

# 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.

## TAFT ON RACE RIOTS

WE reprint in this issue an article contributed to the Chicago Daily News by ex-President Taft on "The Causes of Race Riots." He repeats in this much that he said in a former article which we published a few weeks ago and upon which we commented editorially. Our readers will recall Mr. Taft's former article and our editorial, "Radicals and Conservatives," which attracted wide attention and most favorable comment.

In his more recent article the eminent jurist says many things that the country would do well to lay to heart. He has put his finger upon some of the causes, but not all, nor upon the chief cause, which is the set and determined purpose of a certain class of southerners, who have a large class of sympathizers in the north, "to teach the 'nigger' his place" and by a campaign of slander and vituperation to embitter the north against him. This propaganda began before the war. "The Birth of a Nation" had as its purpose the stirring up of sentiment against the Negro throughout the country. This campaign was interrupted by America's participation in the war. It has, however, been renewed with increased vehemence since the signing of the armistice. There has been, undeniably, a well-organized and directed effort to magnify and give undue prominence to crimes and rumors of crimes alleged to have been committed by Negroes. There is a sinister motive back of this and the real causes of riots is the stirring up of this sentiment by a subsidized, short-sighted or sensational press. In the face of the attitude of the white press of the country to publish inciting articles Mr. Taft's well-meant suggestion that "the editors of the Colored press should be reasoned with to cease publishing articles, however true, having inciting effect" comes with very poor grace from a gentleman of his astuteness and ability.

We would respectfully suggest that Mr. Taft and other men and women of influence and ability unite with the editors of the Colored press and other thoughtful leaders of the race in requesting the editors of the white press "to cease publishing articles, until proven true (concerning Negroes), having an inciting effect." They and not the Colored editors need this advice.

We have insisted upon the harm that is being done by the press in dwelling upon the race of individuals charged with crime where the accused or suspected is a Negro. This fans the flame of race prejudice; and yet the white press insists upon doing it. Race riots are caused by sensational reports in white newspapers. These should be stopped. The Colored press will do its duty; let the white press do the same. The Colored press is counseling restraint, self-respect and obedience to law and good behavior upon the part of its constituents. Its work is made tremendously hard by the attitude of the white press in featuring in scare-crow headlines alleged but unproven crimes of Negroes.

Mr. Taft's advice should be directed first to the white press.

## GOOD NATURE AN ANTIDOTE

JUST at this time we need to let our characteristic good nature have full sway. It will help matters wonderfully. Let us not be on the lookout for insults. Let us ignore them as frequently as we can when they are offered, thus showing our superiority. It is a good thing to remember that a lady or a gentleman will never insult anybody, and one should be so well poised that one who is not a gentleman cannot insult him. Meet boorishness and rudeness with gentility and good nature. Good nature is an antidote for much that is unpleasant. Good nature, too, like ill-temper, is contagious.

## SEVEN-CENT FARE

OMAHA has now a 7-cent street car fare. It is said to be only a temporary measure. The employees demanded a wage increase. The street car company was too poor to grant the increase unless the dear public chipped in to help them. So the powers that be granted the company authority to raise the fare by 40 per cent. The increase in wages to the employees is somewhat below this figure. Who gets the difference? Does it go into improving the service or to paying dividends to stockholders? As usual the dear public pays the price. Verily corporations and politicians have peculiar ways and a most effective method of shaking shakels out of the pockets of the public.

Those who do not want to pay 7 cents for a street car ride have the privilege of indulging in the healthful exercise of walking.

AMONG many of the weaknesses that we, as a people, have to overcome is the too prevalent disposition to permit personal grievances and difficulties to blind us to the ability and usefulness of individuals to be of service to the race. We have got to learn to submerge and subordinate personal likes and dislikes for the good of the race.

There is entirely too much narrow-mindedness in this particular among many who are supposed to be among our representative men and women. It is attributable to conceit, ignorance or prejudice and we must learn to rise above it. Because one has injured us or is unfriendly to us is no reason why we should not be willing to serve with him in any way we can for the public good.

