

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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NEW YORK SOCIALISTS CONSIDER

The socialists of New York have done an unheard of thing. They have nominated three Colored men for prominent national and state offices, Congressman, State Senator and Assemblyman. And the men they have selected are among the foremost and ablest men in character and ability to be found in the state. They are not professional politicians, for professional politicians are scarce among socialists, but high-class, earnest men with sincere convictions on certain governmental policies. And the fundamental principles of socialism are economically and ethically sound and are influencing the trend of legislation today more generally than men think.

Governmental control of railroads, for example, and municipal ownership of public utilities, are important features of the socialist program; and there is a tremendous trend of sentiment in this direction today, which shows whither we are tending. In our judgment, the socialist party is the coming political party in the United States. Certainly much that socialists advocate must be incorporated into the political program of the future.

But to return to the action of the New York socialists. Their action is thoroughly in keeping with their principles, for, as we understand it, they recognize neither race nor sex as a qualification for office holding, but character and ability. In this they are many years in advance of the old line parties.

George Frazier Miller, whom they have nominated for congress, is one of the foremost clergymen of New York. For more than twenty years he has been rector of St. Augustine's church, Brooklyn, and although naturally of a studious and retiring disposition, he like many of his brethren, by the very force of civic and national conditions, has been thrust into the forefront of civic racial activities. And he has not been found wanting. Whether he is elected or not, he deserves and will undoubtedly receive a large vote. We hope for his election; because we need representatives in congress, with broad-mindedness, vision, ability and moral courage, and he has these qualifications in an eminent degree.

The men whom the socialists have nominated for the state senate and the assembly or legislature, Mr. Randolph and Mr. C. Owen, are like Dr. Miller, men of the highest and best type. We hope that these men may also be elected.

With the strong Colored vote in the districts from which these men are chosen they ought to run well. Of course, the great majority of our people are still wedded to the republican party, although thousands are beginning to think differently, and it remains to be seen whether partisanship or race pride in this case will prove the stronger. The Colored American's almost servile and slavish devotion to the republican party may prevent his supporting even men of his own race of the highest character, ability and loyalty, if nominated by any other party. The socialist party gives the Colored American an opportunity he has long desired. Will he embrace this opportunity?

The action of the New York socialists will force the hand of the old line parties and compel them to give the race recognition on their respective tickets if they wish to retain or secure our political support. Moreover, it will have a far-reaching influence upon thousands of intelligent and thoughtful Colored Americans who are thinking hard. Thought is a great emancipator. Socialists are responsible for starting many men and women, too, thinking politically along other than the traditional lines.

The New York socialists have shown noteworthy political wisdom. They have also shown commendable consistency.

"ONE HUNDRED PER CENT EFFICIENCY"

UNDER the above caption the St. Louis Argus published in last week's issue the following forceful and timely editorial every word of which we most heartily indorse:

"One hundred per cent efficiency of our man power is essential in the great conflict that confronts the nation just now. When the war broke out in Europe four years ago, the

country naturally was not prepared; but we are preparing now. It is the duty of the nation to see that every man that is called or is subject to call, be he black or white, is given the opportunity to register 100 per cent in efficiency.

"We are very much gratified with the statement that nearly four thousand Negroes are soon to be selected for special training in mechanical and scientific courses, which are being offered by the government. This is right as it should be. The Negro has made good. He has shown to the world that he is capable of mastering the sciences as other men. This is a step in the right direction on the part of the government. It should go just a step farther. Colored men will make good gunners for our navy. It is, however, humiliating to say, that they only make good 'mess attendants.' Too, they will make good volunteer soldiers; but, it is mortifying, when we think of them as being 'best fitted as stevedores.' They make good in all places of trust. We venture to say that there would be less fire which destroys property valued at millions of dollars and hundreds of lives, if Negroes were given more places of trust. There are hundreds of ways in which the Negro could render the nation valuable service if he were only given a chance. Why should he be kept back? Why not give the Negro the opportunity to register one hundred per cent efficiency?"

THE TASK.

It is reported from Washington that a number of Colored orators are to be sent by the government into all parts of the country to arouse the patriotism of the race for our country and this war. It will be a gigantic task and it will take Titans to accomplish it. Not only must the speakers be scholars, but they must be psychologists. The heart of the Colored race is most certainly with our country, but it needs something more than mere words to stir the latent fires. Stirring rhetoric and visionary pictures may suffice for the moment and bring forth applause, but it needs be that each man and woman and child carry home a burden of thoughts whose subtle power will eventually convince them that their every effort must be expended in helping our country on toward victory. The ammunition of these orators must be facts and not fancies. They must be able to convince beyond the shadow of a doubt.

