

# THE MONITOR

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans.

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FOR anything worth having, one must pay the price, and the price is always work, patience, love, self-sacrifice—no paper currency, no promises to pay, but the gold of real service.—John Burrows.

## MADAME WALKER

THE death of Madame C. J. Walker in her palatial home on the Hudson has removed from her earthly sphere of influence one of the most remarkable women of her day and generation. Her summons by death, viewed from our limited plane, is a distinct loss to our race at a time when forceful characters like her are sadly needed. But who will dare say that in the spacious fields of the spiritual realm and within the nearer presence of the God she loved and served her intercessions will not prevail for the race she loved? For Madame Walker truly loved her race. Her ambition in the business world was not merely to acquire wealth for wealth's sake, but in order that she might be able to use it for the advancement of her race. When she built her magnificent home, Lenwano at Irvington-on-the Hudson, it was not merely for the gratification of vanity or for vain-glory, but to give an opportunity to Negro architects, landscape gardeners and artisans to demonstrate their ability to measure up to the best of the opposite race, and also as an example of achievement which might inspire members of the race to larger endeavors in the many fields of opportunity offered in this country, despite the handicap of prejudice.

She gave money generously, but wisely, to encourage worthy objects that make for the advancement of the race. She gave scholarships to Tuskegee and other educational institutions, and generous benefactions to charitable and eleemosynary establishments. One of her latest gifts was that of \$5,000 to the Anti-Lynching Fund of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People of which organization she was an enthusiastic member.

Born in poverty and ignorance Madame Walker by dint of industry rose to affluence and culture. From a washerwoman to a queen of finance; from a hovel to a mansion on the Hudson in less than a quarter of a century was the achievement of this woman of our race. Her success and wealth never turned her head nor dimmed her faith in the God whom she was never afraid to confess gave her the power to get her wealth. Her life and achievements in the business world demonstrate the possibilities which lie around us in the United States and should prove an inspiration to us all to make the best of our opportunities however limited they may appear to be.

## LEX NON SCRIPTA

LEX non scripta, means the unwritten law. That is to say an unwritten code or custom which rules in certain localities or among certain groups. For example, the army has its unwritten laws. Among them there seems to be one that no American Negro should aspire to become a commissioned officer. It is this unwritten law which has excluded Negro applicants from West Point. It is this unwritten law which caused the denial of admission of members of this race to the officers' training camps, and moved heaven and earth, figuratively speaking, to prevent the establishment of a separate officers' training camp. This same unwritten law was in evidence on the western front where all was done that could be done to discredit our officers. One of the most glaring examples of the operation of this unwritten law in army circles has been brought to light by the chief of staff's recent action, published in a recent issue, in revoking the outrageous finding of an army board which declared Negroes inherently disqualified, because "deficient in moral fibre" for "officers and leaders of men." One might be inclined to doubt the authenticity of such a statement, which, in our judgment, is a much more serious reflection upon the mentality and sanity of the white army officers who made it than upon that of the Colored applicant, were it not given out officially.

But here is the language of the official finding of this brilliant board of officers, with reference to the ap-

plication of an overseas officer, for examination as to his fitness for admission into the regular army.

"The board recommends that he not be examined.

Reason: Unqualified by reason of the qualities inherent in the Negro race; an opinion of the board, based on the testimony of five white officers serving with the 368th infantry. NEGROES ARE DEFICIENT IN MORAL FIBRE, RENDERING THEM UNFIT AS OFFICERS AND LEADERS OF MEN." (Caps are editors.)

The Monitor respectfully suggests to the war department that the board submitting this remarkable finding be recommended as charter members of a new and much-needed organization to be known as the "I. O. I.'s," Imperial Order of Imbeciles. Of their qualifications for such an order, there ought not to be the slightest doubt.

But, in all seriousness, is not such a report as this, coming from army officers who are supposed to be men of at least ordinary intelligence, most astounding? Does it not throw a flood of light upon the treatment accorded officers and men of color by many United States army officers? Does it not explain why men like Lieut. Campbell and others cited and decorated for conspicuous acts of bravery and recommended for promotion failed to be promoted? Does it not show the degrading bondage of the lex non scripta which so largely dominates American life and American thought in its dealings with the Colored American?

