

THE MONITOR

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

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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.

HOME OWNERSHIP

ONE of the most encouraging evidences of the progress of our people is the growing desire and determination to become home owners. This praiseworthy ambition is becoming stronger and stronger in every community. Home ownership makes for stability of character and better citizenship. Our people seem to realize this and it is most gratifying to know that so many are buying homes. We doubt if any other group has become more active along this line in the past few years than our own.

Every encouragement should be given to our people to buy homes. Husbands and wives should be willing to make sacrifices to save enough money for the required first payment upon some neat and cosy home, within their means, and to continue those sacrifices to make the payments as they fall due. This in most cases means, and we now have in mind the majority of our people, that the latest style, expensive hat, dress, suit or coat will have to yield place to less expensive articles. That money spent for amusements and pleasure trips will have to be reduced to a reasonable minimum; that there must be no straining at "keeping up with the Joneses."

The opportunity of home ownership is increasing because of the fact that through enlarged industrial advantages our people are receiving good wages. The cost of living is outrageously high, but at the same time, owing to increased wages, by carefully watching one's expenditures, some money can and should be saved. When one has made the first payment on his home, there comes the desire and determination to pay for it as rapidly as one can. The most difficult part, perhaps, is making the start.

Because of this laudable ambition upon the part of our people to become home owners, there is great danger for their exploitation and swindling by dishonest and unscrupulous agents. There will be the disposition upon the part of some to drive sharp bargains, or to boost prices. For this reason we should sound a warning to both the buyer and the seller. To the buyer we suggest that he use due caution to see that the price, terms and everything else is right before he closes the deal. To the seller, we desire to say that if The Monitor learns of any undue advantage being taken by him of a purchaser we shall not hesitate to expose it.

Our advice to our people everywhere is to become homeowners. For as has been well said, "The root of the commonwealth is the homes of the people. In proportion as our people own their homes, the country gains in stability."

Home ownership is an index to the character of a people.

AN AMBITIOUS VENTURE

AN ambitious commercial venture has been launched by the Great Southern Importing and Exporting company, which has just been incorporated under the laws of the state of Delaware. The object of this company is to market the products of those countries where members of the African race are in the majority. From Africa come such staples as rubber, mahogany, cocoa, dye woods, palm oil and the like; from the south and South American countries cotton, coffee, rice and similar products. It is believed that these products can be handled by a company composed of Colored men. This company has among its officials and representatives such men as Geo. Wells Parker of Omaha; John E. Bruce of New York; Duse Mahamed of London, England; H. J. R. Cooper of Cape Palmas, Liberia; William A. Moore, Nigeria, West Coast Africa, and J. H. Council of Rio de Janeiro. These and their associates in other parts of the world have the reputation

"CLOSE RANKS AND LET THE HILLS LOOK TO US"

The statement has been made that the darker native races of British Africa, British India and the British West Indies enjoy fewer civil and economic privileges and advantages in their home countries than they enjoy as denizens of the United States; it has been stated also that Afro-American citizens of the United States enjoy more civil privileges and economic advantages than Africans enjoy in Africa or in any other country. Are these statements true or false? We believe them to be true.

We have our ups and downs in this country, it is true, and the going is rough, but we are making substantial progress all of the time in the things worth having in life, in manhood and womanhood, in citizenship. The main thing with us is to strive to make the most and not the least of the superior advantages we have.

It is easy enough to complain that we do not get all that belongs to us in any phase of our citizenship, but do we stop to ask if we go about getting what is denied us in any direction as we should and as others go about it? Are we organized to the minute in politics, in business, in the professions, in the ministry and in charitable and social uplift works? Certainly not; and, yet, we need compact organization and competent leadership in all of these departments of thought and effort as others have them, and without which they would be as helpless and wronged, as poor and dependent, as we complain that we are.

We can't get anything worth having simply by asking for it and by complaining loud and long that it is withheld from us; we must go about getting it by effective organization and co-operation as others go about it, whether it be in starting a shoe-polishing parlor or a bank or a department store, or as a doorkeeper in the police station or a member of the legislature. We can't get anything we are entitled to by confiscation and force; we must get it by competition and diplomacy by the individual and by effective organization of persons as the race mass.

In all this striving for advantage we shall gain nothing by talking about it; we shall gain what we want by hustling for it. Other race groups have to do it, and we must do it. If we do not hang together in all our strivings in every direction we shall hang separately.

So, close the ranks and let the hills look to us, with apology to Dr. Du Bois a long way after, with determination to conquer the hills and all of the ills in them. They are rich in all that makes life worth living when the good is separated from the bad, the hills are. In the language of the late Dr. Washington, let us cast down our buckets where we are, for the waters of opportunity are fresh, and not saline, and teeming with wealth.—Amsterdam News.