The Colored man and woman feel this war is not their war. They remember the treatment of the race in the south and in the north, as well, and are slow to understand why this government goes forth with the slogan, "Make the world safe for democracy," and yet neglects to put its own house in order. All this must be explained and it must be explained by men of broad vision and deep sympathies; men whose hearts can harmonize with the minors as well as with the majors of present American life. These orators must have the magic to pour oil upon our wounds and to heal with the mystic witchery of words that soothe and convince. This can be done and it is our hope that it will be done, but again we say that it is task for Titans and not for Lilliputians.

DR. CHARLES C. ALLISON.

IN the death of Dr. Charles C. Allison Omaha loses not only one of her most eminent physicians and surgeons, but the poor have lost a philanthropic friend. Dr. Allison's charities were not of the trumpet-sounding class, but there are many who will cherish his memory for his generous and kindly assistance in time of need. A great and skillful surgeon, a noble, warm-hearted Christian gentleman has entered into his rest. May light perpetual shine upon him and the God of comfort solace his loved ones who tarry here awhile.

PLAYGROUNDS NEEDED.

An effort is on foot to secure a public park and playground for the children within the congested and congesting district bounded by Sixteenth street on the east, Cuming street on the south, Twenty-seventh street on the west and Lake street on the north. Such a park and playground should by all means be established and now. Petitions are being circulated asking for such playgrounds. Sign the petitions and get busy.

The Children of the Sun

By George Wells Parker

This article is to be somewhat of an historical medley. So vast is Asia and so many are the empires that rose and fell there, it might be tedious to review each one and try to give an interesting story of its rise and fall and its contributions to civilization. In a general way I have afforded evidence from modern archeologists as to the African character of the primitive inhabitants of Asia—the people who nourished the beginnings of civilization and pass them on to latter peoples. Perhaps Rawlinson, the renowned English archeologist and historian, has made this plainer than any other of his time. He says: "The Chaldaman monarchys rather curious from its antiquity than illustrious from its great names or admirable extent of its dominions. Less ancient than the Egyptians, it claims the advantage of priority over every empire or kingdom which has grown up upon the soil of Asia. The Arian, Turanian, and even Semetic tribes, appear to have been in the nomadic condition, when the Cushite settlers (black races) of lower Babylonia betook themselves to agriculture, erected temples, built cities, and established a strong and settled government. The leaven which was to spread by degrees through Asiatic peoples was first deposited on the shores of the Persian gulf at the mouth of 'The Great River,' and hence civilization, science, letters, art, extended themselves northward and eastward and westward. Assyria, Media, Semetic Babylonia, Persia, as they derived from Chaldea the character of their writing, so were they indebted to the same country for their general notions of government, and administration, for their architecture, for their decorative art and still more for their science and literature. Chaldea stands forth as the great parent and original inventress of Asiatic civilization, without any rival that can reasonably dispute her claim." Indeed this is a great tribute to an African mother.

I have already quoted authorities who testify as to the African kinship of the Babylonians, Assyrians, Syrians and other Asiatics of the Mesopotamian Valley. Let us consider other parts of Asia now. Lieut. Col. Smith in his "Human Species," gives Colchis as the northern limit of Ethiopian extension, and this is true as far as written history is concerned. You may recollect that Herodotus tells us that it was at Colchis that Sesostrius, the Egyptian conqueror, planted a colony, and it is a historic fact that the descendants of this military association, presenting the dark skin and woolly hair of Africa, were long distinguished from the nations of the district. It is even asserted to this day that it is possible to find Circassians whose blood might be traced to the soldiers of Sesostrius. In mythology this country will be remembered as the destination of Jason and his Argonauts in their search for the Golden Fleece.

SKITS OF SOLOMON.

Heat.

