

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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COMMUTES SENTENCE

WE are gratified at the action of President Wilson in commuting the death sentence of 10 soldiers implicated in the rioting at Houston last August to life imprisonment. The death penalty in the case of six others has been affirmed, because the condemned men had been found guilty of having wilfully and deliberately murdered civilians. With this decision no fault can or will be found.

The drastic punishment meted out to the thirteen soldiers who were hanged at Houston provoked tremendous resentment, which was absolutely justified because of the almost indecent haste with which it was done and which savored more of vengeance and reprisal than of justice. Moreover there was the justifiable feeling that in the case of some of those men, concerning whose guilt there was a question of doubt, had an opportunity for a review of the evidence been given, the penalty would have been lighter. That was our contention. We did not condone the guilt of the accused or minimize the gravity of their crime. We contended that opportunity for an appeal should have been given and mitigating circumstances might be found.

The fact that President Wilson, whom we do not believe would wink at injustice, found this to be true in the case of ten of the sixteen resting under the same condemnation whose cases he reviewed would seem to add weight to the justness of our former contention.

It is gratifying to us to have our position vindicated. The Monitor's outspoken condemnation of that hasty act strained the friendship of some of our dearest friends, whose friendship we highly prize, and led them to question our loyalty. They could not understand our psychology, nor we theirs. The president's commutation of ten out of sixteen condemned men shows our position sound, and this is a source of much gratification.

If upon the review of the evidence President Wilson had affirmed the verdict of all the sixteen, regrettable as it would be, there would have been cheerful acquiescence in his finding because there would have been the conviction that the accused had been accorded their constitutional rights. That is all any loyal American should ask.

L'ENVOI

The Colored people of the United States take more than a passing pleasure in the defeat of Vardaman and Bleasie, and when one considers what the race has suffered at their hands, their pleasure is to be expected. But always remember that the greatest enemy of the race is not always the blatant talker. It is the silent menace of prejudice that is the most hurtful, the most crushing, the most despicable. We can extend a warm welcome to an open enemy; but the enemy we fear most is the enemy that stabs in the back. Insidious are the methods of secret prejudice and they are more rife today than at any time in the history of our nation. Even in this war for liberty, prejudice is forever rampant and it hurts. It hurts for the Colored draftee to learn that he cannot enlist in the regular army, in the navy, in aviation, in wireless work and in numberless other branches of the service. It is not pleasant for him to read that the government wants men of all occupations and that it wants "white men." In Canada a Colored man may enlist for any branch of service he desires, but in this great country he is limited in military life as he has always been, limited in civil life. It isn't right and all the powers of government can never make it right. There are some of the insidious methods of prejudice that outrank a thousand Vardamans and a thousand Bleasies. If the government means to be sincere to its Colored citizens who are willing and have always been willing to do their part and more, then let there be no discrimination in any branch of the service. A Colored man make as good a marine as a white man; a Colored aviator can fly and fight in air as well as a white man; a Colored sailor can man a gun as well as a white sailor. Let's have fair play all around.

BETTER HOUSING CONDITIONS

Hundreds of our people have come from the south. Many of them are living in houses which are a disgrace

to this community. The authorities ought not to permit human beings to occupy some of the unsightly and unsanitary shacks from which profiteering landlords are receiving high rentals.

When cold weather comes on these tenants will be exposed to great suffering which will bring on sickness. A concerted effort should be made to secure better housing conditions. It can be done and should be done.

GOVERNMENT AND LIBERTY

If all individual initiative be transferred to the realm of government, we have no opportunity for that individual life which has been the glory of our modern world. If we transfer all the fundamental elements of a well-ordered government over to the realm of liberty, we have national dissolution and political death. The American patriot, keeping his heart open and his mind free from prejudice, seeking friendships everywhere in this world and enemies nowhere, keeping his eye fixed on this line between government and liberty, will ask himself how, as one of the keepers of the democratic conscience, can he act in a given crisis, in the presence of a given problem, before a given issue—how can he act, my friends, so as to protect the aim and the ideals of the American Republic?

Nicholas Murray Butler.

The Building of a Race

IN the construction of a race, like in the construction of a country, nation or business, there must be some fundamental essentials adhered to as a standard. A race, like the individual, must have a standard to build its character around if it would endure and enjoy the blessings of civilization. In the creation of the human family, the Creator intended that every individual, race and nation should fill a helpful and useful place in the world's economy. He left no place for slackers, drones and destructionists. A race may succeed as individuals in acquiring wealth, intelligence and morals; but if there is not a unity of purpose, a community of action and understanding and a uniting of the forces that win, the race will never be felt in these essential elements of the country as a potent factor. The Negro people possess the same qualifications, aspirations, ambitions and useful elements common to all other races, but these essentials are not so grouped and united as to be felt in the community and national life as factors to be reckoned with.

