

Growing,
Thank You!

THE MONITOR

Lifting
Lift, Too!

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

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Spingarn Medal To Be Awarded

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Announces That the Coveted Medal Will Be Awarded Friday, May 3.

NEW YORK, April 26.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announces that the Spingarn medal, given each year to the man or woman of African descent and of American citizenship who shall have made the highest achievement during the preceding year in any field of elevated or honorable human endeavor, will be presented on the evening of May 3 at the First Baptist church, Providence, R. I. The Spingarn medal has been donated annually since 1915 by Major Joel E. Spingarn of New York, chairman of the board of directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

This medal has been awarded in previous years to E. E. Just for researches in biology, to Colonel Charles Young, U. S. A. (retired), for services in organizing the constabulary of Liberia, and to Harry T. Burleigh for excellence in the field of creative music.

The medal will be presented by Governor R. Livingston Beekman of Rhode Island. Moorfield Storey of Boston, national president of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Major Spingarn will deliver addresses suitable to the occasion. Announcement of the winner of the medal is withheld until the date of presentation. The committee of award consists of Bishop John Hurst of Baltimore, chairman; ex-President Taft; Dr. James H. Dillard, director of the Jeanes fund; John Hope, president of Morehouse college, Atlanta, and Oswald Garrison Villard, president of the New York Evening Post company and treasurer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

COLORED WOMEN TO MEET IN DENVER IN JULY

Denver.—The National Association of Colored Women will convene in Denver July 8, one of the local representatives of the organization. The convention, it is stated, will mark the greatest gathering of Colored women in the history of the country.

Woman suffrage will be one of the problems taken up during the convention. Many of the members are active in civic and patriotic work. These subjects will be discussed and a plan of greater co-operation in all of these endeavors will be formulated. One or more prominent suffragists will speak. Literary and musical contests will be among the features.

WOULD SUCCEED PROFESSOR KEALING

The Peck Brothers Are Rivals For Presidency of the Western University; One Prominent St. Louis Pastor; the Other Resident of Topeka.

Kansas City, Mo.—Revs. W. H. Peck and F. Jesse Peck, brothers, are being urged for the presidency of Western university at Quindaro, and one of them seems reasonably sure of landing the position. The presidency had been vacant since the recent death of Dr. Hightower T. Kealing. Rev. William H. Peck is pastor of an African Methodist church in St. Louis and was educated at the old M Street High school, Washington; Lincoln and Wilberforce universities. The other brother lives in Topeka, Kan. He was educated at Storer and Oberlin colleges.

SEEK AID FOR COLORED ROMAN CATHOLICS

Cleveland, O.—An appeal for aid in erecting Colored schools and churches, separate from the whites, in the South was made here recently in St. John's cathedral by Monsignor John E. Burke of New York. Bishop Farrelly and the Rev. D. J. Bustin also spoke at the meeting.

VOTE FOR THIS TICKET

JAMES C. DAHLMAN,
JOSEPH B. HUMMEL,
GEORGE B. PARKS,
WALTER S. JARDINE,
DAN B. BUTLER,
CHARLES H. WITHNELL,
HARRY B. ZIMMAN.

NATIONAL COLORED LIBERTY CONGRESS

To Be Convened in Washington Latter Part of Month to Secure Democracy for All, Regardless of Race or Color; Eminent People to Attend.

Boston, Mass., May 3.—The National Colored Liberty Conference, which was organized in this city June 13, 1917, has called a national congress of Negro citizens at Washington, D. C., from May 29 to June 2. The meeting will be named the National Colored Liberty Congress and its sole purpose will be to secure from congress guarantee of the establishment of true democracy for all, regardless of race or color, in this country, in connection with the world-war democracy.

The Rev. A. Clayton Powell of New York is president of the congress; the Rev. M. F. Sydes of Rhode Island, recording secretary; Mrs. S. J. Allen, corresponding secretary; the Rev. D. S. Klugh of Boston, treasurer; Herbert H. Harrison of New York, chairman of the executive board; Prof. Allen W. Whaley of Boston, national organizer, and William Monroe Trotter, executive secretary.

Heroic Deeds When Steamer Sinks

Another Colored Hero Wins Place on Roll of Honor; New York Woman Gratefully Tells How James Wallace of Savannah Rescued Her and Her Baby; Saves Two Others.

AN ATLANTIC PORT, May 2.—Survivors of the coastwise steamer City of Athens, sunk in a collision with a French cruiser off the Delaware coast yesterday morning, with a loss of sixty-six lives, related here today many tales of heroism by the crews of the two vessels.

