

**"I RESENT IT IN THE NAME OF DEMOCRACY, IN THE NAME OF LIBERTY, IN THE NAME OF BROTHERLY LOVE"**

(Continued from Page 1)

"Looking forward with pleasure to your enrollment, we remain  
"Cordially yours,  
"Signed) L. H. BISSELL,  
"President."

Presumably, sir, when you wrote this letter you did not know that you were addressing a colored man. Mr. Bissell, you cannot know as to what it means to be a colored man in America. I have heard that in France a native of my race is a Frenchman; in England he is an Englishman; in Spain he is a Spaniard; in Mexico he is a Mexican. Is it not possible for him to be a plain American where he is now, for the most part, considered as being a mere negro—with the insinuating small "n"—or that despicable thing called "nigger," which implies about the value of a rimless zero? Mr. Bissell, I am sure you will pardon me when I say—If THE WORLD HAS BEEN MADE SAFE FOR DEMOCRACY, it now seems necessary that DEMOCRACY BE MADE SAFE FOR THE WORLD.

Yes; I am a colored man. Whether or not this is my fate or my fortune I do not know. But I am a member of the race of Crispus Attucks, who died the first martyr for American Independence. I belong to the race of "Big Jim" Parker, who saved McKinley from the second shot of the assassin. I am a member of the race of Henson, who went with Peary to the Pole. I am one of the race of black boys who died gloriously in Flanders fields and in No Man's Land—to establish on earth a Democracy that is boundless and a Liberty that is color-blind. If it is a crime to be black, don't charge it to me. Charge it to my Creator, because—

**GOD MADE ME BLACK.**

God made me Black. It is to Him I owe  
Whate'er my mission in the Mighty Plan  
The Trinity resolved in making man.  
White, Yellow, Red and Brown—God made them so—  
He made me Black, and, toilers all, we go  
Each to his task. Though robed in white or tan,  
'Tis but the service of the soul that can  
Make known the measure of the Man below.

We prize the gleaming glory of the day—  
No less we love the beauty of the night;  
We pause to hear the song-bird's roundelay,  
And praise its coat of color or of white;  
Far deeper than the reach of mortal sight  
God hath ordained and marked His men of clay.

Emerson once wrote:  
"Of what avail the plow or sail  
Or Land or Life, if Freedom fail?"

Today, we ask the same question. It seems to me that a just Democracy must be founded on the principles that: Legally, there are but two classes of peoples in the world—those who behave themselves and those who do not. Morally, there are but two—those who love others and those who love themselves only. Spiritually, there are two—those who love God and those who love the Devil. Surely,

good behavior, good will towards one's fellowmen and devotion to God deserve the highest reward on earth—as in Heaven. Whoever discriminates because of the color of a man's skin disgraces the very name of Democracy and belies the great claim of National Liberty.

Of course, Mr. Bissell, you hold nothing against me—personally, since we have never met. You doubtless feel that you must bar "colored men" from your college purely in the interest of your business. The other students, etc. When one caters to a base prejudice one becomes a part of that evil and maintains the deplorable condition that makes such a thing possible.

Sir, should anything I have written seem, in your judgment, as unjust or unreasonable, please consider the fact that yours is but another door of opportunity that has been slammed in another black face—and I resent it. I would forever despise myself did I not resent this thing that, I believe, mocks the American flag I love and did my utmost to serve faithfully for nearly seventeen years. I resent it, not selfishly, but for the outraged race to which I belong—and to whom I owe the last breath of my devotion. I resent it in the name of Democracy—in the name of Liberty—in the name of Brotherly Love—in the name of the crucified Christ—in the name of the Living God. I resent it in the name of the unborn generations of black babes—that they may be born free. I resent it because Heaven gives me strength to resent it—and I must. I resent it—because my heart bleeds the blind blood of an inward injury that no human eye can see. I resent it—because my spirit groans with the travail of the truth that must be born again and again—till this warrent earth and its battle-maimed mil-

lions are saved from that insufferable hell of RACE PREJUDICE.

"And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

Sincerely yours,  
LUCIAN B. WATKINS,  
Formerly Sergeant First Class, Medical Department, U. S. A.

