

THE MONITOR

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans.
 Published Every Thursday at Omaha, Nebraska, by The Monitor Publishing Company.
 Entered as Second-Class Mail Matter July 2, 1915, at the Postoffice at Omaha, Neb., under the Act of March 3, 1879.
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 SUBSCRIPTION RATES, \$2.00 A YEAR; \$1.00 6 MONTHS; 60c 3 MONTHS
 Advertising Rates, 60 cents an inch per issue.
 Address, The Monitor, 304 Crouse Block, Omaha, Neb.
 Telephone Douglas 3224.

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.

UNDERSTOOD THEIR OATH

AN unprecedented event happened in Chicago a few days ago. The grand jury struck. It had been empanelled to indict rioters. The men were under oath to do their duty impartially. Thirty-one Negroes had been brought before the jury and were indicted. Then the jury struck. They refused to go on with their work until some of the white rioters were brought before them. Their sense of justice was outraged by the fact that while it was admitted that white hoodlums had started the riot and acts of murder and arson had been committed by them the activity of the police in making arrests had apparently been confined to Negroes. Up to that time only Negroes had been brought before the grand jury. This was so grossly and manifestly unjust that the broad-minded white business men, of whom the jury was largely composed, rebelled. Their sense of justice could not tolerate this injustice. Neither would their conscience nor their good judgment permit them to allow such injustice to pass unrebuked. Their action not only proclaims them to be men who understand their oath as jurors, but justice-loving and fair-minded men. It proclaims more. It shows them to be men of heart and vision, students and true interpreters of the trend of events. They realized that to permit this rank and wanton discrimination to continue would absolutely destroy the Negro's faith in the white man's intention or desire to deal out even-handed justice even in the city of Chicago. The danger of such a frame of mind as this must be apparent.

In our issue of August 7 The Monitor called attention to the fact that, despite Judge Crowe's charge to the jury that they should deal impartially with all offenders, it was sinisterly significant that the FIRST offenders to be brought before the grand jury were Negroes. We claimed that this foreshadowed a determination upon the part of the authorities to place the blame upon Negroes and create sentiment against them. We contended that the offenders, white and black, should be examined together. It would seem that our position is sustained by the strike of the grand jury.

It is to be regretted that Chicago showed this unmistakable bias. It is, however, gratifying to know that the grand jury proved itself to be composed of men who believe in a square deal and justice for all. Such men are the salt of any community.

We want our readers to realize from this significant strike of the Chicago grand jury that there are white men in every community who are good men at heart and believe in justice and will not stand for injustice. We, as a race, must not lose faith in the white man's willingness to see that we get justice. We know how strong the sentiment is becoming among many of our people that the American white man has no intention of giving the Colored American a square deal. We know that there is much to support this opinion, and yet we contend that the great majority of Americans are for the square deal. Let us believe this, do our full duty and repress bitterness.

If there is the temptation to point to the fact that there was rank discrimination in the order of filing complaints against Chicago rioters because of color, set over against it the significant and far-reaching fact that a grand jury, composed of broad-minded, progressive white business men so understood their oath that they struck in protest against this rank discrimination.

WOMEN AND THE FRANCHISE
 WOMEN are to have the privilege of voting. The Monitor is glad of it. We have always favored giving women the ballot. Now that they are to have it, our women should address themselves to the study of public questions and measures that they may be able to vote intelligently and wisely.

murder. The noose, the electric chair, the penitentiary or violent death confronts the average man who carries a gun or a deadly weapon. Stop it before it is too late.

AN UNHERALDED HERO

Kansas City Post.
 Every once in a while a plain, un-uniformed and unheralded hero is mentioned in the news of the day, verifying the oft-repeated assertion that there are other places besides the battlefield where heroism may be shown.

One of these heroes died the other day—died at the old city hospital. He was a Negro. The act of bravery that cost him his life was done to save the life of a white girl—to save her from a vicious dog's attack. And the Negro's effort was not unavailing, either, for the girl escaped unharmed, while the Negro, standing between her and the dog, shielded her from the poisonous fangs and suffered lacerations that caused his death.

And he wasn't even acquainted with the girl he saved—merely happened to be passing along the street as the dog attacked the girl, and while scores of others, many white, perhaps a few black, looked on, this Negro—his name was Joseph Perry and he lived at 2410 Flora avenue—rushed to the rescue.

While we are paying tribute to heroes might it not be well to include Joseph Perry on our list? Joseph Perry, who, although black of skin, was white of heart and strong in physical courage and human sympathy.

Time for Action

Boston Christian Science Monitor.
 A high order of citizenship is demanded. For it is going to be made clear that crime is a matter of the individual, not of the mass. If an individual Negro insults a white woman it is that individual who must be punished, not any man of black skin whom a mob takes a notion to go after. And if white men, singly or in groups, attack or injure Negroes, or undertake to punish even a criminal Negro without due process of law, then even the federal power itself should be called into play, if need be, to discover those individual white offenders and make them legally amenable. Mass judgments of individual guilt, mob action to discover and punish culprits, are—let us say it plainly—too often tolerated with respect to Negroes when they would stir the country if, similarly and with similar persistence, applied to white men. It is time that such injustice should be corrected. All Negroes are not bad, all whites are not good. It is time for this great community, the United States, to recognize this fact and to bring out and make use of all that is good and true in each race by setting itself fairly and fearlessly to discover and to correct whatever is evil in each. The thing to be remembered is that the true solution of the difficulty lies in the discovery and correction of evil, no matter where or by whom expressed.