All praised the efforts of the French sailors especially, who launched small boats within a few minutes after the accident and aided by the cruiser's searchlights picked up many of the survivors from pieces of wreckage.

The survivors agreed that the speedy sinking of the steamer—within five minutes after being rammed by the warship—was responsible for the heavy toll of life, although some asserted that the City of Athens' life-saving apparatus failed to work properly. There were 135 persons, including twenty-four United States marines, on board the steamer, which was bound from New York to Savannah with a \$2,000,000 cargo.

Negro Proves Hero.
Mrs. Florence Pickard Harrison of New York today told how her life, that of her 2-year-old baby and two others were saved through the bravery of a Negro fireman on the City of Athens.

Awakened from her sleep, Mrs. Harrison barely had time to put a coat over her nightdress and hurry to the deck with her child. "I saw a lifeboat," she said, "but no one was paying any attention to it except a United States marine, who lifted the baby into the boat. I was about to climb in with his aid when the steamer toppled and my grasp on the gunwale slipped. I caught up the baby as the ship sank under the swirling waters. When I came up, choking and almost unconscious from the water, with the little one in my arms, we were directly under the bow of a lifeboat.

Many Thrilling Rescues.
"A man, whom I afterwards learned was James Wallace of Savannah, lifted the baby from my arms. When I regained consciousness I found myself in the lifeboat, covered with a piece of canvas, which I wrapped around the baby. My coat and nightgown were torn from the struggle to drag me in. After that Wallace rescued one marine and a civilian. That brave Negro deserves a hero's medal.

"We were in the lifeboat for about two hours before we were picked up by the crew of the French cruiser. I cannot speak too highly of the gallantry and kindness of the French officers and men during our rescue and the time spent on the cruiser."

GARY'S COLORED COLONY
Gary, Ind.—Gary's Colored colony is increasing so fast that it has almost become a city in itself and the number of Colored business and professional men in the steel city is larger than the white total in many nearby communities. Editor J. D. Cooke, who directs one of Gary's two Colored newspapers, estimates that there are between 7,000 and 8,000 of the race in Gary.

Poem Dedicated to Stanley Mackay

William Cressy, one of the stars at the Orpheum this week, brought tears to the noon-day crowd at the Omaha Chamber of Commerce last Thursday when he read the poem entitled, "When Blue Stars Turn to Gold." Mr. Cressy said that he composed the poem following his breakfast that morning. He dedicated it to Stanley Mackay, son of the Rev. T. J. Mackay, who died in service. Following is the poem:

WHEN THE BLUE STARS TURN TO GOLD Rev. T. J. Mackay's Son.

We don't seem to know 'till we've lost it
Just how much a thing is worth,
And then when it's gone we discover
'Twas the most precious thing on earth.
Something we prized in its newness
Grows dearer as it grows old,
And that which we treasured as silver
We discover is purest gold.

Perhaps today you are treasuring
A wee flag of red and white;
It is hanging in your window
Through the day and night,
And on its white heart is gleaming
A star of heaven's own blue—
A star for your boy, who is fighting
For his country and for you.

Our service flags are crimson:
How we glory in each star!
How we love our boys and miss them,
And how proud of them we are!
And if God, in His infinite wisdom,
Should call them to His fold,
We still fly the flag of crimson—
But the blue star now is gold!

Oh, boys! In the flush of your manhood,
How you answered that call to arms!
How you came from the towns and cities,
From the villages and the farms!
How we glorified in your going!
And we ask, dear God, to hold
And to help us if the time comes
When your blue star turns to gold.

And we're sending you this message
To that land across the foam,
To tell you how the home folks
Are praying for you at home,
And if you should never come back,
You must know that as time grows old
We shall treasure that flag of crimson,
With the blue stars turned to gold.

The Children of the Sun

By George Wells Parker

LAST week I wrote of the Sphinx and tried to explain why that wonderful monument must ever remain the emblem of Egypt. I told you that the face was the face of one of that race which men call Negro, or to use a better term, the face of a typical African. These same features are to be found related to everything belonging to ancient Egypt. All we have to do to examine carefully the mummies, the many statues, the intaglios and monuments, to become convinced that Egypt was African in the sense of race as well as in the sense of locality. The Egyptians tell us themselves that they were autochthones of the soil—that is, a race springing from the native earth, made from the black mud of the Nile—and that they called their country Chemi, meaning "the land of the blacks." We know, too, that the Egyptians were well known to all ancient nations and that men and wanderers of all the earth visited Egypt because of her repute as the abiding place of wisdom and knowledge. Herodotus, Lucan, Pliny, Strabo, Homer, Aristophanes, Æschylus, Livy, Virgil and a host more were acquainted with the Egyptians from personal contact and verify more than once the racial relationship of the Egyptians in their writings. How, then, you may ask, do historians say that the Egyptians were a white race? Why does Ripdath classify them and the Ethiopians as a branch of the Caucasian race? Why does Myers say that the Negro was never anything but a hewer of wood and a drawer of water? Why does Hart of Harvard say that no African race ever rose to the eminence of an organized and civilized government?

