

THE BUILDING OF A CHARACTER

Address Delivered by Mrs. Silas Johnson, Most Ancient Matron of Naomi Court No. 12 at Dedication of Memorial Window.

Sons and daughters of the most ancient and worthy fraternity of Master Masons, today, June 9, 1919, has been set apart by you for the dedication to the memory of Masonic Court No. 18 and Keystone Lodge No. 12 of a window, placed by you in God's house.

What this particular Lord's day and service means to us can only be realized from the impressions we receive on this occasion, this sacred occasion; for I must remind you that our Masonic fraternity is based upon a religious principle, authenticated by our bible.

We have listened from time to time upon subjects relating to fraternalism, its origin, foundation, meaning principles, strength, power, height, depth and ever so many other factors which enter into its spirit, but it seems to me that the basic factor of fraternalism, aye of fraternalism itself, lies in character.

Without character, fraternalism cannot exist; character is an ensemble of qualities which endows its possessor with illimitable power over his instincts and his passions. Until primitive man overcame his brute inheritances and his unbridled passions, fellowship and fraternity had no part in his existence.

It was by slow degrees that he learned self-mastery, and the mastery of self at its highest expression makes for what is known as character. It is the public that makes reputation; it is the man or woman alone who can make character. Nor is the building of a character an easy thing; it requires strength and wonderful strength.

When one considers the multiplicity of temptations which constantly assail us, temptations to do wrong, to go wrong, to aid wrong, to hide wrong, he or she becomes aware of the fact that even as eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, so is eternal thoughtfulness the chief builder of character.

The more one studies the various manifestations of consciousness, the more one is confirmed in the belief the instinct of right was implanted in the human mind and heart at the very beginning of existence. Some have called this instinct personality, conscience, the sub-conscious mind, and what not, but whatever it may be called it is in the aggregate the chief aid in the building of character.

No man or woman who ever stopped to think deeply and asked of himself or herself whether or not a certain course were right or wrong, but chose the right or wrong upon his or her own volition. The mind never betrays; hence one comes to realize that the chief architect in the building of a character is the human mind and behind the human "mind" the human "will" to make effective the mental dictates. So again, I say, it is each of us who must build our own character.

Let us venture a little further into this psychological realm. I have said that each must build his or her own character, but to do this one must be able to comprehend the meaning of character, the worth of character and the principles that go to make up character. And herein lies all the folly and sorrow of the world. Some minds are so dulled by ignorance, so cursed by incompetency and so sharpened by evil, that they cannot comprehend the value of character; these still possess the inner light that guides, but circumstances, environment, and sinister influences are such that it has no power to awaken the senses of responsibility for right doing.

There are minds that move in the direction of the least resistance and to do the wrong thing seems to be infinitely easier than to do the right thing.

And here again I have brought you around to the very point from which we started; mind is the architect of character and mind must build character; it must ever be on the alert for shortcomings; it must emancipate itself from envy, hatred, prejudices, selfishness, jealousy and the hundred other things that tend to warp judgment and debase the nobleness that forever struggles for expression. Self-mastery is the watchword that should ever be our beacon to lead us on. We need no definitions of character, no fine spun rules as to our duty towards one another and no legal dissertations upon the dividing line of right and wrong.

When it comes to character building, each is sufficient to himself and to her self. And what is the ideal character? It is to know the meaning of faith, to feel the fire of hope and to experience the warmth of charity, it is to have a vision, an ideal, an aspiration. No man or woman whose mind is lifted up can stoop to evil. Often have we read that honesty, courtesy, truthfulness, energy, moral cleanliness and many other things go to make up character, but these are merely attributes. Real character not

only comprises these, but it means the "will" that makes them effective by overcoming human frailty and weakness.

A man or woman may have any or all of these and then not be possessed of real character.

Today we dedicate this window with our love and our respect. It is glass, and through this glass comes light. Whenever we gaze upon it there shall come to us the memory of this day when it is placed here, and, too, there shall come to us the rays of light from the world without.

Let us symbolize this window into a part of our own being and life; let us use the light within us to the end that our characters may approach perfection and that they may so shine in the world as to hold the faith of mankind in the belief that God is good and that all men are brothers.

ONE MILLION FOR EDUCATION

Dr. J. L. Harding, President of the Baptist State Convention Announces Big Program.

(Special to The Monitor.) Nashville, Tenn., June 18.—One million dollars will be raised by the members of the National Baptist convention (unincorporated) for education and educational purposes. This announcement was made by Dr. J. L. Harding, the secretary of the trustee board of the theological training seminary and school, which is located on the present site of the old Boscebel college. The magnificent brick buildings already on the wooded campus overlooking Nashville's classic Cumberland, are to be renovated, put in shape, new fixtures and furniture put in and everything is to be made ready. This one million dollars, stated Dr. Harding, is to be raised under the auspices of his convention, and every state in the union will participate in the drive.

Tennessee, according to his statement, and he is the president of the convention proper of the state of Tennessee, is to lead off. Already more than one thousand dollars have been raised and paid on the purchase price together with the premiums for the insurance, and work already done on the grounds. To this, Tennessee plans to add her quota of the one million, reporting the major part of it at the National Baptist convention which meets in Norfolk, Va., next September. But the arrangements for tooth-combing the various states for the funds proper will be made at the executive board meeting which will be held in connection with the Sunday school congress which will be held in Bessemer, Alabama, July 11-16. This program, according to the informed Baptist people of the city and state, was discussed at length by the executive board of the Tennessee Baptists held this week at the Bass Street Baptist church where leaders from every section of the state were in attendance and where Baptist pastors with large followings and congregations pledged their unqualified support. It was at this conference that the Rev. Dr. Harding presented his little catechism giving a concise view of the situation from a point of view as his convention saw it.