Assertion of Manhood

New York Call.
 In the face of this black record the Times can only see in the Negro's resentment of his wrongs the result of agitation! The Negro would be less than human if he did not finally assert his manhood and defend himself. We regard his self-assertion as the most hopeful sign in the whole dreary record of exploitation and class rule to which he has submitted. During the civil war he faithfully guarded his master's plantations and showed no signs of a desire for liberation. That was a dismal feature of the struggle. His assertion of his manhood today is the brightest and most hopeful factor in his long story of servitude. If it is true that the socialist movement deserves any credit for the awakening of the Negro, we rejoice in whatever mite we have contributed to it. In that movement the Negro will find comrades who understand comrades who share his longing for the equality of opportunity, the leisure, education and happiness that can only be realized when workers of both races are members of a free world that knows no race, color or class distinctions.

Quit Star-Gazing

New York Telegram.
 Given a contented populace with work to do and everybody would be too busy to engage in rioting, taking the law and their lives into their own hands. Stop the rioting at any cost and then immediately remove the cause of the unrest or we shall have a longer death list and more homes burned and robbed. It behooves the United States government to quit star-gazing, come down to earth and give the affairs of the country some attention.

A Lawless City

New York World.
 The tragedy of Chicago is that it is a lawless city with a lawless government. What whites and blacks are doing to each other today is what whites have been doing to each other for more than a generation.

Flashes of Most Anything

And Still the Negro Pays

ALWAYS before it has been that the whites began the rioting and murdered the Negroes, who hid themselves until the mad frenzy of the mob abated. The white press was silent as to responsibility for bringing to an end such a state of affairs; the authorities openly assisted the lynching of Negroes or hid behind the statement, "We are powerless"; no one was indicted; no one was convicted; the victims were only Negroes.

Washington and Chicago have had a clash between the races. As of yore the whites began the rioting, only this time the Negroes did not run, but stood their ground, preferring a shot in the breast to one in the back. The results were what could be expected from a group who have held unchallenged the record for valiant fighting. The murdered ones were Negroes and whites, and the preponderance of whites was appalling. All over the nation went up a mighty howl. The white press almost stuttered in its attempt to articulate; the authorities tripped over each other to get on the scene; the machinery of law was set in motion and indictments followed with the speed of lightning.

The grand jury struck in Chicago because the prosecution presented evidence against Negroes only; then evidence was presented against some whites. The results speak for themselves in tones loud and prophetic—twenty-one whites and forty-six Negroes. The whole nation stands still and waits for Chicago to redeem herself and demonstrate the majesty of unbiased decision and establish a precedent that will proclaim to all the world, for all time, that justice does exist and equality before the law is not a myth.

Come on, glorious city of the west, decrease that disparity in numbers, so that, not even for a moment, the enemies of peace and justice may point to you in scorn and derision.

So far it has been that the whites start the rioting and the burden of society's and the law's revenge is visited on the Negro. Silence will not help, nor mealy-mouthed apology down the truth. He who claims to speak for his people and grins and says that everybody is satisfied and everything is perfectly lovely and fair, is a liar and the truth is not in him.

Suppression of facts will not do it. Apology will not destroy it. Postponement will only increase it. Even-handed justice, and that only, will end it.

THE BOOSTER

I DON'T pose as any martyr for the cause of fatherland, Never made a speech in congress, never took a leading hand In these politics and platforms, but—jes speaking in the rough—I'm a plain, progressive Booster—don't you think that good enough?

You hear people right around us who just grumble and relate That "they never have my order and the styles are out of date." Then they brag about their nobby suit (brought from foreign lands), While the local tailor worries with a debit on his hands.

Who complain that their home town is dead and "beastly slow." If you wish it more progressive, why not help to make it so? And this one bare fact will combat all the argument you made— If 'tis worthy of your living in, 'tis worthy of your trade.

Patronize the home town merchant; boost the neighbor right at hand; Let him know you wish to help him by your helping, understand? Don't be like the foolish sailor looking for the stream afar; Save your time, your strength, your finance—"drop your bucket where you are!"

O you hear some fiery speeches and some advocations fine, When the busy season rolls around to some election time.

If you want a splendid government, on this one point stand pat— Just choose the unassuming man who's boosting where he's at.

I don't pose as any martyr for the cause of fatherland, Never made a speech in congress, never took a leading hand In these politics and platforms; but jes speaking in the rough—I'm a plain, progressive Booster—don't you thing that good enough?

EVA ALBERTA JESSYE.

Racial Equality at Home

Troy, (N. Y.) Times.
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