Any son of a ukelele who anticipates a grand spoutation from old Sol at the present moment needs some drug besides Jamaica ginger. For the three hundredth time Sol has tried to stem the rivers of perspiration long enough to play old faithful and hand out his weekly hunk of massacred English to the yawning millions, but it "ain't" no go. The thermometer is too high toned and too uppish. Further, is is dead to all flattery, abjuration and cuss words. It made up its mercurial mind to ascend and ascended it has, and that without any prospect of immediate descendance. In ye winter time we can hammer on the typewriter until it has rheumatism, but that is because we are keeping warm. In the spring we can hammer because we all get the microbus poeticus feverish and feel that we can knock every literary maverick off the shelves of the hall of fame. But in this kind of weather ambition fades away like the pink in a ladies' gauze shirt waist. We simply can't do anything but hunt the shade and camp around the ice water. Old Solomon has tried to be faithful and hurl a ten-inch shell of condensed nonsense at you every Saturday, but this week he renigs and throws his thirteen trumps into the waste basket. He has tried everything from Japanese fans down to Christian Science in an effort to josh his corporality into the ecstatic stage of imaginative coolness, but they won't work. They are bunk. The Sun, for some reason or other, has got it in for this little old planet and is handing it the very antithesis of heaven. How long it will last we do not know, but RELIEVE ME! old Solomon of the skittishness is going to lay aft starboard on pink lemonade and shade trees until friend earth raises the white flag and the Sun gives us a flag of truce.

Leaving Colchis and moving southward we come into Asia Minor and Armenia and here again we find the ever present African strain. Asia Minor was the seat of Ancient Troy and you may recollect when you read your Homer how that Priam, king of Troy, sent to Ethiopia for his cousin to come and help him in his struggle against the Grecians. Throughout this region of the world we find evidences of it having been occupied by a people or a confederation of peoples, the African confederation of which Alexander Winchell speaks and whom I quoted before. Here, too, was the Hittite people, one of the greatest nations of the ancient world, but of which little is known because the remains of their civilization have all but disappeared. It is by the discovery of their treaties with other nations that we know how really great they were. Once the Hittites became a dangerous rival of Assyria and their power was not broken until the seventh century B. C.

In Persia we note also the persistent strain of this ever present people. It is accepted today by all great scientists that the founders of the Medo-Persian empire were not the original inhabitants. When the Semites carried their expeditions into Media, the kings they fought did not bear Aryan names and not until the time of the Sargonids do we note a change. Berossos tells us of a Median dynasty ruling in the remotest times which was African and that it had nothing in common with the Semites or Aryans. We know, too, that genuine woolly haired Negro clans existed in Laristan and Mekran in Persia and even on the Hellmund and that their descendants are still to be found in great numbers.

To realize the greatness of the peoples in these parts of Asia one must read their histories. They were great and really majestic. Warriors most of them may have been, but with war they carried on the cause of art, literature, sculpture and science. From the distance of centuries they accomplished much that was worthy and much that makes the present and future indebted to them forever.

In the next article I shall treat of the Jews and of Phoenicia. As a prelude to what I may have to say about the Jews, let me call your attention to the fact that Abraham, the father of the Jews, came from the Ur of the Chaldees. Remember that Chaldea was African and couple with this the fact that many African tribes and nations claim that this same Abraham was the father of their race. Put two and two together and it may be that you can guess something of what I shall tell you next time of the Jews, the race that claim itself the chosen people and the one pure race in all the world.

There may be pure races, but no pure race ever amounted to anything in the history of the world.

A SERMONETTE.

Hold up your head, throw back your shoulders, feel, walk and act like a man. Never apologize for your race or color; but thank God that he has made you as you are and has given you your daily task to do, by the faithful doing of which you will become stronger and stronger. Despise and shun meanness in yourself and in others. Be too big to be small; too magnanimous to be little. Preserve your spirit of kindness and warm heartedness. These are priceless assets.

WORK TO BE DONE AT HOME.

Do you know that there is a great deal of real good work for us to do right here in Omaha? And what is true of Omaha is doubtless true of every other large city where our people are to be found in large and ever-increasing numbers.

There is a tremendous opportunity and a crying need for intelligent, aggressive, co-operative social work for protecting, uplifting and helping our people. Better housing conditions, for example, are needed. How are we to secure them by sitting down and doing nothing?

Are public institutions supported in part by our taxes taking the same care of our people as of others? Did you ever think about it or make inquiries?

We spend entirely too much time with "pink teas" and "whist parties," and like social pleasantries and pastimes, when there are so many serious and vital needs demanding our energy and attention. Think on these things and then act.

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