

THE MONITOR

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

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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.

ECCLIESIA LOCUTUS EST.

"THE Church hath spoken." That is to say a large and influential portion of it has. That portion of American Christianity represented by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America has found a voice. It has spoken in no uncertain tones against "our large professions and our little deeds" in our application of the principles of the Christian religion in our dealings with the Negro. In the statement recently issued by the council and published in our columns a few weeks ago, it is frankly confessed that the Christian forces of America have been wantonly indifferent to the injustices to which the Negro has been subjected and has so patiently borne. In language which has the ring of sincerity—and where there is contrition there is always sincerity—the council issues "a call to the citizens of the United States to act in conformity with the high ideals of democracy and Christianity in the present strained relations between the races." The demand is made upon the government, local, state and national that it "impartially guarantee to all classes, security of life and property," and attention is directed to the undeniable fact that "mob violence is becoming a crowd habit." "Adequate educational facilities for Negro children and youth should be provided not only as a national obligation, but as a necessity of national welfare."

Equal accommodations on railroads for equal fares should be granted on the grounds of common justice and honesty. Closer sympathetic relationship and co-operation between the races, calling for conference and interchange of views, is wisely advocated. It is also aptly asserted the qualifications for the franchise should be administered irrespective of race, creed or color."

Perhaps the most significant utterances of this influential body is the frank admission that "the root of the whole matter is the failure to recognize the Negro as a man." This puts the emphasis precisely in the right place. Racial friction is due to the unwillingness of the white man to recognize the Negro as a man. Until this viewpoint is changed racial friction will continue. Moreover, as the Negro grows in intelligence, character, moral worth, self-respect and wealth, and he is making progress along these lines every day of his life, this friction will become more acute. There is no need of blinking this fact and The Monitor is grateful that the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, which represents millions of the most thoughtful, influential and upstanding citizens of the republic should so clearly perceive and frankly state the crux of the whole matter.

We are equally gratified with the closing words of this paragraph, which are these: "If we propose a democratic program for the protection and self-determination of the weak and oppressed people of Europe as a means of permanent peace and good will abroad let us apply the same program at home." And then surely all must agree that in the increasing disorders, racial and industrial, throughout the land, there is "a challenge to the churches charged with the promotion of the brotherhood of man, which calls for preaching the duty of economic and community justice for the Negro (and all other men), thus securing peace and good will among the races."

We hope that the Roman Catholic communion and the Anglican communion in the United States speaking through their corporate representatives will also find a voice as united and clear as that of the Federated Churches of Christ in America which has spoken a much-needed message at a crucial period.

While among all the great religious bodies of the land there have been individuals like Frank Crane, Wilbur

F. Thirkield, John Holmes Haynes, Rabbi Stephen Wise, the late Archbishop Ireland, Cardinal Gibbons, the late Bishop Greer, Bishop Gailor and others who have spoken in no uncertain tones against mobocracy and other injustices of which the Negro has been so largely the victim, it remained for the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America to be the first religious body, so far as we have been able to learn, to speak with a corporate voice against these evils.

That so influential a portion of the American church has spoken is most enheartening to our group who have longed for such a message and marvelled at the silence, sympathetic silence some thought, of the religious forces of America who were so profoundly moved by atrocities across the seas and so blind to atrocities against fellow Christians in their own land.

Laus Deo! Ecclesia Locutus est.

AN ISSUE TO BE FACED.

THE Monitor desires to call attention to the fact that from the trend of events in our city for the last few months we are face to face with a serious matter which involves an important principle. Certain selfish and short-sighted individuals have been advocating and seeking to bring to pass segregation in civic privileges for which we in common with other citizens are being taxed. The vicious propaganda of alleged increase of crime upon the part of members of our race, which The Monitor does not hesitate to brand as largely fictitious, is undoubtedly a part of a deeply-laid scheme to justify the adoption of such a policy when those in favor of it find it feasible to put it into effect. The time is here and now to face this issue squarely. Short-sighted people among our group are lending their efforts to this scheme, by advocating segregation in other matters. The Monitor is absolutely opposed to any scheme, by whomsoever proposed for segregation in the enjoyment of any of the civic or public privileges for which we are taxed. We stand for the unrestricted and unlimited enjoyment, as they have always existed in this city, of educational facilities, use of the public parks, play grounds, community centres and like civic and municipal advantages. These have always been enjoyed without friction or embarrassment by all citizens and there is no reason why any change should be suggested or advocated now. And we respectfully, courteously, but emphatically, call the attention of any and all persons who are adroitly planning such a coup de etat that they are not so wise as they think themselves to be in this day and generation.