We believe that the two fundamentals indispensably necessary in the building of a race are the pulpit and the press—the pulpit first, to set the standard of morality, to construct a morale among the people for a unity of movement and a concert of action. The pulpit necessarily has a stronger hold on the people than any other factor or institution building character or creating sentiment. Therefore, the pulpit is the greatest power for good or for evil. Its influence is far reaching, its matters not whether it is intelligent or ignorant; and unless the pulpit addresses itself not only to the religious side of our life but to the economic, industrial and frugal as well, the race is in construction and will never reach that place along side of the Caucasian.

Our failure will not be at all chargeable to inherent inferiority, but to a lack of unity of the forces that have won for the white man in the world's civilization. The Lord never intended that the preacher should use all of his time in sentimental religion, but for the reason that He says in Holy Writ that "Six days thou shalt labor and do all thy work, but the seventh day thou shalt rest." This rest presupposes service to God. The pulpit must address itself to building up the political, economic and social character of the race. It must unite in one giant effort to bring grace, grit and greenbacks into the Negro's life. It must address itself more to living on earth, more to the solving of the problems of every day life than to going to heaven and wearing long white robes and silver slippers on golden streets. All those things sentimentally may help but for practical purposes it will not help

in the construction of a useful and helpful race.

The clergy can do more to educate the Negro to thrift and morality than any other factor. It can do more to teach him that no man is a real man who does not register and vote, who does not try to have a home and who does not recognize his civic relations to his county, state and country; that the accumulation of wealth, character and responsibility on earth is a necessary fundamental to saving grace.

The press ought to be united and in co-operation with the pulpit to bring about these essentials. It should teach, first, respectability, race pride, race appreciation and race consciousness. It should teach that no man fills the purposes for which he was created who does not own a home for his family and claim some country as a home, filling equally the responsibility of carry the burdens of his country.

Rights, whether they are conferred or inherent, do not come to man because they are his, but because he earns them—because he pays for them with useful and helpful service to God, country and neighbor. A united pulpit and press could remove seventy-five per cent of all the discrimination and proscriptions against the Negro in America, in the army, navy and elsewhere, if the efforts of the pulpit and press could raise themselves above selfishness, greed and camouflage.

The forces of essentials which will bring the Negro along side of the white man in the enjoyment of his political, industrial and economic rights are not without the race but within it. The efforts of the white man to block the Negro, to discourage and keep him in poverty and obscurity will prove futile if the Negro will corral the forces within the race. We have virtue, morality, religion, ambition, aspiration and every capability of usefulness that the white man has; and if we will unite these virtues under a standard of racial consciousness that we are determined to build a race, there is no force without that can succeed in counteracting our united effort. There is nothing that succeeds like a little success, and if we would convince the enemies of our permanent progress that we are going to succeed without them, they would help us to succeed.

We want nothing from the legislatures or congress except equal rights, equal opportunities and equal protection before the law in the enjoyment of life, liberty and happiness in common with other people. Politics cannot confer the enjoyment of any political rights now denied us independent of our own self-help. We want equality under the laws, recognizing the fundamentals that in order to enjoy life, property and happiness and to kill off discrimination, we must be a political factor in every community in which we live. Do not expect the war to do any more for us than you expected the republican party to do. You have depended upon the republican party to hand to you all of your rights until you have lost nearly every political right and a great abridgement of your civil rights. Pay no attention to the camouflage of the rabble press and the cheap preacher who tell you of the glorious millennium that shall come after the war. When the war is over, disfranchisement will still be on the books, jim crow cars will be operated, segregation will be in vogue and every other sin against Christian civilization, unless we qualify to meet the requirements of the laws, whether they are fair or unfair.

We can build a great and useful race if we will depend upon ourselves; if we can get the pulpit and press together; if we can unite them in the assembling of the forces within the race to fight a race's battle—not an individual's battle, but a race's struggle. The white man has not reached the pinnacle in the world's civilization without great struggle, and we need not expect it. Let the pulpit and the press unite in making the world fit to live in and there will be no question about our reaching heaven.—The Atlanta Independent.

PICKANIN' CHILE

For The Monitor.

Little black jewel,
Daughter of night,
Dark-eyed laughter,
Dusky-hued sprite!
Heir of song-makers,
Dialect bard,
Banjo-child poet,
Smiling so hard;
Pickanin' chile!

Cottonfield fairy,
Woolly-haired gnome,
Sweet singing blackbird,
African poem!
Sun-footed dancer,
Strewer of birth,
Coal-glossy mocker,
Baby of earth;
Pickanin' chile!

—M. Eugene Konecky.

Obvious Observations

We never thought that a parcel of Germans could get scared and run so fast.

One thing that college men should be thankful for and that is the subject of economics has been shot all to pieces. Any man who would have the nerve to write a treatise on economics nowadays surely belongs in a buggery.

