

# THE MONITOR

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

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THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor and Publisher.  
Lucille Skaggs Edwards and William Garnett Haynes, Associate Editors.  
George Wells Parker, Contributing Editor. Bert Patrick, Business Manager. Fred C. Williams, Traveling Representative.

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## THE NEW YEAR

ANOTHER year is speeding on to the dusty tomb of the ages and at the portals of the present another stands waiting and smiling. Man, the mummer and the ghost and the highly sensitized wraith of ancestral tendencies, welcomes it with outstretched arms as he always welcomes things new and filled with promise. Seldom does he realize that all the years were filled with promise and that if his promise was not realized, it was because he did not help them come true.

This New Year is a year of peace, after four years of bloody, cruel war, and its greatest promise is that nations will lay aside war and try to make peace perpetual. It is a dream that laps the horizons of infinity and brings a vision of heaven down to clumsy man, but it will ever remain a dream unless man means it and does it. It was a man alone who blotted out the stars of peace and man alone who must find them again. God gave him Eden, but he chose the earth and all his history has been a blind struggle to make his choice a replica of his pristine home. The time is propitious and the world ready, but peace must be done for all, not for the few. It must mean that the black man in the jungle will be as safe in his home, as secure on Britain's soil or Americas plains.

If the proposed peace which this New Year brings, and for which our country stands sponsor, means all that has gone before, it shall indeed be a Happy New Year, a year that shall stand out shining above all the constellated years. It shall become a year that will be as green in the memory of men as the morning of creation or as that night when the star shone down on Bethlehem and the world rejoiced in a dream that men forgot till now.

## THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

IT appears that President Wilson's proposal of a League of Nations is to become the paramount issue at the great peace conference at Versailles. No less a notable than Gilbert K. Chesterton says that the great difficulty will be found in trying to convince the Latin peoples that the proposed league is not to be for the purpose of perpetuating the power of the white races.

There is undoubtedly some truth in this, but the real truth will not become patent until it becomes known how far the factor of the "self-determination" of peoples enters into the final adjustment of world relations. Already the English papers have hinted that "self-determination" will not apply south of the Suez, and if this be true, then it lends color to the conclusion that the league will, in subtle purpose, provide for the continued supremacy of the white races. Whether the Latin races and Japan will enter objections, is problematical, Japan has already stated, through Premier Okuma, that she will not meddle with colonial questions in Africa, but the other Mediterranean powers have made no statements along these lines.

The final program, however, will probably show that Africa is still to be the playground for European exploiters and that its untold wealth will continue to flow into the coffers of the great nations so that they may continue their power and rule. But time sets all things to rights. Africa is waking up and stretching out her hands to her kin throughout the world and ultimately those of her blood will unite and demand justice. Unity is the slogan and watchword, for without unity there will be no realization.

## POLITNESS

IN every day life there is nothing one needs more than politeness. It is surprising to know how far this personal attribute will carry one and how it will smooth out paths which otherwise might be a bit rugged. Our people need it and need it badly. As a rule, the majority of us carry a proverbial chip on our shoulders and at the slightest pretext we swell up and want to fight. We somehow want to look upon every white man and woman whom we do not know as our potential enemy and approach them with a reserve that is somewhat frigid. As peculiar as it may sound, the average man and woman whom we meet on the streets and in business, never thinks of prejudice un-

less some offender brings it up by unpleasant action or word. A smile and politeness carries one anywhere.

Out in the north end of the city, where many of our people live, there are generally crowds of young people who appear to want to make things unpleasant for white pedestrians who frequent that neighborhood. Improper remarks, boisterous actions and the frequent jostling of persons, are among the greatest faults and they should be stopped. These young people should have learned politeness in their homes, but since many of them have not, the duty of teaching it must fall to the Sunday schools, churches, social gatherings and, if necessary, the law.

We hope that those of our ministers and others who come into frequent contact with this young element, will impress the value of politeness and courtesy. It is essential that we possess these qualities more than others, because we suffer some handicaps from the start. Do not teach servility, but politeness. It is always worth while.

## THE TILLMAN MEMORIAL

ON Sunday, December 15 the United States senate and house of representatives convened to deliver eulogies upon the late Senator Benjamin F. Tillman. Several members took part in the exercises and each, while admitting that Tillman had striking limitations, also had striking abilities and among them ability as a debater, logician and keen student of sectional and national conditions. All paid tribute to his sincerity and to the depth of his convictions, however much they sometimes grated upon the sensitiveness of the north.