EXCELSIOR CLEARS ITSELF.

LAST week The Monitor called attention to the fact that there was only one newspaper in the city that attempted to defend the recent lynching. That newspaper was The Excelsior, a society publication of venerable antecedents and high standing. We expressed surprise that Clement Chase should endorse the sentiments of John Sharp Williams. Mr. Chase, who had been absent from the city for some weeks, upon his return promptly repudiated the statement of his acting editor. The Excelsior of October 11 contained the following editorial from the pen of Mr. Chase under the caption, "A Much Criticized Editorial," which restores the same standing of the publication:

"Considerable criticism of the Excelsior's editorial last week on the riot that resulted in damages to the county court house, and the lynching of a Negro prisoner, has come to this desk.

"The Excelsior has always stood for law and order, and never intended to deviate from this policy, and regrets that the article, which does not represent the opinion of the owners of

this paper, was permitted to appear without verification of the truth of the statements which have been appearing from day to day in the press. "The Excelsior has a long record for the most careful judgment regarding civic affairs, and trusts that its previous reputation will not be unsettled by this contribution, which it regrets should have appeared."

The same issue also contained the following:

"A Word From Mr. Caldwell, "A valued friend of the Excelsior, Mr. John H. Caldwell, has addressed a communication to us in which he expresses his regrets concerning the article. We beg to assure him, and others who have spoken to us, that we regret the impression that has been created, inadvertently, by the language used. Among other things, Mr. Caldwell says:

"In your editorial columns of October 4th you have made certain statements which are so misleading and incorrect that they must not be allowed to go unchallenged.

"Referring to alleged inadequate sentences given to criminals here, you ask what the police and city have done to see that the proper penalty is paid. As it happens, cases of the serious nature you refer to are prosecuted not by the city, but by the state through the county attorney and the district court.

"I challenge you to prove where any man, white or black, convicted of rape or of assault to commit rape, has been sentenced to less than two years (generally the sentence is much higher, the maximum being life imprisonment), yet you have endeavored to convey the impression that the guilty ones generally receive from sixty to ninety days. The records of the county attorney's office will refute your statements. If you had ascertained the facts first, you would have found that such sentences, when given, were against those found not guilty of the crime charged and were given as sentences for minor offenses. Such distortions of the real facts are unworthy of any paper, whose columns are generally held to be reliable and authentic."

GOOD BEHAVIOUR, ALWAYS.

WE cannot too frequently emphasize the necessity of our people always and everywhere conducting themselves as ladies and gentlemen. We have among us many who mean well but who are unfortunately rather loud-mouthed and boisterous. It is to be hoped that such of these as read The Monitor will realize how much depends upon them to help maintain good relations. All of us are on trial everywhere and it is up to us all to do our full share in helping to win respect for ourselves as a people.

HELPING PEOPLE DO RIGHT.

ROOSEVELT said many wise things. Among the many was this, "Never be ashamed to lift a man up out of the mire and help him stand upon his feet; but if he insists upon lying down in the mud and tries to drag you down with him, let him alone." This is a good motto for everyone to adopt. Do your best to help someone do right, but if he will not let you help him, you have done your duty, let him alone.

TRUTH WILL TRIUMPH.

RECENTLY there have been several crimes alleged to have been committed by Negroes which when run to cover were found to have been committed by white men. Despite apparent evidence to the contrary truth will ultimately triumph. In the meantime see to it that you do nothing to bring discredit upon yourself or race.

SCRUPULOUS HONESTY.

THERE is need for it. Too many people contract debts with no intention of paying them. This is downright dishonesty. Our observation has been that this is more common among men than among women.

WHAT doth the busy little "Bee," While buzzing on the wing?
"Ouch! Ouch! Jimminy! Gee! Darn it, don't it sting?"

STUBBORN FACTS FOR OMAHA

(Rev. M. H. Wilkinson, Pastor M. Moriah Baptist Church.)

It will be long remembered with regret, what took place in Omaha Sunday night, Sept. 28. Everything shameful and not glorious. A member of the Negro race is considered the bottom cause. It might be that the right man has met his fate and it might be that the guilty party is yet at large. The mayor and other officers are to be commended for the brave stand they took to prevent the worst outrage in America's history. No man is to be shielded for the wrong he has done, regardless of color. We are only sorry that patience could not rule, so that the wrong doer could be handled by law, instead of a mob.