These chilly mornings are just high signs that winter is throwing out to let us know that he will be all on the job pretty soon.

Hurrah for pancake and waffle time! That's one edge we've got on the butcher.

Next July the next national name will be Sahara.

General Foch isn't half started yet. Wait until he swings Pershing's Yanks into battle! Believe me, the boches will do some tall hustling.

The only sore spot we've got is that we can't get enough sugar to make a few jugs of good red wine.

Dean Ringer is a wise goop when he says that he is going to load Mr. Eberstein with every ounce of police responsibility. Dean didn't know what he grabbed when he grabbed and now he begins to realize that he grabbed a hot potato.

So many magazines are quoting The Monitor that we are thinking of borrowing a tape line and measuring our bust development.

Thanking you earnestly for your kind attention, we will now tackle our pot of beans and bones.

SKITS OF SOLOMON

The Shipyards.

The shipyards, according to Senor Dan Webster, are places where men build ships. Just as the present aha, however, the shipyards are places where thousands of men are hiking to avoid toting a gun. Where anyone ever nabbed the idea that ship work avoided gun toting is a mystery, because Unk Sam can't find any such order for his army book. Just last week Mr. Charles Schwab tore out for the capital city and asked General Crowder why in the heck he was taking all his skilled ship makers and sticking them in the tramp tramp squad. Mr. Charlie tried to show the General a deep point where there wouldn't be nary a ship if he didn't have men to put the ships together. General Crowder agreed that the point was well balanced, but neither Charlie nor the General have said a word about unskilled workers. The trouble with unskilled workers is that there are so many of them that they get in each other's way. They aren't a whole

lots of good to anybody and no one knows it better than the General. So if you are just a lumber totter or an iron hauler, don't figure that by tearing out to Old Virginia you can keep out of hopping trenches. If Unk Sam wants you, Unk Sam is going to get you and that's all there is to it. A whole parcel of dudes who thought that they were wiser than Old Stripes and Whiskers, are finding out that they slip a cog in their cogitations. There's no ducking the draft if you belong to it. As to the shipyards, Unk knows that no where else under the blue canopy of St. Peter would he find a nicer bunch of slackers, all ready to pull out and shoot over towards Berlin. So, son, if you figure that the shipyards are going to keep you off the firing line, get hep and stay around where your riends live so that if Unk does say, "Lend a hand," you'll have somebody to tell you Adios.

FRANCE AND BELGIUM GET AMERICAN SUGAR

Ninety-five per cent. of all refined sugar sent from the United States to the Allied nations went to France and Belgium during the first five months of this year.

France got 72 per cent., or nearly 83,000,000 pounds, and Belgium received nearly 11,000,000 pounds, or 23 per cent.

In each country this sugar was doled out by a strict rationing organization.

The entire amount to the Allies in these five months—23,791 tons, almost half of which was shipped in May—is only about one-half of 1 per cent. of our total annual consumption.

FORMAL OPENING OF WALKER MANSION

Notable Members of Both Races Guests at Social Function at Mansion Built by Progressive Woman, Who by Her Own Splendid Ability Has Risen From Poverty and Ignorance to Wealth and Culture.

EMMETT SCOTT HONOR GUEST IRVINGTON-ON-THE-HUDSON, N. Y., Sept. 6.—The formal opening of Villa Leware, the new home of Madam C. J. Walker at this place Sunday, August 25, was the most notable social function in the history of the Colored race. Many notables were present, including white men and women who are active in the work for the advancement of Colored people.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett J. Scott were the guests of honor. All New York, seemingly, was present, also distinguished individuals from various states including J. P. Napier, of Tennessee, and Prof. Scarborough, of Ohio.

The great room, the salon, of the home was the scene long to be remembered where a program was rendered, including such notables as Rosamond Johnson, Joseph Douglass and Mrs. Martha B. Anderson of Chicago, Thos. E. Taylor, the well known Y. M. C. A. worker closed by leading "America." Emmett J. Scott was the principal speaker. He was preceded by the distinguished hostess, Madam C. J. Walker. Both were felicitous in their well chosen expressions, earning the liberal applause that was given them. Other speakers followed.

SALVATION ARMY DRIVE
Starts September 9th for funds to help our boys at the front. Of course you'll help.

ANOTHER TIMELY TOPIC for all men between 18 and 45 who have not previously registered.

Register Promptly **12th**
SEPTEMBER

Thomas Kilpatrick & Co.

UNCLE SAM'S PARTNER



(Courtesy of Life and Charles Dana Gibson.)

Planting home gardens, producing more food, and saving food are all war-time efforts of this government in which the women of America have co-operated loyally. We are all in the home army; the home army here must help the fighting forces and home armies over there; 120 million Allies must eat.