There is but one answer to these questions. Of late years men have realized more and more that Egypt has made wonderful and lasting contributions to human civilization. "Ancient Egypt itself," says Sir Arthur Evans, the world renowned archeologist, "can no longer be regarded as something apart from general human civilization. Its influences are seen to be about the very cradle of our civilization." Such being the exact truth,

one of us need not search far to explain the reason for such historical discrimination. The historians of Europe have often hesitated to attribute to the African race the mighty civilization of Egypt; the historians of America have absolutely refused to let any such great credit even be hinted for men of dark skin. The latter have found their country steeped in prejudice against the black man and would perpetuate it, even at the cost of truth. They would persuade themselves and our country that civilization is the gift of the white race alone and that any other claimant to a share of glory is an impostor and a liar.

But it is an axiom of history, no less than of life, that error cannot always triumph. What the historian has been unwilling to do, the archeologist insists upon doing. The historian is generally an armchair savant and the scope of his information does not pass beyond the four walls of his library; the archeologist is a worker and his information is gathered by digging with the spade upon the sites of ancient civilizations. When the latter draws a conclusion he draws it from tangible things, from stones, statues, manuscripts, palaces, coins and a hundred other things which he digs from the sands. They are the soundest and most convincing proof in the world of who an ancient people have been and what they have accomplished. There is no need of argument, proof and voluminous histories to furnish the proof of their truth. They are truth themselves.

It is not my purpose today to review the mass of remains which archeologists have excavated in Egypt. It is so great that even archeologists themselves have been unable to reduce the whole to complete understanding. Their efforts were begun for the reason that historians' efforts to escape the truth had made history a hodgepodge of a thousand opinions. Sincere men wanted to know the truth and could not be satisfied with the ducking and doging indulged in by pseudo-historians to bolster up one race to the utter discredit of another. In Europe that battle raged more fiercely

than elsewhere, and eventually the German Anthropological association determined to settle the question once and forever, if it admitted itself to settlement. At one of its meetings the members unanimously requested Dr. Rudolph Virchow to spend a year in Egypt and bring back to them the answer to the question of the racial relations of the ancient Egyptians. Dr. Virchow at that time was one of the most famous men of Europe, an eminent scientist and the discoverer of one of the most important branches of medicine. He accepted the honor and went to Egypt. During that year he worked harder than at any time in his entire life. He visited the sites of every ancient city, every ruin, every monument and examined every article recovered from the country and cared for in the museums of Egypt. He was convinced of the truth and when he returned to Europe and stood before the great scientific society to give his answer these were his words: "I thought that I could find by comparative examination of the living and the remains and pictures of the dead some points establishing the change of the ancient Egyptians into the Egyptians of historic times, but I have returned with the conviction that ancient Egypt and its neighboring countries have not essentially changed during all these periods. If Menes really existed then they were in his times NEGROES, since quite all ancient remains and mural paintings show NEGROES with all their peculiarities." This answer settled the question once and for all with the greatest scientific body of the modern world, and surely it should answer it for all men.

The Egyptians were of the same blood that courses through our veins. What we must learn and expound is the wonderful influence which this black-skinned race has had upon all succeeding nations of the earth. When you have learned something of this you will no longer wonder why the Anglo-Saxon has hated to admit the truth and still tries to hold it a secret. He knows that if the African had never produced any civilization but that of Egypt it alone would entitle him to be held in honor forever and forever by all the children of men.

Opposing American Lynching Mania

Law and Order League of Memphis, Tenn., Sends Protest to Governor Rye; Declares That Such Unrestricted Lawlessness Will Undermine Morale of the Colored Troops.