RACIAL FRIENDSHIP.

It was good, sensible advice which Colonel Chales Young of Camp Grant, Ill.—a negro officer—gave to people of his own race at the Academy of Music several evenings ago.

First he asked how many of his auditors believed that on the whole the white people wanted and meant to do the right thing by the black man. For all the provocation to believe the contrary, most of those present instantly raised their hands. Then he said: "Love and hate are boomerangs, and if you would have the white man love you and be courteous toward you, it is time that the Colored people desist in their hatred, which seems to be growing more prevalent."

That is the way for friends of either race to talk. Any one who seeks to engender strife instead of to smooth away the causes of friction is a foe to society. The earth belongs to all men, and industrial opportunity should be open to those who can qualify for employment, without regard to the color line. The race in half a century of political freedom and through several centuries of social and industrial discrimination has hopefully persevered, and except when aroused by artificial incitements it has been gentle and patient, kindly and humorous and long-suffering. There are bad and violent black men, and there are white men of the same kind. Neither race has the monopoly of viciousness or of virtue. But no matter what their color, men were set on earth to help and not to hinder one another. He who preaches that any man has the right to take by force what is another's is an anarchist, whether his doctrine be overt or covert. It is time to single out and to punish those who seek to inflame one portion of humanity against another; and against these incendiary doctrines there are to be set such wise and temperate counsels as those of Colonel Poug.—Philadelphia Ledger.

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

Flashes of Most Anything

SENATOR BORAH and the rest of his ilk are beginning to bore us with their idiotic philosophy. Patriotic American citizens must have the right to vote or America is doomed to fall as surely as Rome fell.

WILSON has attacked the Polish muddle, the Czecho-Slovak muddle, the Alsace-Lorraine muddle, the Mexican muddle—indeed, he has attacked every sort of old muddle except that muddle to which the old South gave birth and which it has nourished over since. When will the president of these United States speak out for justice and fair play for the 14,000,000 loyal black American citizens? Breathlessly, we await. Meanwhile lynching goes on apace. "Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet, lest we forget—lest we forget!" Sodom and Gomorrah and Rome and Germany!

BRITAIN won the war," says Haig for England. "America won the war," says Wilson for America. Now, don't you two Anglos get to scrapping, because a family quarrel is deadly business. Angry relatives make terrible enemies and we would like to have peace just a little while.

IN Berlin they talk about rallying around the kaiser. In Mississippi the mob is still rallying around the stake.

THE Germans claim Shakespeare for Germany and Reuter claims Kelly Miller and Dean Picken and Lucy Laney et al, as great, because of the predominance of white blood in their veins. "Who steals my purse steals trash; but he who robs me of my race inspires doth make me poor indeed."

THE Irish-American delegation in Paris sent Clemenceau a note on June 30 in which it was charged that the British bombed Irish towns from airplanes, "wantonly murdering women and children." The delegation asked for the appointment of a special commission to investigate the charge. Oh, commission! we invite you over here to take a look at the condition of the Afro-American who happens to be born in Dixie. Athens, Ga., calls you. Dyersburg, Tenn., wants you, and Longview, Tex., needs you.

WOODY is still monkeying with the universe. He vetoed the bill to let us poor folks tell time according to the sun. But what's an hour's extra sleep?

INTEREST AWAKENING IN FUTURE OF RACE

Better Element in All Sections of Country Apparently Willing to Grant Favorable Consideration to Just Demands.

(By Associated Negro Press.)

Chicago, Ill., July 17.—The white people of the United States, both north and south, have begun to take an unusual interest in the future of the Negro of this country. In every section of the country, conferences, conventions and various other gatherings in which Colored people are assembled, are being watched with the keenest of interest. It is noticeable that many white people express a willingness to grant the Colored people almost every consideration except two: social equality and the ballot. They are willing to grant better opportunities for education, better comforts on transportation lines, complete protection of rights under the law, better housing conditions, make lynching an impossibility and many other things which any sane person must admit as being fair. The better element of the whites, both north and south, seem willing to grant the foregoing, excepting social equality and the ballot.

"Social equality," said one of our leaders, "is a subject that should cease to be discussed. It never has been and never will be anything more or less than a political scare-crow. Concerning the ballot, that is far different. The denial of the right to vote is plainly unjust and most assuredly against the spirit and letter of the constitution of the United States."

The peace treaty is a great, wonderful and most invaluable asset to the world's progressiveness. Let us contribute in as large a measure as we can and share in the profits that will result from human interest in common.—The Colorado Statesman.

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