DELEGATES FROM 20 STATES TO CLEVELAND CONFERENCE

New York, June 18.—Delegates from twenty states have said they will attend the 10th anniversary conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, representing 100,000 members, which will be held in Cleveland from June 21 to 28. The southern representatives include Louisiana, Texas, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina.

"Discrimination against Negroes has been a powerful stimulus to organization in all parts of the country," says a statement of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "In every city where an official has made disparaging remarks about the race, wherever segregation laws have been passed, there a branch of the association has sprung up or existing membership has been increased. "The greatest stimulus to organization is furnished by lynchings and the determination is growing that these horrors must cease."

SUNDERLAND BROS. DENY IMPORTING STRIKE BREAKERS

Mr. J. A. Sunderland of Sunderland Bros. desires to make it known that the rumor being circulated that they are bringing in Negroes as strike breakers is false.

"All the men on our wagons and trucks are old employees, who are giving entire satisfaction. Some of them are men who have returned from war, where they saw service in France and they have been given their old jobs back. We want to be as helpful to these men and all our employees as we know how. We are doing nothing to stir up strife. We want reliable, steady, industrious men in our employ and will use no discrimination."

NEGRO PROBLEM IN AMERICA
By Samuel Barrett.

Before the abolition of slavery and for many years thereafter there was no Negro problem. But as soon as the Negro began to make notable gains in education and wealth, and in consequence thereof demanded the rights of an American citizen then he became a problem. He not only became the eternal problem, but likewise one of the most serious and perplexing issues that has ever come before the American people. What to do with the Negro has been discussed and the Negro incidentally cussed from the platform, the pulpit and the press for fully a quarter of a century. And the problem is still with us, becoming more dangerous as the years go by until a real crisis is reached. And what that will be no one has the temerity to foretell.

But it is certain if we judge the future by the past, nothing of good can come to us unless the white man recognizes his moral duty to the Negro, and the Negro his moral duty to the white man, and his moral, economic and political duty to his race and both come together on some tangible, feasible and practical basis of adjustment. In order to do this the white people of thought, opinion and standing in America must cease to look at our condition merely as a sectional one to be solved in the locality in which we live, but rather a national one. True the problems may vary with the section, nevertheless whatever affects the fundamental rights of the race in the south affects us here in the north as well. In the north it is true we are not given the worst of it in the courts of justice, and while we have been lynched and mobbed as was the case a few years ago in East St. Louis, Ill., the lynchings have not gone unpunished, nor did the press and best white people of the north condone it by their lack of criticism. And yet this phase of our problem is fast moving to the north, for even in Chicago race men and women who move into exclusive and refined localities do so at the risk of their property being destroyed and their lives endangered.

On the other hand while the south lynchings, disfranchises and assaults our women, a trilogy sufficient to offset any of its other good deeds; it does not discriminate against the race when it comes to the question of work. The Negro can work at his trade in the south even though he gets less pay for it than a white man or a northerner. He can own land and he can farm even though he is sometimes forced to leave it to save his life or is cheated out of his earnings by the landlord. Between these two extreme legal justice, economic inequality, civil and political barriers, lynchings, disfranchisement, equal opportunity in the labor world there can be but one answer and that is this he must be permitted to develop his own racial life and be given the rights of the citizen.

And these rights should be given to the Negro whether he lives in Mississippi or Massachusetts. We fought Germany to help make the world free for democracy and the American Negro contributed his part in men and money to the astonishment of the world. And yet I am afraid that the American white man, north or south, is still unwilling to grant to the Negro that full share of democracy for which he fought and died.

(To Be Continued.)

PLAN PROGRAM FOR BUSINESS LEAGUE MEETING

Tuskegee, Ala., June 18.—With the approach of the time for the annual meeting of the National Negro Business League, which is to be held in St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 13, 14 and 15, plans are shaping up very rapidly for the program which will follow the general idea of reconstruction.

HAS PARALYTIC STROKE

Mrs. Abram W. Parker, one of Omaha's oldest and most highly respected citizens, suffered a paralytic stroke Tuesday at her home on North Twenty-seventh street. She is the mother of George Wells Parker, formerly of The Monitor staff. Mrs. Parker is resting easy as we go to press.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Lieutenant H. J. Pinkett, recently returned from service overseas, has resumed the practice of law at room 19 Patterson block, Seventeenth and Farnam streets.

Lieutenant Pinkett had a very creditable record in the army. He served two terms as judge advocate of general court-martial, one month as assistant senior instructor of an officers' training school, one term as a member of a general court-martial and one term as a member of a special court-martial. He was appointed battalion adjutant of the 366th infantry and served in that capacity and as battalion chief of staff and operations from June 15, 1918, through the active operations in Europe until the return of the organization to the United States, March 1, 1919.

Mr. Pinkett is a member of the bar of the supreme court of the District of Columbia, the supreme court of the state of Nebraska, the United States Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, the United States district court of Nebraska and the supreme court of the United States.

Office phone, Douglas 9344. Residence phone, Webster 3180.—Adv.

Daily Thought.
What's gone and what's past help should be past grief.—Shakespeare.

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