It is true that Tillman was a great logician, that he was sincere and that he was a deep student of national affairs. He knew the Negro and knew him perhaps as no other southerner ever knew him, and knowing him, he never feared to tell what he knew of him and why he was a menace to the white man's supremacy. Unlike other southerners, Tillman never hesitated to admit that it was the fear of the Negro's potentialities that made him try to embitter the north against him. At Harvard he told the vast assemblage which gathered to hear him, that nature had made the Negro the only competitor of the white man, and that unless the south withheld from him education and the chances for mental advancement, the Negro would eventually rise superior to the whites of the south. This is true and Tillman knew that it was true and the south knows it is true, only Tillman was naturally blunt and wanted the north to know the real truth, rather than create a blind prejudice upon a foundation of ignorance.

Tillman is dead and we will let his name rest in peace, but some day the world will realize that the fear which Tillman so willingly expressed is the same fear which grips the south today and makes it so unjust to a large part of its population.

## READ, MARK—AND THINK

The Gold Coast Leader, one of our African exchanges, publishes the following article from the pen of G. C. M., on The White Man's Burden, which furnishes much food for thought and is significant of the trend of modern African opinion.

"It is somewhat remarkable how words and phrases come to stay. From being leisurely employed in a few fiction magazines less than a decade ago, 'The White Man's Burden' has crept into more serious monthlies and now bids fair to become a staple phrase in certain well-known West African newspapers published in London and to gain popularity among a certain class of would-be apostles of European philanthropy. But what does it mean? It means the self-assumed governance and tutelage of African and other peoples whom the European has undertaken to teach his ways, including his worship of the almighty dollar, his whisky and soda drinking, his forgeries and other crimes previously unknown to Africans, his ambition to cultivate the society of so-called cultured men and to ingratiate himself with men of rank, and his love of artificial life; in a word, it means Europeanization. In practical politics, this is transformed by the immutable law of cause and effect, into the burden which Europeans have superimposed upon

African races willy-nilly. Nor does the grateful but unfortunate people appear to resent it much, recognizing as they do the futility and helplessness of the situation, being convinced it would be expecting too much to have an ounce of European "goods" without an overdose of his "evils." Experience has clearly demonstrated the fact that the European is "an austere master, gathering where he has not sown"—whether in driving "profitable trade in human chattels," or in directing punitive expeditions against weaponless "bushmen," or in bargaining for cocoa or palm oil deals in the market; that his religion and civilization are only aids to social limbs of commercial Europeanization; that his true mission to these parts is to possess himself of the African's goods—his lands, mark! just glance at the map of Africa) yea, his very soul, and deal with it as it may please him; in short, that he seeks the denationalization of the African. This is no imaginary or idle complaint and a little reflection will convince the most cynical that the African is no fool. Happily, there is ample reason to believe that the European has been reckoning without his host, who stoutly refuses to be bamboozled any longer, and makes bold in divers ways to challenge him to declare the faith that is in him. In the face of his oft-vaunted assertions of "protection" the African reads "exploitation," and is inclined to regard his talk about "salvation full and free" as all humbug and much of a piece with the whole process of Europeanization and denationalization. And who shall blame him?

"But there really exists a 'Whiteman's Burden,' namely, the faithful discharge of the responsibility that attaches to every cultured individual or race whose consciousness has been awakened to a sense of the obligation which he or it is under to the other races of the world: a heavenly-born desire to help others to realize themselves rather than to discourage their efforts, to nourish rather than starve out the natural and healthy aspirations of a promising race. That is the 'Whiteman's Burden'—his noblesse oblige."

## A NEW NEGRO NATION

A scheme will be presented to the peace congress, and it is said that among its backers are many eminent men both in this country and in Europe, which it is claimed, if adopted, will go far toward settling the race question. It is proposed to turn over the German African colonies, in which there are 12,000,000 people, to the "African race," not simply to Colored people of those colonies. Educated Colored people residing in all other nations are to be asked to go there and build up a nation of Negroes, that shall at first be under the tutelage of the entente powers until a stable government is established, and then become an independent nation on an equality with all other nations.

There is no doubt that there are enough educated Negroes in the world to set up a stable government in Africa, but there is great doubt whether any number of them will want to go there. The republic of Liberia was established with the same end in view, but it has never made any advancement which has attracted the attention of the world. Africa naturally belongs to the Negro, but if that race will not develop its great natural resources some other race will.—Omaha World-Herald.

## CONCERNING LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

THE MONITOR has an interesting department entitled "Letters From Our Readers," under which we are pleased to publish short letters from our readers expressing their views on public questions. We wish our readers would make more use of this department than they do. Letters should be reasonably short and plainly written on one side of the paper and signed by the writer.

This week we have received an interesting letter captioned "Why?" which was gladly given space. The writer comments on an editorial from the Pittsburg Courier taking the position, which The Monitor indorsed, that the talk of sending Negro delegates from America to the peace conference is foolish and impracticable. A little thought will show that no matter how desirable such a commission might be it is impracticable. Only the United States government has authority to send duly accredited representatives or delegates to the peace conference. With what authority would Negro delegates be clothed.

