

THE MONITOR

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THE SIN OF SILENCE

To sin by silence when we should protest makes cowards out of men. The human race has climbed on protest. Had no voice been raised against injustice, ignorance and lust, the inquisition yet would serve the law, and guillotines decide our least disputes. The few who dare must speak and speak again to right the wrongs of many.—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

THE RACE AWAKENING

NO one could attend the sessions of the tenth anniversary conference of the N. A. A. C. P. and listen to the sane, able and intelligent discussions without being uplifted, inspired and convinced of the ability, integrity and awakening sense of power of the Negro race in these United States. Uplifted by the demonstration of the race's ability and capacity and its noble traits of character, inspired by this demonstration to do all within one's power to live worthy of the best traditions of the race and to help foster, develop and train, so far as in one lies these wonderful traits and capacities. Convinced that the race is thinking its problems through, knows its power, its rights, its privileges, its obligations and its determination by well directed organization to obtain by moral appeal all to which it is justly entitled.

There is a unanimity of purpose upon the part of the Negro race in America today which means a new era of better things.

There was no counselling to deeds of violence in the great meeting at Cleveland, but a frank and outspoken determination to fight race proscription and prejudice by an intelligent, well organized propaganda, appealing to the sense of justice and fair play from fellow Americans of the white race and to invoke the courts only as a last resort. The weapons are to be agitation, education, publicity and the courts. The fight is on and will not cease until the victory is won. It is not a sectional fight, but a national fight, indeed an international one. The Negro is awakening. He is organizing and co-operating in order that he may secure simple justice in this country, to whose best interests he has always been loyal and true. In this fight he is not alone. Thousands of liberal-minded, noble-hearted white men and women, are with him, but above all Almighty God, the God of righteousness, justice and truth is on his side and if the race will only remain true to Him it will triumph gloriously. "Not by MIGHT, but by RIGHT, and My Spirit Saith the Lord."

AGAINST SEGREGATION IN LABOR

THOMAS P. REYNOLDS, head of the local labor unions, is authority for the statement that organized labor is opposed to the principle of segregation in the employment of labor. He says that he sees no reason why Colored and white workmen could not and should not work side by side in the same office, mill or factory. White labor has no right to ask for itself special rights and privileges which it would withhold from black labor. The rights of one must be the rights of all, and all must be equally safeguarded. There must be a recognition of true democracy within the ranks of organized labor.

The Monitor hopes that Mr. Reynolds voices the sentiment not only of labor leaders, but also of the rank and file. We are frank to say that we do not believe he does. His position is fundamentally sound, and to this position union labor must ultimately come if it be true to basic principles and would survive. However, union labor has been joined to its idols so long in excluding black labor from its ranks and privileges that it will take more than the fiat of the most influential labor leader to move it to do that which is just.

Mr. Reynolds is standing upon high ground and we sincerely hope that labor will ascend to the same plane. Segregation in labor is undoubtedly wrong. All labor should be justly and fairly treated. We are glad to see that organized labor is at last moving in the right direction. It must not be disappointed, however, if the thoughtful Negro workman—and the Negro

everywhere is thinking hard, fast and seriously these days—prove somewhat cautious in accepting the well-meant overtures from labor unions.

USING OPPORTUNITIES

OPPORTUNITY is knocking at the door of the Colored American as never before. Positions in the business and industrial world hitherto closed to us are opening everywhere. It is up to us to prove our worthiness for these opportunities of employment by making good. To do this means that we must be exceedingly careful to be prompt, courteous, dependable, honest and efficient. There must be no shiftlessness, carelessness or loafing on the job. It makes no difference what the other fellow does and gets by with it; that's not our concern. It is our duty to render honest, full and efficient service, the very best that is in us. We are in the limelight. We are being carefully watched, all our actions conned and noted to be cast into our teeth, if we fail, and as justification for withheld or denied opportunities. Therefore, whatever your position may be do realize that by the way you do your work and conduct yourself you are either helping to batter down the wall of race prejudice or rearing the wall a little higher. If you are given a job that no Colored man has held before, do remember the responsibility which is yours by reason of this opportunity. So use your opportunity that what has come to you by suffering, tolerance or industrial and economic necessity, may become guaranteed to you and yours by merit. Do your level best. Strive to excel. Promptness, thoroughness, honesty, reliability are demanded from all who would make good. Opportunities are here now and looming larger every day. May we use them wisely and realize our racial responsibility in doing so.