But note the rift in the cloud through which the sunlight of promise of better things, begins to stream. The chief of staff has personally directed the commanding general at Camp Meade to revoke the finding; he has also directed that in the matter of Colored officers being commissioned in the army, there is to be no exclusion on account of color."

This decision has been brought about by the fact that Emmett J. Scott took up the matter directly with the war department. This is a victory and shows that reason has not entirely fled.

But let us not be deceived. Despite this decision efforts will be made to sidestep the issue and to exclude our men, for the unwritten law is still strong; but we must not yield in our fight for equality of opportunity in army and in the navy and in every department of American life and activity for which our talents fit us.

## MRS. WALLACE WELFARE WORKER

MRS. RUTH WALLACE, who for over a year has been a most efficient investigator and social worker among Colored people of Omaha has been notified by the board of public welfare that upon the demand of the Colored people for a younger woman, her services will terminate at the end of June. The Monitor desires to state that there is no general demand upon the part of the Colored people of Omaha for the removal of Mrs. Wallace. A few sore-heads and knockers, who may be counted on the fingers of one hand, constitute "the Colored people" who want a younger woman. Mrs. Wallace made the position which she now holds. For nearly two years she did voluntary work of this character going everywhere, without money and without price, to relieve poverty and suffering among our people, contributing of her own meagre means to relieve cases of necessity. The board of public welfare about a year ago realized that there was need of just such work as Mrs. Wallace was doing and decided to employ her, which they did on a mighty small salary. But just as soon as it was known that the board intended to employ a welfare worker, people who had done nothing to help create the position, urged that this position should be given to some older resident of the city and not to a comparatively newcomer. However, Mrs. Wallace was appointed, as she deserved to be, and has done most satisfactory work, according to the testimony of the members of the board of public welfare, with perhaps one exception, an aged woman of recent appointment,

and as her reports will show. As a matter of fact, Mrs. Wallace has been doing the work of three or four women. What is needed is not the retirement of Mrs. Wallace, but her retention and the employment of two or three more well qualified welfare workers. Omaha has a Colored population of nearly 12,000. This population is increasing. The South Side alone could fully occupy the time of two efficient workers, to say nothing of the North Side. Keep Mrs. Wallace on the job as long as her health and strength will permit and appoint one or more other younger women to like positions. We need and ought to have more than one welfare worker among the Colored people. Keep Mrs. Wallace.

## DOCTOR DUBOIS

Dr. DuBois, the eminent scholar, author, sociologist and educator has visited Omaha. He was greeted by an immense audience which should be an inspiration to any speaker. He was given most earnest attention. His lecture, however, produced very little enthusiasm. For some reason he was not in rapport with his audience. Perhaps they were expecting too much; but they were manifestly disappointed. It may be that his lecture has been so censored by the authorities that the startling disclosures which the public was anticipating were eliminated. This, doubtless, accounts for the fact that the lecture left an impression of incompleteness. This defect was apparent, for no topic, save one, that of Africa's connection with the war through the congress of Berlin, discussed by the distinguished lecturer, was finished. Then, too, he presented no new facts, unknown to his audience, and because of this there was manifest disappointment. But that Dr. DuBois is a scholar of the first rank, must be cheerfully conceded by all who were privileged to hear him. He has a richly furnished and well trained mind. His diction is elegant; his English faultless. As a speaker he is most pleasing. He has a quiet easy but forceful method of presenting facts. We are pleased that Omaha has had the opportunity of hearing Dr. DuBois.

## ROSE LEAVES

### Limitations

God made the lark for flights of song  
Ascending clear to cloudlands' edges;  
The sparrow's note to float along  
Among the orchards and the hedges;

For poets, too, God sets the mark,  
Their sphere of song makes wide or narrow:

Some seek the sky as does the lark,  
Some cling to earth as clings the sparrow.

—Charles S. O'Neill.

## The Rose Garden

Two little girls were one day playing together in a strange garden, and soon one ran in to her mother full of disappointment:

"The garden's a sad place, mother."

"Why, my child?"

"I've been all around, and every rose has cruel, long thorns upon it!"

Then the second child came in breathless.

"Oh, mother, the garden's a beautiful place!"

"How so, my child?"

"Why, I've been all around, and every thorn bush has lovely roses growing on it."