## THE NEGRO PROBLEM IN AMERICA

What the Race Must Do to Solve Its Own Problems.

By Samuel Barrett.

The part the Negro must play in the solution of the problem cannot be accomplished by the white race alone, no matter how kindly disposed some of them may be toward us, and the sooner the race learns this the sooner we will be on the road to a real solution. Influential white people in such organizations as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, are in a position to do much in the way of race amelioration, but with all their influence and power they are not able to do for a group what common sense should teach that group to do for itself.

And the first thing the Negro must do to help solve his own race problem is to organize, co-operate, and unite. No matter how much progress we have made, or are making, no matter what our views or opinions may be as to the solution of the problem, it pales into insignificance when compared to the effect and power of unity on and in the race.

All races that ever fought a common enemy have seen the necessity of organization and unity. And no race who has ever fought a common enemy as strong as our antagonists, has survived the encounter by being divided. In union there is strength and power, in division weakness and inefficiency. A divided race is always an easy mark for those who would keep it down. To our leaders and those who have the ear of the masses let me say that they must discourage and suppress all influences either within or without the race that have a tendency to divide us. For all such efforts, no matter whence they spring are instituted by the enemies of the race.

Sometimes our foes have attempted to divide us on the basis of location. The Negro should be united throughout this country—north, south, east and west. There must not be any northern Negro and a southern Negro,

whether we live in the cotton fields of Mississippi or in the great industrial centers of Massachusetts and New York we should feel that all of us are fighting in one grand common cause. Sometimes the white man, and some Negroes as well, have attempted to divide the race on the basis of color and hair, with emphasis on the superiority of the mulatto and mixed blood, and emphasis on the inferiority of the full blood. And some mulattoes taking their cue from their white forebears have gone so far as is the case in South Carolina today and was the case in Cleveland, Ohio (until the Hon. H. S. Smith of the Cleveland Gazette, himself a mulatto, killed the foolishness), to draw a color line in their social and domestic life against all those who were not half or seven-eighths white. This doctrine is as dangerous as it is silly, malicious and false, and should be beaten down whenever it attempts to rise. White people as a rule do not make discriminations within the race based on color. A man or woman may be almost white in color, but if it becomes known that he has Negro blood in his veins he is given no more consideration than a full blood. This fact is borne out in a recent divorce trial that took place in this city. The husband, a white man married a woman who looked as white as he did, but after issue came it was stated that the child had Negro blood in its veins. After that discovery was made the father applied for an annulment of the marriage on the grounds of fraud. Now this woman was white. It was not her color, it was her identification with the Negro that caused the trouble. Negroes should draw the color line on the basis of character and worth on manhood and womanhood and not on color and hair.

The race must be united for the purpose of self-defense. We must defend ourselves, our women and our homes against mob violence and lynchings. Recent occurrences in Washington, D. C., the capital of the nation ought to teach the race throughout America that we must arm ourselves in times of peace. Fear the same thing is apt to happen anywhere. If we don't hang together in these perilous days we certainly will hang separately.

The race should be united to promote, encourage and support business, and not permit the Jew, the Italian, the Greek and the white man in general to get rich from the things we ought to engage in ourselves.

The race is sadly in need of a strong economic foundation and this can only be attained through business. Then the race has not and cannot make substantial progress without an increasing number of various kinds of business enterprises run on a progressive order. Business is an empire, and upon it has been built many mighty civilizations. When the rank and file of the race is forced to seek employment from the white man; when we are continually asking him to aid us in the support of our churches, our schools and other public and semi-public institutions, it does look a bit inconsistent to demand rights. But when we can support our own institutions like the Jews we can consistently demand our rights.

The Negro race in America must be united for the social and moral improvement of our race in the large cities and towns. Crime, juvenile delinquency, buffet flats, immorality and gambling could all be lessened if the moral, the educational and the so-called religious forces of the race had sufficient backbone and sand to attack it. The majority of us are willing to let the race go to hell because of fear of hurting some one's feelings. The destiny of the Negro race ought to mean more to all thinking race people than regard for the feelings of some of our acquaintances and friends who are violating both the law of God and man.