AT ITS USUAL TRICKS

THE Omaha Daily News is at its usual reprehensible tricks of trying to stir up trouble by sensational headlines of alleged assaults by Negroes upon women. Of course, no one has any sympathy for a degenerate, white or black, who will attack a woman for purposes of defilement. But why is it necessary for the News to play up the merest rumor of an alleged assault, where the assailant is supposed to be a Negro, with screaming headlines? There is only one course for self-respecting people in this community who do not approve of such methods to follow and that is to refuse to buy the Omaha Daily News.

CAREFUL READING

Reading is a popular pastime in the United States. No country on earth has as many publications of various kinds as has ours. Nowhere are so many books printed, sold and read; but with the increasing quantity of reading material and the growing habit of keeping up with the latest fiction there has come a grave danger to the art of reading for instruction rather than for amusement. It is useful, for us to stop once in a while in our reading and consider whether we are getting intellectual and moral value from the great mass of fiction it is our habit to wade through in the course of a few months. If we will sternly demand of ourselves a count of the worth-while ideas we have acquired through reading in, say, a month, we may surprise ourselves with the discovery that to name even a handful of points learned is an almost impossible task. We have read thousands of words, hundreds of pages and it is quite possible that the things we have really learned may be put in fifty words—or less.

Our broader democracy, our better living conditions and our broader interest in life as compared with most other nations, are undoubtedly due in large degree not only to our free public education, but to our reading habits as well; but while we read much we need to become more active students of our reading. Not students just to show our superior learning; that is pedantry; but students to be more useful citizens.

One of the greatest moralists of all ages, Thomas A. Kempis, wrote this five hundred years ago:

"If thou desire to profit read with humility, simplicity and faithfulness; nor ever desire the repute of learning."

We do not need to read studiously for the sake of becoming learned, but if we are going to make our influence a little more effective for good we should read carefully, at least once in a while; and it is careful reading that brings profit.—The Detroit Journal.

THE N. A. A. C. P.

Cleveland is hostess this week to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, gathered here for its tenth anniversary conference. It is an organization that has demonstrated its usefulness to the country, and the city is pleased to extend its hospitality to delegates and visitors.

The association had its birth in the Lincoln centennial year, as it gets much of its inspiration from the life and labors and achievements of the great emancipator. In response to a call sent out to the people of America to give thought to the condition of the Negro, a conference was held in May, 1909. Attention was called to the wrongs and suffering endured by Colored people and plans were laid to combat them in every reasonable and proper way. President Charles F. Thwing of Western Reserve university was one of the signers of the original call. A committee was organized and two years later the present association was incorporated.

That the organization had a duty to perform and a place among the many at work to advance the interests of the race is indicated by its rapid growth in membership. From 1,000 in 1912, to 50,000 last year and 65,000 now its members have multiplied as the practical utility of the association became manifest. It is hoped that by the end of the present conference its membership may have increased to 100,000.

Organized to fight wrongs against the Negro race, to keep the public informed of injustices perpetrated against Colored people and to correct such conditions whenever possible, the association has been a persistent investigator and a conscientious enemy of wrongdoers. It has promoted anti-lynching conferences and campaigned against the sentiment that tacitly justifies this form of murder. It has secured a supreme court decision against the grandfather clause, and got the segregation ordinance of Louisville, Ky., declared unconstitutional.