And the mother wondered at the difference in the two children.

## ADVICE ABOUT SAVING

The practice of laying aside regularly a certain amount of money from earnings before the balance is even touched, is advocated by the savings division of the U. S. treasury department as the most intelligent and surest way of acquiring a personal fund with which to purchase real freedom.

Freedom in relation to thrift, it is pointed out, is the liberation of the individual from the restraints imposed by the lack of financial resources. The freedom to go and do what one pleases, as long as he is not interfering with the rights of his neighbor, only becomes actually possible when one has enough money in reserve to carry out plans.

Freedom from debt, for instance, freedom to own a home, freedom to obtain special education, freedom to travel and improve one's position, freedom from worry about old age, etc., are achievable through the power of thrift.

Real thrift; according to the treasury department, is established by saving first, systematically, before any outlay is made, and investing safely in some such profitable security as war savings stamps. Besides paying four per cent interest, compounded quarterly, war savings stamps have a special appeal to the intelligent investor because they are absolutely safe and because they are so easily acquired. Thrift stamps only cost a quarter each. When the thrift folder is filled with sixteen

stamps, for a few cents additional it may be exchanged at any bank, post-office, or the many stores, offices, etc., where thrift stamps are sold, for an interest-bearing war savings stamp

## NOT THE FIRST GOLD

By Earl Wilkinson, A. E. F.

WOULD you steal that neat little chevron of gold  
Which is worn on the sleeve of the Yank so bold,  
Who went "over the top" in the Argonne Woods  
And regardless of shrapnel delivered the goods?

Now that it's over and the victory won,  
Who did the fighting and who had the pluck?

Who was right on the job against the Hun,  
And did not whimper about his luck?

Who ate at tables and kicked on the mess,  
While we ate in mud-holes a mighty sight less?

Who faced the bullets and swallowed the gas,  
While the boys back home were enjoying a pass?

Who went to bed and slept with great ease,  
While we had to combat the cooties and fleas?

Who spoke with home girls the language they knew,  
While we with the girls tried to French parley-vous?

Who lugged a pack that was fit for a mule  
From Belfort to Metz, according to rule?

The boys back at home, better cared for and slick,  
Knew little regarding the wounded and sick.

Who lay by the roadside, both hungry and cold?  
But still they will envy their chevrons of gold!

And now, in conclusion, I will venture to say:  
Let it go as it will, every dog has his day;

And when war comes again and our deeds are of old,  
We'll wear the silver if they'll earn the gold.

THE GREATEST NEED OF THE RACE: CO-OPERATION

By Samuel Barrett.

ONE of the main obstacles to the real uplift of the race in America is selfish interests and the lack of co-operation. And our condition will never change until we as a group learn the lesson of working together for the common good. Individuals will succeed and in many instances accumulate considerable wealth; even a few here and there will achieve international fame, like the late Booker T. Washington, Paul Lawrence Dunbar and others; but the rank and file of the masses, the real bone and sinew of the Negro race will always be exploited, lynched and I believe finally subjugated until we learn everywhere throughout America the necessity of organization and co-operation.

Pleading for justice and an equal break in the struggle of life is all right, but we even defeat the very thing we most desire when we, through indifference and selfishness, refuse to come together as a people, fighting and working, not alone for civil and political rights, but to build up a strong economic and industrial foundation as well. For it is one of the saddest commentaries on our supposed great achievements since freedom to know that we are almost entirely dependent on the white man for our daily bread.

No prophet has as yet told us what the solution of this problem is going to be, but one thing is certain, if we are united, whatever it may be, we shall be in a position to meet it like men.

CHANGE DATE OF ISSUE

Beginning next week The Monitor will be dated Thursday instead of Saturday and will be a mid-week rather than an end-week publication. We will go to press Wednesday. All copy therefore must be in by Tuesday night. Will correspondents and others govern themselves accordingly.

BRILLIANT YOUNG ATTORNEY WINS RECOGNITION

(By Associated Negro Press.)  
St. Louis, May 28.—John D. Wilkerson, a young man of intelligence in this community, prepared a treatise on his opinion of a case before the St. Louis bar and so cleverly was it prepared that it was thought by experienced white lawyers that it had come from a county judge.

Dont' knock; boost.

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