And finally the Negro race should be united politically. Taxation without representation was tyranny in 1776. It is no less a tyranny today. To support one's government as we have always done in times of war, to pay taxes on millions of dollars worth of property and then be denied the ballot where our votes can count for something is the rankest fraud whether we identify ourselves with the republican party, the democratic party, the socialist party, or an independent political party we ought to unite and see to it that we are granted the suffrage throughout America. This is a weapon of defense. No man is good enough to rule another man without the other man's consent.

Just think of our political position in America—twelve million of us, over a tenth of the total population—not a man in congress, not a man in the senate, not a man anywhere in a responsible governmental position. And yet we put white men into office every year. If we cannot get our own men into office we should not vote for the other fellow.

These are some of the things the race must do for itself, things that white people cannot do for us.

For Monitor office call Doug. 3224.

## Flashes of Most Anything

Oh, where's my Chicago Defender? "Bought up," you say? All the long-looked for issue of August 2—bought? How, bought?

If I alone, of all men, happen to be so fortunate as to be on the scene when a great event happens, and far away, in many cities, anxiously await thousands of others hungering for the facts that only I can give them; and if I should prepare for each of them a letter and as it lay before me, ready to be stamped and mailed and committed to the care of Uncle Sam, in you walked—you who would not have those others know—and you looked at my letters, and you bid for them, and you got them, while in vain those others waited—would it be bought?

Hark! Listen! Methinks I hear echo repeat: "Sold. Sold."

Roosevelt died, and a shocked world stood grieved and silent, awed at the departure of a truly great man. A millionaire dies, but neither his money nor the philanthropies his money bought could make his passing more than a mere detail. Truly the measure of greatness lies in things more real and lasting than the accidents of circumstance.

Nebraska is a pretty good old state. It called a special session in order to vote for the woman suffrage constitutional amendment and so won the eleventh place on the roll of honor.

And now the government becomes our grocer. When it took over the railroads some of us stopped riding. Let's hope this won't be true with the eats.

"Come back home," says the South. "Behold Washington and Chicago. Come on back to Dixie; we understand each other."

"Nix," says Cuffie. "I know you a dum sight too well."

## THREE HUNDRED YEARS

(Tercentenary, August, 1619-1919)

THREE hundred years! Lord, these are they—

These toil-worn souls brief-sweet with play—  
These dream-charmed people, vision-eyed,

Whose life-free goal is yet denied. But these have heard the heavens say, In answer to the prayer they pray: "No Christly cause can perish—may, Though men be martyred, crucified—Three hundred years!"

A thousand years are but a day In Thy illimitable way, Father! Thy children who abide On earth and learn Thy lessons wide Have kept the faith—on through the fray—

Three hundred years!  
LUCIAN B. WATKINS.  
University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill., August 10, 1919.

## PRESS COMMENT

American Atrocities.

We hear so much of Russian atrocities and German atrocities it may be well for us to think a moment of our own atrocities, which, so far as we know, in many cases outrank in brutality and horror the murders of the reddest of the red-handed butchers of any other land. During the past thirty years in the United States 3,224 people have been murdered by lynching mobs. Of this number all but a few were Colored citizens. It would have been quite sufficient evidence of the barbarism of these murderous mobs had their victims simply been shot or hanged without due process of law, but to torture by cruelties too unspeakable for us to describe, as has been done in instance after instance, is to sink below the level of savagery.

That these things should be permitted in this land and no remedy swiftly forthcoming would be incredible were it not true. We have always maintained that a government which can compel its citizens, white and black, to enlist under its flag and defend it in peril owes to each of these citizens the guarantee of every right assured him under the constitution. Where the state fails the government is under as sacred an obligation to defend and protect its humblest citizens from such outrages as it is its representatives at the courts of Europe.

Mr. Hughes has well said: "To the black man, who in this crisis has proved his bravery, his honor and his loyalty to our institutions, we certainly owe the performance of this duty (of justice), and we should let it be known from this time on, in recognition of that supreme service, that the black man shall have the rights guaranteed to him by the constitution of the United States."—Our Dumb Animals.

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