

THE MONITOR

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

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ARTICLE XIV. CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

Citizenship Rights Not to be Abridged.

1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

THE passing of the Old Year and the incoming of the New is regarded as a fitting time for making new resolutions. There is something tremendously solemn and thought-compelling in the flight of time which is forced upon the attention, either from custom or sentiment and perhaps the intermingling of both, of even the most heedless and indifferent as the Old Year dies. It seems like the passing of some dear friend, does it not? It may have been heavy with sorrow or redolent with joy, for most of us, but somehow it has gained for us a personality and has become a part of us. And then, too, our failure to make the most of the opportunities, whether material, intellectual or spiritual, which were ours during the year which has closed or is closing, comes with a more or less noticeable twinge of one's conscience or a remorseful tugging at the heart strings. Then to many comes the irresistible impulse to penitently fall upon one's knees, ask forgiveness for past failures and neglect; for sins of omission and commission, and then make some well-intentioned resolution of amendment for the New Year. This is what many of our readers will do. It will have more value upon our lives than we think, even though we do not keep the well-meant resolution. It pays to take spiritual account of stock and be stirred by nobler impulses even though we do this but once a year and the humiliating breaking of our resolution or resolutions may disclose our fickleness and need of a strength not our own.

We wish you in all sincerity a Happy and a Prosperous New Year! May you have strength to keep whatever resolutions for amendment of life you may make. May each day as the sun moves toward the west find to your credit some good deed written in the Book of God's remembrance! May blessings, temporal and spiritual, be showered upon you! May this be your prayer for the New Year and find its richest fulfillment:

"Build thee more stately mansions,
O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy low-vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea!"

ORGANIZED LABOR'S CHANGED ATTITUDE

ORGANIZED labor, a force which must be recognized and whose insistent demands for a more equitable share of the wealth which it helps to produce, has at last seen a great light. It has dawned upon many of the labor leaders, if not upon the rank and file, that the cause of labor is one and no group can be excluded from its ranks. It has been deemed wise until recently to forbid the Negro entrance to the ranks of organized labor. Indeed, even now, some unions still bar him, but in self-defense, not because of any particular love of their black fellow-workman, these will be eventually compelled to admit him. Naturally the Negro laborer is a little shy of the overtures being made to him by the unions. He will not fall over himself in accepting these overtures; but it is our opinion and advice that he should maintain a sympathetic attitude and a readiness to become a member of organized labor. Organized labor's attitude has changed. Never mind what has changed it. This being true, our group should be willing to take advantage of whatever opportunities it may offer, provided they are honorable, fair and just and call for no compromise of one's manhood

and self-respect. Our people must insist that they are men, whether in the ranks of labor or anywhere else, and not merely Negroes. Organized labor has every thing to gain and nothing to lose by its changed attitude toward the Negro workman. It needs him. It needs to know him. Ignorance of one's neighbor is the prolific mother of prejudice. Labor, black and white, needs acquaintance and acquaintance often begets friendship.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS

THE Monitor with commendable pride calls attention to the New Year's greeting from colored business and professional men which occupies a page in this issue. This showing is quite gratifying. It will be a revelation to many of the number of growing business enterprises among us. This is only part of the number. It shows that we are making progress.

STEPS TO HIGHER LEVELS

PATHETIC, indeed, but by no means hopeless is the status of the Negro in the United States, to the upbuilding of which he has devoted his brawn and his brain and for the defense of which his blood has incarnadined almost countless battlefields. Ever willing to give of his best, he is constantly discriminated against and wantonly insulted; denied equal protection of the laws and exploited at every opportunity. Jim-crowed he is supposed to take it patiently and uncomplainingly. By direction and indirection, a certain minority of the dominant group in almost every community, seek to deprive him of his plainest constitutional rights. Such action is acquiesced in by an indifferent or short-sighted majority. Growing in intelligence, self-respect, resourcefulness and consciousness of his strength and power, he is becoming restive and dissatisfied with the conditions under which he is placed. Fortunately, he is not revengeful; nor does he believe in reprisal. He is warm-hearted, sympathetic and kind. These are elements of his strength of character which will ultimately triumph over the injustices which he keenly feels and against which he justly protests, a protest growing louder hour by hour.

