

THE MONITOR

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

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THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor and Publisher.
Lucille Skaggs Edwards and Madree Penn, Associate Editors.
Fred C. Williams, Business Manager.

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For mankind are one in spirit, and an instinct bears along,
Round the earth's electric circle the swift flush of right or wrong;
Whether conscious or unconscious, yet humanity's vast frame
Through its ocean-sundered fibres feels the gush of joy or shame;
In the gain or loss of one race all the rest have equal claim.
—James Russell Lowell.

SHOTWELL DOES HIS DUTY

COUNTY ATTORNEY SHOTWELL has done the right thing in filing complaints against Detectives Brigham and Armstrong as well as Edgar Holman for the murder of Eugene Scott, the Plaza hotel bellboy. The jury recommended the holding of Holman; but in the opinion of many and The Monitor is one of the many, it should also have recommended holding at least Brigham and Armstrong, who according to several witnesses pursued the fleeing frightened boy, shooting and shouting, "Stop him, shoot him, kill him; kill the —!" Indeed, there are those who maintain that all the raiding squad, who had invaded the Plaza hotel without warrant, should be held accountable. Then others hold that Paul Sutton, whom Mrs. Anderson testified, shouted, "Stop him, shoot him, knock his head off," when Scott, going about his duties was intercepted by Sutton on the third floor, is primarily responsible and should be held. Something was said or done to Scott, who was a green boy from the south, on that third floor to frighten him and make him run. Scott is dead and cannot speak. Sutton testified that he did not say or do anything to frighten the boy. Mrs. Anderson the only witness to the start of the affair, says that Sutton did. So there you are.

This fact, however, is indisputable. Brigham and Armstrong pursued Scott, and one of them at least fired two or three shots, and either one or both of them shouted, "Shoot, kill him!" and Holman, a special officer, passing on Thirteenth street, hearing the shots and shouts drew his gun and fired. If, therefore, Holman is to be held, and that was the jury's verdict, Brigham and Armstrong should also be held. And this Mr. Shotwell has done and public opinion sustains him in this action.

Mr. Shotwell is to be commended for the thoroughness and lack of bias or prejudice with which he conducted the investigation at the inquest. Everyone was impressed with the fact that he was simply seeking to elicit the truth and fix responsibility.

In our judgment Police Commissioner Ringer should have suspended Armstrong and Brigham when they were ordered under arrest. But instead of that they were released on bond and permitted to continue their work. It was stated that should they be bound over to the district court at the preliminary hearing they will be suspended. They have been bound over. Will they now be suspended?

The Monitor, as our files will show, has not joined in the criticism made by the press of this city upon the police administration under Mr. Ringer and Chief Eberstein. But we desire to go on record as being opposed to any effort that may be made by the police authorities to shield the men guilty of Scott's murder. His murderers and we use the term murderers advisedly must be put on trial and punished for their crime. We are not asking for vengeance, but we do insist upon justice and will be satisfied with nothing less.

IS THIS CROOKEDNESS?

A FEW weeks ago the crying need for some community work for the girls and young women of Omaha became insistent. A representative conference of women, including, as it should, every responsible group was held at the Kellom school and plans were agreed upon, to be put into operation as soon as the trained community worker who had been assigned arrived. A most competent committee of three women was appointed to act for the larger committee in looking up suitable quarters and such other preliminary work as might be

necessary. An officious and "influential" individual intruded himself. The committee was politely ignored. An assistant, a very excellent young woman, but however, unasked for by the young woman assigned here by the War Camp Community Service, was appointed. Search for suitable quarters was instituted. None suggested suited. Then a marvelously philanthropic offer was made. Rather than see the community house homeless, the Afro-American Realty company at Twenty-seventh and Lake streets, would vacate their office and rent it, including two office desks and some other office equipment for the nominal sum of \$30 per month. A most generous act! But wholly unappreciated.

First, the room was unsuited for the community work which it was desired to do. This was the chief objection to this place. Then it was found that this room rents from the firm of Hastings & Heyden for \$16 per month. The philanthropy and disinterestedness of those putting across the deal is quite apparent to the most obtuse when it is discovered this \$16 a month room was being sublet to the War Camp Community Service for \$25 a month. This is a sample of some of the shady schemes being put across by some public-spirited, race-loving individuals in Omaha. It may be shrewd business, but it looks like crookedness. There comes a time when silence is criminal and patience ceases to be a virtue.

PLAYING WITH FIRE

THE MONITOR believes unquestionably in the white American's sense of fairplay. We do not think that at heart he is mean or believes in injustice. We are convinced that he hates from the bottom of his soul that species of depravity which manifests itself in wilful and deliberate lying to get somebody into trouble. It is difficult for him to get the viewpoint of the Colored American, and because he does not have this viewpoint, he frequently misunderstands us and thinks that we make a vast deal of unnecessary fuss about alleged discriminations, which he honestly conceives to be more imaginary than real, because never has "the iron entered into his soul." The unfortunate aspect of the situation is the difficulty of getting the unvarnished facts before the average white American. The dailies play up, big as a rule, reports of alleged crimes and misdemeanors, the seamy side of life, but minimize the higher achievements of the race and the constructive side of our racial life. And knowing this, and that we are misjudged by this one-sided presentation of the case, some of us are wont to become impatient and charge our fellows of the other racial group with desiring to misjudge us. But this is not true and we should take the view of the situation that much of the injustice and indifference to this injustice upon the part of people of the other race is due to their ignorance of the facts. Of course they will not feel flattered to be told that they are ignorant of the real facts concerning us, but it is nevertheless the truth.