It is an association militant for justice. It seeks political and civil equality, equal justice in the courts, an equitable expenditure of public funds for education, sanitation, health and police protection. These are aims which any fair minded American should be ready to grant. There is no color line in an honest democracy.—The Cleveland Plain Dealer.

PAULINE'S TRAVELS THROUGH THE CULINARY ART

This is the title of a book written, edited and published by one of Omaha's residents, Mrs. C. Pauline Lynch. Gotten up in an attractive cover it contains 122 pages of information, household hints and recipes, every single one of which has been tried and proved the author herself. All the pictures in the book were taken in her home. Written in a clear, simple style it pleases as well as educates the reader in all the tricks of the trade that belong to the expert in the art and science of household affairs.

At the end of the book we find these lines:

"He may live without books—what is knowledge but grieving?
He may live without hope, what is hope but deceiving?
He may live without love, what is passion but pining?
But where is the man that can live without dining?"

Mrs. Lynch is meeting with phenomenal success in the sale and distribution of her book, the high character of which makes sale easy. Mr. Hagelman of the Alamito declared that he never saw so many good things so simply and pointedly put. His wife should study it next to the good book, said he.

The glory of a good man is the testimony of a good conscience.—Thomas a-Kempis.

When you don't receive your Monitor please drop us a card.

Flashes of Most Anything

SO much talk about principle makes me sick. It is policy and dollars which count." When a certain parson recently made that statement to us it seemed as if we could hear the Nazarene grown aloud over the false prophet who had come to Israel.

DRY America is paying for the champagne her peace envoys are drinking. One of the reasons of the high cost of living over here is the high living of our representatives over there.

THE fume over Fiume continues. Italy threatens withdrawal unless there should be a free port in Fiume with annexation to Italy. This is the most beligerent looking peace that ever presented itself to a peace-loving man.

THE electrocutioner of New York has increased his death fee from \$50 to \$100. It costs to put Sing Sing victims out of their misery.

HOW long will a so-called democratic christian people cease to burn each other? How long before the right to fight and die will go hand in hand with the right to vote and live? How long, oh Lord, how long!

FIT TO WIN! It took medical science thousands of years to learn what "the sins of the fathers shall be visited upon the children even unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me." It took the war of the rebellion to prove to a doubting world that a nation could not exist half slave and half free. It took the bloodiest and ghastliest war in history to prove might does not make right. When will America, our America, fit herself to be called "the glorious democracy of the west" by giving to all her citizens, regardless of race or creed or color, equality before the law and participation in the government of the commonwealth?

THE ROAD

By Eva A. Jessye

COLD is the night—the road extending far to shadow realms—The stones beneath my feet, one solitary star,

The wood where phantoms meet. The ghostly trees, stripped of their summer green—

Wrapped in their winding sheets, and scarcely seen

Great bushes crouch. Gone are the flow'rs, snapped by winter's breath,

Yet the oak that towers is nourished by their death.

Dark is the night—the road extending far to shadow realms—The stones beneath my feet, one solitary star;

The world where mortals meet—The giant trees become the men of earth,

The living heroes, theirs the souls of worth,

Staunch and stalwart, e'en against the gale

When weakly vines and clinging flow'ers fall.

When spring is here, the grass and foliage green,

Deep undergrowth and mildest skies serene—

One scarce can tell the noble from the scum—

Till after while the searching winter's come;

The tree but towers above to clearer skies—

Untouched by all the ruin which round it lies.

Bright is the night—the road extending far, to pleasant realms—

The grass beneath my feet, the Heav'n lit with stars—

The world where mortals meet.

Behold, at once I glance around to find

A surging crowd in front of me—behind,

And some are stopping by the way to rest,

And some are stepping quickly into place

Among the trees, a place of usefulness.

And some are dead, yet live—a life of ease,

E'en basking in the shadow of the trees.

And some are hopeless having lost their way

Or passed the path wherein their talents lay.

Methinks the time has come when I shall leave

This winding road and step out by the way,

O may I all this brief, sad life perceive

The path that leads unto the Perfect Day.

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