We say his case is pathetic, because his aspirations towards higher and better things are met by indifference and rebuff by those who ought to lend encouragement; his warm-heartedness by coldness; his citizenship by denial of his civil rights; his patriotism by proscription. Not hopeless, because all these things but fire him with zeal and determination to prove himself in every way a man. Moreover, the manifestation of patience, self-restraint and progress in spite of proscription are the stepping stones upon which we shall rise to higher levels and compel respect from those who really count.

ORGANIZED LABOR'S COMPENSATION LAW

ORGANIZED labor a few years ago had enacted the employers' liability and compensation law which offers splendid protection to the workmen of Nebraska. The Western Laborer contained in last week's issue the following item which will prove instructive and thought-compelling:

"Congressman Jeffries secured the passage of a compensation claim for Rudolph Desdunes in congress last week for \$1,200 in full for total blindness. The accident happened nine years ago in New Orleans. Had this accident happened in Nebraska under the compensation law this man would get \$12 each week for 300 weeks, \$3,600, plus \$9 each week for the balance of life."

CHRISTMAS HYMN

Thou blessed babe of Bethlehem,
Thou were sleeping, sweetly sleeping
On thy mother's breast,
O, did'st thou fleeting dream of Calvary
E'er enter to disturb
Thy peaceful rest?

O holy virgin mother, as you soothed
the babe in accents sweet and mild,
Ye angels, as you sang for joy—
Did your hearts not throb in pity for
This little child?

Thou blessed babe of Bethlehem,
Thou didst suffer deepest sorrow
Sinners to befriend;
O Christ, our savior, our redeemer,
Be thou with us, watch thou o'er us,
Go before us, to the end!

—EVA A. JESSYE.

THE WOOD BOOM

THE boom for Leonard Wood as presidential nominee on the republican ticket is steadily gaining headway. Strong organizations have been formed and are being formed throughout the country. In our judgment he is the man of the hour. The Monitor modestly suggested some months ago that General Wood would be the strongest and best man whom the republicans could nominate. We were never known to do anything half-heartedly and so we are wholeheartedly and enthusiastically for Wood, whom we hope to see nominated by acclamation. We hope that readers of The Monitor throughout the country will lend their influence to creating a sentiment for Leonard Wood for president. The Wood boom is gaining headway hourly.

GROWING APPRECIATION OF LEADERSHIP

AN excellent illustration of the growing appreciation of intelligent and unselfish leadership which shows our people are thinking and learning rapidly, came to our attention the other day. A suggestion was made to a certain head-waiter who has a capable and efficient corps of waiters who are a credit to their profession, that the wages of his men ought to be and probably would be cut. His courteous reply was: "I am sure my men will not stand for it." He proceeded to give reasons why they would not. The manager said: "May I talk to the men about it?" "Certainly, if you wish it."

The head-waiter told his men of the desired conference. They said: "That is hardly necessary. You have spoken for us. The gentleman has been given our answer through you. We are perfectly satisfied with your presentation of our side of the case. You are our representative and spokesman."

This looks like confidence in leadership.

FRIENDSHIP

ACQUAINTANCES may be many, friends are few. Someone, we believe it was a little boy, gave the best definition of a friend we have ever heard. It was this: "A friend is one who knows all my faults and still loves me." Tested by this definition, we wonder how many friends we have, or what is more important yet, to how many we are indeed a friend. Poor, indeed, is he, even though he have the fabled wealth of a Croesus who is friendless. Never reach the point where you believe that you have no need of a friend; neither should you discard old friends for fancied new ones. Make new friends, of

course, and become yourself a friend to as many as you can, but never forget the old friends. Better advice could not be given than that contained in the familiar lines from Hamlet: "The friends thou hast and their affection tried grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel." Friendship is a sacred trust which all should guard.

PRESIDENT DISAPPROVES COURT-MARTIAL SENTENCE

(By Associated Negro Press.)
Washington, D. C., Dec. 31.—Sentence of death imposed by court-martial on Capt. Daniel Smith, a Negro of the 368th infantry, on charge of having fled from the enemy in France, has been disapproved and the officer ordered restored to duty, according to orders, published by the war department. The order is signed by Secretary Baker "by direction of the president."

Capt. Smith was accused of "shamefully" retreating and running away from the enemy on September 28, 1918, when his regiment was ordered to advance near Vinnele-Chateau.

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