We have published in these columns recently no less than three authentic accounts of accusations of heinous crimes made against Negroes, which were afterwards confessed to be wilful and deliberate lies. Now, does anyone believe that the average American, white or black, approves of anything of this character? Not only does their sense of justice and fair play oppose it, but they realize that such a practice is playing with fire, that must inevitably result in a wide-sweeping conflagration. One of the great tasks before us is to get the facts before the American people. There should be a fund available in every city to buy space in the leading

dailies to run as advertisements the truth about our race. There should be a fund available to pay for placing extra copies of our own reliable publications in the hands of at least the thoughtful sentiment molding white people of every community. For playing up alleged crimes as big features, and the denial in an obscure, out of the way news item, as is shown in the articles republished elsewhere in this issue from the Washington Post, a paper largely responsible for the race riots in the national capital, is unjust and hazardous and playing with fire.

SCHEMES AND SCHEMERS

EVERY community of any size is afflicted with individuals who spend a vast deal of time in concocting and endeavoring to put across questionable schemes, with an eye single to the main chance. Professing to be interested in their race, Esaulike they would sell it and its dearest interests for a mess of pottage. If these individuals would only be honest, manly and straightforward they could be of great service to their community. But in using whatever ability they may have as they do they are a menace and a hindrance.

Unfortunately, Omaha is afflicted with some of this class of bipeds to whom crookedness seems native. They pose as reformers and I-am-holier-than-thou paragons of righteousness while in reality they are lying knaves and hypocrites. They hide behind the petticoats of some well-meaning and unsuspecting woman or take advantage of the confidence and unsuspecting nature of some friends to carry out their well laid schemes. Sooner or later their knavery and trickery will be exposed, for as Lincoln well said, "You may fool all of the people some of the time, you may fool some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time."

THE MORALS SQUAD

THE language used by Armstrong and Brigham while chasing Scott, charged with no crime, to his death, shows eminent qualifications for a morals squad.

FITZGERALD RULES RIGHT

JUDGE FITZGERALD, in view of the evidence submitted by the state at the preliminary hearing Wednesday, would have stultified himself if he had not held the two accused detectives to the district court. Their responsibility for the deplorable affair is beyond question and Judge Fitzgerald did his duty in so ruling.

PERFECTLY PLAIN

PRESIDENT WILSON stated in his "keynote speech" that the peace treaty is perfectly plain to those who have read it and understand it. Granted. But who in heck has read it? Seen any such freak around your burg?

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Keep Cool!

With the great racial excitement now existing all over the country, it is well for Colored people to keep cool.

No good can come from incendiary talk. It is rank folly to talk about actual, physical fighting to win the contest for justice in the U. S. A. It would be futile as the Colored people have neither wealth nor guns and are outnumbered five to one. Never be the aggressor, but defend yourself if wantonly attacked.

The Colored people must fight but it must be with the spirit, money and the ballot. Use every legitimate means to create a healthy public opinion and vote for the individual or party guaranteeing protection of life and liberty.—The Appeal.

NO OCCASION FOR UNEASINESS

Clayton of Texas State Agricultural Department, Gives Assuring Statement to Perturbed People of State.

(By Associated Negro Press.—

Austin, Tex., Sept. 3.—Speaking at the meeting of the State Farmers' Institute, J. E. Clayton, of Manor, Travis county, who is a member of the field force of the Texas department of agriculture, gave assurance that there is no occasion for uneasiness among the white people of Texas of trouble by the Negro race.

"There seems to be unrest over the state that the Colored people are going to give the white people trouble," said Clayton. "There is no foundation for this. I stand here and say for the 865,000 Negroes in Texas that they have no intention whatever of pulling away from the white people. They want your help and they want to help you."

Please remember that your subscription is due, and be kind enough to drop into the office and pay it promptly.

Flashes of Most Anything

IN the medieval ages, when men were only partially civilized, to enter a church was to enter a sanctuary. A man's enemies stopped at its sacred portals and no harm befell their victim as long as he remained within its hallowed walls. Not so in Crisp county, Georgia, situated in the democracy of the United States. A mob of white lynchoerats chased a Negro accused of making an inflammatory statement into a church and shot him to death there, and then burned to the ground the temple that had been dedicated to God and every other constructive place they could find belonging to Negroes. Enlightened public opinion, put on the brakes, put on the brakes. Sliding down a precipice is jolly but dangerous and that smash up at the bottom isn't good to contemplate.

"Just for thirty pieces of silver he left us. Just for a riband to stick in his coat." So Browning speaks of the lost leader, so must we speak of some of our modern Judases. Truly the open enemy of our enemies is to be preferred to the trickery of our so-called friends.

DID you ever stop to think that after all the straight open path is the best road in which to walk? The winding way full of obstructions and pits and snares makes it harder to reach any kind of goal; one trips and slips and falls so often.

WANTED, A SAMARITAN

Prone in the road he lay.
Wounded and sore bestead;
Priests, Levites past that way,
And turned aside the head.

They were not hardened men
In human service slack;
His need was great: but then
His face, you see, was black.

—New York Independent.

DOCTOR PEEBLES TO WRITE FOR MONITOR

THE MONITOR, which is always looking for attractive features for its readers, announces with pleasure that Dr. William W. Peebles, who, after having served several months overseas, with the rank of captain, as



dental surgeon in charge of different units, has just recently reopened his thoroughly equipped office at Thirteenth and Farnam streets, will conduct a department on "Dental Hygiene and the Care of the Teeth" each week in The Monitor. This will be most useful and instructive.

The dental surgeons who served with the Ninety-second division were especially recommended by Colonel Oliver, chief dental officer of the United States army in France, for unusual proficiency, and Captain Peebles was especially complimented for several delicate and successful dental operations. The Monitor is gratified to be able to secure Dr. Peebles' services in conducting this department.

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