chaplains of the army and navy, that every effort is being made to stimulate and strengthen our boys against temptation; but, when all is said and done, it is up to the boy himself, up to the father and mother who gave him clean birth, up to the principles of conduct that were drilled into him in youth, up to the standards of character which were exemplified by his father and mother and comrades at home.

We pray for them that they may be clean and that means that WE must be clean. We honor the flag. It is only as white as you and I are pure and white. I would propose a new hymn mpeded on "God Save the King":
"God save our boys and men
Send them safe home again;
God save our men!
Make them victorious,
Clean, strong, and glorious;
Flag floating over us,
Strengthen our men!"
—Rev. George Craig Stewart, D. D., in Purity Magazine.

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