

# THE MONITOR

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### SMACKS OF HYPOCRISY

LAST week a young woman of careless life was shot by her paramour in a downtown cabaret alleged to be frequented largely by the sporting element of both races. We say largely by the sporting class, because it is this element who regularly frequent cabarets. These habitués may belong to the wealthy classes who spend their money freely for what they consider a good time or by their imitators who have less money at their command. The jilted youth committed suicide. This tragedy at the Monarch Gardens, which has been operated for several months under license from the Board of Public Welfare, brought the place into the public eye and immediately there arose a clamor for the closing of this "notorious resort." The real motive back of this clamor seems to be the fact that it is conducted by colored men and frequented by both whites and blacks who belong to the social strata which take delight in frequenting places of this character. Under the laws of Nebraska public places are conducted for the public. The public includes all citizens whatever their creed or color may be. This is a fact which by practice many are striving to ignore. If, therefore, white people and black people voluntarily patronize any public places which admit them they are within their rights. They do not go there under duress, but by their own free will. Now, if the Monarch Gardens are or have been improperly conducted or run in violation of the law, they and all like places which violate the law should be closed. But the fact that a tragedy occurred there is no more reason for arbitrarily closing it than there was for closing the Madison Square Gardens when Harry Thaw shot Stanford White over Evelyn Nesbit. The moral spasm into which certain would-be reformers have been thrown by the tragedy which happened in a place which has been conducted for several months under their sanction and license smacks of hypocrisy. The Monitor thinks that every city would be better off without cabarets and similar places which cater only to the frivolous and unrestrained side of life, but all people are not cast in the same groove. Each, therefore, to his own.

### THE COMMISSION FORM AGAIN

THE commission form of government as operated in Omaha is more expensive than the old aldermanic system and less efficient. It is human nature to shift responsibility wherever and whenever it can be done. To this the commission form lends itself most admirably, while the public awaits results. Not only is the evasion of responsibility a defect of the system, but there is another unsound principle of government involved. The commissioners are not elected to discharge any specific duties, but after election they themselves choose what duties they shall discharge. It is not a sound policy in the administration either of business or government that employes or servants shall determine what they will or will not do. The theory of the commission form of government is the division and distribution of responsibility, but in practice it virtually destroys responsibility. Then, again, it weakens the executive function of the city government, depriving the mayor of control of the police power. It is a fundamental principle of government that the executive thereof should have control of the police power to enforce the law and preserve order. The Monitor urges a return to the councilmanic system. Back to normalcy. Back to efficiency.

### PRESIDENT'S SWAN SONG

PRESIDENT Wilson has delivered his last message to congress. It may well be called his swan song. It is cast in a minor chord and breathes a lofty faith in the final triumph of the principles for which he has unflinchingly stood. His interpretation of

hear that over in England the soldier boys are giving the landlords a hot time and we begin to think we will try out the scheme. The English landlords lay down the law that you must buy. A soldier blows along, lays down a few pounds and says he will buy. He gets into the house and then tells ye landlord that he has changed his mind and thinks he will rent. Then it is the landlord's chance to belly-ache and he bellyaches some. And the law laughs at him, as it were.

### WHAT THE EDITORS SAY

#### OUR SENTIMENTS, TOO

We are in hearty sympathy with the appeal of the National Equal Rights League to Oswald Garrison Villard of New York and Miss Jane Addams of Chicago, members of the committee of one hundred, which is at Washington, D. C., hearing evidence on the troubles in Ireland. The appeal asks that the committee shall continue on after it has completed its investigations on Ireland and then hear evidence on the proscription, persecutions and killings of Afro-Americans, which are claimed to constitute a reign of terror in the South of like sort with that in Ireland. If Englishmen were more like Americans, they would tell this country, in tones that would reach around the world, to first clean their own doorsteps before meddling in the affairs of other countries. —Cleveland Gazette.

#### IMMIGRATION AND NEGRO LABOR

The great tide of immigration now setting in from Europe, and the southern influx along the Mexican border, with their bearing upon Negro labor in both sections, are receiving careful attention from Negro leaders. The result of their cogitations, as expressed in the colored press, is full of encouragement to all who wish the Negro well.

There is a marked absence of complaint of self-pity in considering this new competition. Negro labor is merely warned that increased efficiency in production, and greater thrift are necessary if advantages gained are to be held, North or South. There is no way, the leaders urge, for any worker to permanently profit by temporary circumstances except by raising his own standards of faithfulness and efficiency. "Employment," the workers are told, "is economic, not sentimental. However sympathetic employers may be, efficiency is the watchword. If employes do not measure up, there is but one thing to do—make a change." If colored laborers—or any other—will follow this advice, prosperity is ahead of them and for their employers alike. —Tampa Bulletin.