**IMPROVEMENT OF RACE IN HANDS OF SOLDIERS**

**Colonel Young Gives Sound Advice to 812th Regiment of Infantry as They Are Mustered Out of Service.**

Camp Grant, Ill.—Before an audience of over 2,000 soldiers of the 812th infantry, Col. Chas. Young delivered a stirring address at the Y. M. C. A. auditorium on a recent Sunday evening. The 812th regiment were about to be mustered out, and it was the desire of Col. Young to impress upon the minds of the departing soldiers the importance of military training. When the armistice was signed, this regiment, under the command of Col. Fred V. Chamberlain (white) had started for France, and it was sorely disappointing to the colonel as well as to his men to be forced to return to camp.

As a farewell celebration to his men before they should again go back to civil life, Colonel Chamberlain invited Colonel Young, who is assigned here with the development battalions, to give them a few words of advice.

"It is within the power of the Colored man," said Col. Young, "to improve the conditions of his race in the south. If you men will take advantage of the training you have received in the army you can make your influence felt in the south as leaders. You can bring about changes of many

things in the south which are now distasteful to the race if you will only keep up the ambition, industry and attentiveness to duty which you have shown while in the army."

**DETROIT COLORED BANKS ENCOURAGE THRIFT**

**The Wage Earners and Mechanics Savings Banks Distributed to Members of Its Christmas Savings Club Nearly \$35,000.**

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 20.—As a result of becoming members of the Christmas savings clubs of the Wage Earners and the Mechanics Savings Bank 2,728 Negroes received this Yuletide season \$34,862.50. Of this amount the 2,000 members of the clubs of the Wage Earners received \$25,000, saved by them during the year, and the 728 members of the savings club of the Mechanics Savings Bank a share in the distribution of the \$9,862.50, which have been deposited there.

It is conservatively estimated that the total amount which the Negroes of the city received from this popular method of saving from all the banks of the city, both white and Colored, was in the neighborhood of \$60,000.

**OBSERVE EMANCIPATION DAY**

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 1.—The Negroes of this city observed Emancipation day on the evening of January 1, 1919, with appropriate exercises at St. Paul's A. M. E. church, corner Twelfth and Crocker streets. The program was given under the auspices of the Des Moines branch of the N. A. A. C. P.

Governor W. S. Harding was the principal speaker. Others who took part were Mrs. Ruth Blaise, contralto;

Prof. Ross Vernon Miller, basso; a quartet from Camp Dodge; Miss Marvel Blackburn, reader; and Mrs. Ursula Guy, pianist. Rev. W. C. Cole, pastor of Capitol Hill Church of Christ, gave the invocation, and Rev. S. S. Birt, pastor of St. Paul's A. M. E. church, the benediction.

**DES MOINES PLANS FOR A Y. M. C. A.**

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 1.—At a mass meeting of Negro citizens Sunday afternoon at the Park Street Army Y. M. C. A., action was taken to transform the Army "Y" branch into a branch of the general Y. M. C. A. Representatives from all the churches were present and gave their support to the movement. A census of the Negro population of the city of males between the ages of 12 and 30 will be taken within the next few days and a list of all adult members of the race who will give their support to the movement.

**ST. LOUIS ARGUS PURCHASES PLANT**

St. Louis, Mo.—It is with a sense of duty that we announce that the St. Louis Argus Publishing Co. has purchased the printing plant known as the Osborne Printing Co. 2316 Market St. The Osborne Printing Co., is one of the best equipped shops in St. Louis, and adding it to the already large printing department of the St. Louis Argus, makes the Argus printing plant the largest and best equipped in this section of the country.

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**Omaha Colored People in Business and the Professions**

THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS and Professional People take this opportunity of thanking their patrons for appreciated patronage during the past year, of bespeaking its continuance and of wishing all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

There is a large number of Colored people in business and professional life in Omaha, a much larger number than is generally known. Many of these business ventures are modest, but with proper support and encouragement they will grow. There are good opportunities for business in many other lines in which our people have not yet ventured. There still seems to be a disposition to overdo the matter in some business lines and to neglect other branches. Let some of our enterprising people invest their money in gentlemen's furnishing stores, dry good stores, grocery stores, and similar lines. The business cards here inserted show only a part, and that a very small part, of the business and professions in which our people are engaged.

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