NEW YORK.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is authorized to make public the following telegram addressed to Governor Tom C. Rye of Tennessee by Bolton Smith of Memphis, Tenn., secretary of the Law and Order league, which was organized two months ago, following the Estill Springs burning, to put a stop to lynching:

San Antonio, Tex., April 23.
Hon. Tom C. Rye, Governor, Nashville, Tenn.:

The lynching of Berry Noyes at Lexington, Tenn., April 22, cannot but sow disunion among our people, undermine the morale of our Negro troops and lessen the effectiveness of our propaganda among Colored people for food production and conservation. It will therefore tend to prolong the war and increase the price in dead and wounded we have to pay for victory. I have been visiting the Texas camps and witnessed the self-sacrificing work of our splendid young men who are preparing to risk all for us. It is strange our own people will not help them by exercising the self-control necessary to give a Negro charged with crime such a trial as our own laws provide. The government of the United States is controlled by Southern men. It has called the Negro to the defense of the colors and the American people will demand that a race thus honored shall be granted the justice of a fair trial when accused of crime. We all know that when guilty there is no doubt of full punishment. The Lexington lynchings cannot have realized the extent to which their act furnishes aid and comfort to the enemy. As secretary of the Tennessee Law and Order league, organized to stop lynching, I urge you to issue a proclamation to our people pointing out the treasonable effect of such act and that you call upon the president of the United States as commander of the nation to reinforce your words, for it is plain we are threatened with a nation-wide increase of this crime.

BOLTON SMITH.

Pro. Against the Army Edict

Meeting Opposes General Ballou's Recent Order Counselling Command to Temporarily Waive Legal Rights.

SEND RESOLUTIONS TO BAKER

Chairman of Meeting Reluctantly Consents to Singing "America," Stating That Only Bar He Sings Is, "Land Where My Fathers Died."

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—More than 400 men and women were present Monday night, April 22, at a meeting in the Concord Baptist (Colored) Church of Christ, Adelphia street, near Myrtle avenue, at which resolutions were adopted protesting against the recent order of Major General George Ballou of Camp Funston to the Ninety-second Division, advising Negro soldiers to refrain from visiting places and amusements frequented by whites. The resolutions will be sent to Secretary of War Baker.

The Rev. George Frazier Miller, rector of St. Augustine's Protestant Episcopal church, presided and outlined the purpose of the meeting. He declared that Negro soldiers were being denied the privileges of exercising their legal rights. This, he said, in the last analysis makes the German soldier superior to the Negro.

"God made me a man," he said. "I feel like a man, and only a man's treatment of me will be satisfactory. The Negro is called upon to shed his blood upon the field of battle so that the white man may be free, and still he is denied the right of the fundamental principles upon which this government is founded.

"The black man has won many a victory. The Negroes saved Roosevelt and his Rough Riders at San Juan Hill. They fought at Carizal. Now they are asked to fight to make the world safe for democracy and still they are denied the privilege of enjoying this democracy right here at home."

George Wibecan, president of the Frederick Douglass Forum and of the Citizens' club, declared that if it had not been for this prejudice the Negro would long ago have enlisted in the National Guard and that there would be more than 83,000 Negro men and 1,000 officers fighting for the cause of this government.

The Rev. Frederick R. Cullen, pastor of the Salem Zion A. M. E. church of Manhattan, took exception to statements of the Rev. Mr. Miller regarding a meeting that had been held in that church, in which he accused the men there of cringing in their protest. He declared that all differences should be forgotten in the crisis.

So many requests were made upon Mr. Miller for the singing of "America" that he finally consented, but stated that he did not feel disposed to do so, as the only bar of the hymn that he sings is "The land where my fathers died."

Brief addresses on the necessity of organizing were delivered by John A. Shilliday, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored Race; Walter White of the same association, and R. M. Meroney, secretary of the Carlton Avenue Branch Y. M. C. A. The resolutions were signed by all present.

The following were in charge of the meeting: The Rev. George Frazier Miller, Mrs. Charles H. Lansing, Miss M. W. Ovington, Dr. W. H. Buckley, Emory Jones, Dr. Franklin Myers and F. W. Morton.

PATRIOTIC SONG WRITTEN FOR COLORED SOLDIERS

New Orleans.—Prof. W. J. Nickerson, a local Colored music teacher, has composed a patriotic song, "The Colored Soldier Boys of Uncle Sam," which is being sung with great enthusiasm by the Colored population.

The words are full of patriotism and greatly aid and encourage the soldiers in their patriotic duty to their country. The music is published by the Grunewald company and the piece, it is said, appears destined to become the song of the Colored troops. The music gained such popularity that it was necessary to order a second edition two weeks after the first.

Gary, Ind.—Ras Bar, said to be the only Ethiopian rabbi in the United States, was here recently from Abyssinia and proposed the establishment of a synagogue for the race. The movement is being seriously considered.