We want the public to understand that any man, black, white or any other color, that will attack a woman, black, white or any other color, is

nothing short of a "nigger." The quicker such persons are put out of the community, the happier all races will live together. The colored race is not in sympathy with any cut-throat and disgraceful of the race. The men who do such things are those who do not belong to any Christian church, nor religious organization of the community. Any member of the race or any other race that disregards the Christian church or assembly is dangerous to the race. The home in which the man was caught and company, is a demonstration of the fact, that he was not belonging to the class of respectable Negroes, and we have no more use for them than the respectable white have for theirs. This is a well established fact. We want the public to understand that the respectable Negroes think too much of themselves to raise a race riot for a man whom nobody knows anything about and who stands for nothing.

There is a fighting spirit in Negro, when there is something to fight for, in this land or No Man's Land. But, as touching the one that was put to death on Sunday night there is no fighting spirit about him. It is absolutely unnecessary to watch the Negroes in the northern section of the city, and the military officials has undertaken an unnecessary task in sending soldiers in the section which they are now stationed. Action on the part of the colored citizens would be a demonstration of the fact that we are in accord with the action of that dirty rascal who did that deed. I therefore advise that the military official withdraw as soon as possible the soldiers in the northern section of the city. This will readily create a better feeling between all races. This military action is a humiliation to the colored people. The presence of these soldiers in the community keeps the people thinking that trouble is ahead, and are ready to defend themselves and not Brown. Let it not be thought for a moment that they are going to lynch the mayor, nor finish what is left of the once beautiful \$2,000,000 county building. No, sir, nor anyone else. Those who did that are the ones need watching. What is in the mind of the colored people now is whether Omaha thinks that Brown has not paid the price, and there is anything in the air by way of coming to get some other law-abiding Negroes. Send back the soldiers to their old beats, and all is over.

Flashes of Most Anything

IF—One of those "little big" words upon which rests destinies of individuals and nations. The poet says:

"IF
If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired of waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream and not make dreams your master;
If you can think and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with triumph and disaster,
And treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build them up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch and toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings,
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them, Hold on!

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds worth of distance run,
Yours is the earth and everything that's in it,
And which is more—you'll be a Man, my son.
—KIPLING.

Dental Hygiene and Care of the Teeth

By Dr. W. W. Peebles



By Dr. Peebles.

REMINISCENCES

In the article of last week we spoke of the necessity of teaching the young ones the use of the toothbrush. Habits early required grow upon one, and soon become a part of our nature; hence if we acquire this habit early in life, it will follow that one will need no further warning as we grow into maturity.

As the writer has promised to intersperse these articles with experiences in the army, no better time can he do so than at the present.

One of the startling facts early brought to the attention of the writer, was the very neglected condition of the people in France. Dental hygiene seems to be in its embryonic stage among these people.

Fine appearing men and women present in innumerable cases, a distorted facial appearance wholly due to this neglect of the teeth. After many inquiries I have concluded that the fear of the dentist and the lack of proper instructions added to the scarcity of dental surgeons, accounts for this neglect.

Oftentimes as a train loaded with soldiers would stop at some small town, the soldiers would soon hop off and invariably rush for water and were soon busily engaged in cleansing their teeth. This was always highly amusing as well as interesting to the

natives. Many times I have been asked why the Americans wash their teeth so often. Only among the more intelligent has dental sanitation received any consideration.

In large cities with a hundred thousand inhabitants one finds seldom more than ten dentists. While in the villages there are none. Here the dentist comes once a month, and his visits are heralded by the town crier. Let us look for a moment at this important personage. Twice daily in the villages and small towns, there appears on the streets, a man designated as the official town crier. With his ever present horn, which seems to give him as much pleasure as that received by a youngster on Christmas morn, he announces his presence to the ever busy people. As soon as a crowd has assembled the crier begins to read from a long sheet, in stentorian voice, the news of the state and county or department.

During the war when the interest of the people was ever at high tide there was always a large crowd to listen. We who are blessed, or cursed, take it as you will, with innumerable newspapers and periodicals of all kinds, can hardly appreciate the fact that in France, with its thirty-eight million people, I am sure there are not more than seven different dailies, and they are never over four or six pages. So you can readily see the need of a town crier.

How the old world brings one out of the studied cold atmosphere of this new highly nervous age, and with its quaint picturesque characters, guides one into the laughter and sunshine of the past. Think as one will the thought readily comes if in the old state, there is not a more natural and tranquil life, with a charm that one fails to feel in this modern life. For me it retains a memory which will always cheer and brighten the dark and worried moments that comes so often and unheralded.

Monitor subscription contest closes Saturday, November 15. Get busy if your church is going to earn that \$100.

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