We know that organizations have selected delegates to attend the peace conference and that the public is being requested in some cases to contribute funds to send them, which to us is an undignified and questionable proceeding. While not impugning their motives, we do question the wisdom of those who are urging the sending of special American Negro delegates to Versailles. We think the Courier's position is sound.

We are, however, pleased to have our readers express their views on these and other questions and we hope that "Letters From Our Readers" department will be more generally used.

## DEMOCRACY

By Ben E. Burrell

Oh, Chosen of all chosen words,  
Thou slogan of the great and free;  
Today the Allied nations breathe  
The sacred word, Democracy.  
And rising god-like from the dust,  
To thee the world new altars raise;  
To thee the weaker peoples cry;  
Thou art their canticle of praise.

And like the never-ending fall  
Of waters from a bubbling fount,  
Thou marchest with sweet conquering tread  
Like the great Sermon on the Mount.

And thrones are crumbling into dust;  
And sceptres slowly pass away;  
Upon the world falls newer light;  
It is the breaking of the day.  
While anger stalks across the earth,  
The lamps of Liberty are lit;  
On kindred states of dusky tribes  
Thy cloven tongues of flame shall sit.

Then shall my race to vict'ry move,  
That wondrous things the world may see.

How black men bear the flag of faith,  
Democracy! Democracy!

America, the Negro race  
Is waiting for thy promised word.  
The tempest passing o'er the earth,  
The dead and dying leaves have stirred.

Thou canst not be a nation great,  
With half as bondsmen and half-free;  
Give Freedom unto whom thou wilt,  
But give us Democracy!

## Obvious Observations

THIS rain in December business might be all right down among the cotton and the cane, but up here we would like to see something that reminds us of the North Pole.

The Allies had better throw out the switch on their faculty of observation and nail it there, or the wily Teuton might slip in a wedge and wreck everything at the peace table.

One column of news matter never made a newspaper, just as one bed bug never made a commercial hotel. Since Unk Sam slammed a tax on cigars, we never realized how much we loved a pipe.

Many a friend female feels like slapping herself because she made a present to another friend female who didn't give one to her.

If the new congress does all it claims it is going to do, we're afraid it will have President Wilson in a psychopathic ward cutting out paper dolls.

Scientists will discover an immediate cure for the flu after the flu has fled. It's always that way.

A match isn't worth three whoops unless it is altogether. Neither is a race.

Bruce Grit says: "The Monitor is the best printed, best edited and best published Negro newspaper in the country." Thanks, Mr. Grit, you ought to know.

Thanking you kindly for your kind and earnest attention, we will now cogitate and try to remember to whom we lent our last and only umbrella.

## SKITS OF SOLOMON

The New Year

NEW Year's day is the uno annual time when we arise from our mental drowse and decide to put a crimp in numerous and various faults that decorate our coporeal frames and psychological compositions. It is nothing more or less than annual hypnotic hocus pocus, because we have absolutely no intention whatever of trying to walk the tight rope of virtue and drag down the halo of holiness to crown our beans. For a whole year we have followed out the year previous and next year will find us hunting the same opportunities to hand friend neighbor a lemon. New Year's is just the annual festival for us to flim flam ourselves and make ourselves believe that we have got some good traits in us which we haven't. For instance, we resolute to treat friend neighbor and competitor to a plateful of sympathy, love and charity, but its all fake solicitude. On January second, if friend neighbor disturbs our New Year's equilibrium, we are just as ready to hand him a collection of tabasco English as we were on December thirty-first. This whole outcrop of New Year fliriting with good resolutions is simply to remind us mulgasabs that virtue is a word found chiefly in the dictionary and seldom away from home. The main trouble with being good is that the other fellow won't try to be good along with you. He is always ready to hand you a mitt full of trouble and remind you that life is a game of give and take. If you want to do the take-stunt and not pass any of the give-junk, your name is Mud.



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June 1, 1919, we will pay \$100.00 to man, woman or child, who sends in the correct story. You will find a hint in the League's GREAT WORK:

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THE HAMITIC LEAGUE OF THE WORLD  
933 North 27th Street. Omaha, Neb.

Announcing the Annual

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THE final big sellings of the year afford emphatic savings to all. The values in this clearance will fall nothing short of being remarkable.

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have been made on seasonable goods of all kinds—in every department of the store—and we might say in good faith that in magnitude and value-giving this sale will by far exceed the same events of the past.

Those who have attended our previous Year End Clearance Sales need no urging to be first in attendance at these. The idea of giving

**This Advance Notice**

is that our customers may in every way prepare to take large advantage of this occasion.

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# THE CRUSADER

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