#### A LESSON

Robert Lowe, a Negro youth charged with criminal assault and twice rescued from an angry mob, has been acquitted by the Texas jury which sat on his case. This shows better than words the inherent viciousness of lynching. It is the most elemental principle of justice that every man is entitled to a fair trial. And a fair trial at the hands of an infuriated mob is impossible. Young Lowe has made a fortunate escape. But more important than the saving from violent death of an innocent person is the hope that the lesson which this incident contains will not be lost, that it may be the means of preventing many lynchings in the future. —New York Sun.

### Proverbs and Paragraphs

HE that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. —Bible.

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Beauty is a witch against whose charms faith melteth into blood.

There is no virtue so truly great and godlike as justice.—Addison.

So Justice while she winks at crimes Stumbles on innocence sometimes. —Butler.

Amongst the sons of men how few are known Who dare be just to merit not their own. —Churchill.

Swift kindnesses are best; a long delay On kindness takes the kindness all away.

Knowledge is proud that he has learned so much, Wisdom is humble that he knows no more. —Cowper.

### "WHAT'S YOUR HURRY?"

This is a slogan that was recently adopted by the Omaha traffic safety committee.

The use of this slogan is a part of the campaign of the safety traffic committee in its efforts to reduce reckless driving and to teach the public that reckless driving at any speed is against the law.

Under the provisions of the Omaha ordinances, auto trucks of three or more tons carrying capacity are limited to a speed of not to exceed eight miles an hour.

Drivers of automobiles are law violators if they cross intersections, or pass school houses at a speed of more than twelve miles an hour.

In the congested districts of the city driving at a speed greater than fifteen miles an hour is a violation of law.

On boulevards, highways and outlying streets of the city a speed of twenty miles may be attained and maintained without a violation of law.

It must not be forgotten, however, that reckless driving at any speed is against the law.

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE. Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

### EX-DEPUTY SHERIFF SHOT LEADING MOB

(By the Associated Negro Press)  
 GOLDSBORO, N. C., Dec. 9.—One man, H. Futrell, former deputy sheriff of Wayne county, was shot last week during an attack on a special guard of twelve citizens barricaded in the Wayne county court house when a mob of citizens fired upon the fall in an attempt to seize and lynch five Negroes held on charge of murdering a white man. The firing lasted only a few minutes. Barricaded behind felt mattresses, the small force in the court house returned the fire, and Futrell, said to have been the leader of the mob, was killed. The mob scattered, but further trouble was expected and a company of state troops was sent here from Durham.

### MAJOR DOUGLASS, SURVIVING SON OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, PASSES AWAY

He Bared His Breast to Shot and Shell in the Civil War and Was the Father of the Famous Violinist.

By JOHN WESLEY CROMWELL, President American Negro Academy WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Major Charles R. Douglass, the surviving son of the family of Frederick Douglass, who died here Tuesday night, November 24, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, was buried from the Fifteenth Street Presbyterian church. Mr. Douglass was born in Lynn, Mass., in the spring of 1844, when the anti-slavery agitation was at its height, and his father, Frederick Douglass, was easily the most conspicuous figure in that struggle. Under the stress of the jostling life of that period young Douglass grew up. All of the foremost men and women of that time he knew—William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, Martin E. Delany, Samuel Ringgold Ward, Charles Lenox Remond, Alexander Crummell, James McCune Smith, Henry Highland Garnet, Gerit Smith, John Brown, for they were all visitors at his father's house. It was a thrilling experience, a severe training, a most exacting discipline under the master of the Douglass home that he received and under which he grew up to man's estate, to bare his breast to shot and shell when Abraham Lincoln called for the colored volunteer in the early sixties, when the Fifty-fourth and Fifty-fifth were mustered in the service of Uncle Sam on the soil of Massachusetts.

When the civil war was over and he was a battle-worn hero, he settled here in Washington, where he had lived ever since, the father of Joseph H. Douglass, the violinist, and Haley Douglass, the teacher in the Dunbar high school. Mr. Douglass in the early seventies was a member of the school board, later a clerk in the pension office until he retired only a few months ago. During all these years he was a citizen highly esteemed. A tall, commanding figure, with profile and hair strongly recalling the distinguishing features of his illustrious father—these characteristics made him a figure, once seen, to be ever afterwards remembered.

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