

THE MONITOR

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THIEF NOT A NEGRO

IN last week's issue we commented on the sensational headline "Negro Terrorizes Shoppers," which was the front page headliner of the Sunday edition of the Omaha Daily News, January 23. We stated that the item which elicited this front page prominence in box car letters was one to the effect "that a thief, who happened to be a colored man, had snatched several petticoats from a counter in the Burgess-Nash store, and, dashing through the aisles, escaped with his loot." We took it for granted from the news item that the thief was a colored man. We find, however, that even this was contrary to fact. For we learn that "Leonard C. Smith was sentenced to the penitentiary for one to seven years by District Judge Troup yesterday (Saturday) for stealing an armful of petticoats from the Burgess-Nash store." No, dear reader, Leonard C. Smith is not a Negro, or the item would have been featured after this fashion, "Negro Who Terrorized Shoppers Sent to Pen."
 Not only must we bear the handicap of being regarded as a criminally inclined race because of the regrettable policy of the daily press, speaking broadly, to lay emphasis upon race rather than upon crime, but the added handicap of the crimes of the other fellow generously saddled upon us. Never mind, we will keep our heads and win out yet in spite of all.

tising patrons frankly tell us that they find The Monitor "the medium" for reaching our trade. The Monitor as an advertising medium takes second place to none in Omaha. We cover our field thoroughly. For this we are thankful and it gives us pleasure to serve. Last year The Monitor carried 25,000 inches of display advertising, which represented several of the leading firms of Omaha and Lincoln.

NO FAILURE

THERE is no failure. God's immortal plan Accounts no less a lesson learned for man.
 Defeat is oft the discipline we need To save us from the wrong, or teaching heed
 To errors which would else more dearly cost—
 A lesson learned is ne'er a battle lost. Whene'er the cause is right, be not afraid;
 Defeat is then but victory delayed And even the greatest victories of the world
 Are often won when the battle-flags are furled.
 —Thomas Speed Mosby.

SNYCOPATED SPASMS

BOOKS

IN wandering around this yere beautiful burg of ours and visiting the homes of sundry chocolate-colored chums, we note that the scarcest article of furniture is a book or two. In the far dim distant days when home wasn't complete without a stand full of "bricky brack" in one corner, "Home, Sweet Home," over the door, and a rag rug grandma made for the parlor, it was always customary to see a forty-pound Bible on the center table, an Ayres Almanac and a red-covered volume of "Mr. Buyan's Progress of the Pilgrims," or some such name. But today you don't even see these. In fact, books are scarcer than hens that have the pyorrhea. You will find a five hundred buck player piano, a two hundred simoleon phonograph, a hundred lamb tonze Wilton, along with a thousand dollar set of wood and wool stuff, but if you expect to find a book or two lying around, the chances are you will go blind before you gim one. Now there is no law against anybody owning a book. There are a lot of tomfool laws about almost everything under the aze, but no dummy has ever screwed up enough nerve to ask a new amendment prohibiting a front room table from holding up a few volumes of literature. Maybe you will never read them and never expect any other human squish to read them, but they add a grand effect. They always make a visitor feel that they are chatting with a person of family who has Minerva by the hair. The effect is good. It is the custom of the dippy domed to strive after effect anyway, so while you are striving you may as well hit the trail all the way. Give the impression that you have a few brains locked between the parietals whether you have or not, and there is nothing in the world that shimmies forth this effect better than a few books. Just be careful when you invest in books that you don't in-

vest in German, French or Arabic books. Such a mistake would mess you all up and put an untwistable kink in your fond calculations.

HAT THE EDITORS SAY

COMMON LAW WIVES

A VERY casual investigation into family life in Chicago will reveal to the investigator an alarming number of "common law wives." A concurrent investigation into crime and wickedness now seeming to enthrall this city will disclose a startling connecting link between common law at home and no law away from home.
 No attempt is made to attribute Chicago's crime wave to "common law" marriages, but it is a significant fact that six of every ten crime stories published by newspapers furnishing news for black people in Chicago during the last four months have involved "common law" wives.
 The living together of a man and woman involves mankind's most sacred institution—the family. There are two ways to create the family—with civilized society's sanction, or without it, and he who refuses to subscribe to society's decree concerning mankind's basic and most sacred institution rarely troubles himself to heed her other mandates.
 Marriage as decreed by society is the union of persons of opposite sex as husband and wife, whereby with appropriate ceremonies, men and women are joined together in a special kind of social and legal dependence. A bond is created which cannot be broken at will. Responsibilities are assumed from which relief can be secured only through due process of law. "Common law" marriage on the other hand is merely the living together of man and woman as husband and wife. The bond, if there is any, is the bond of cohabitation, but there is no legal responsibility or dependence. The courts of earlier days recognized this relationship only after the flight of many years had cemented the relationship. The "common law" marriage has no illicit aspects, but is open—notorious, and the cohabitating parties are reputed by those who know them to be man and wife.
 A man who enters the "common law" relationship does so because it has no legal dependency. He can terminate it at will. In other words, he is playing lightly with the most profound and serious relationship known to man. He is therefore a wanton. The common law husband scorns marriage because in the common law status, he finds privileges without fixed responsibilities. He is after something for nothing. He has the psychology of the thief.
 Except in statutory cases, the offspring of a "common law" marriage has no claim to the family name of the father, but in 98 per cent of the cases of "common law" marriages there are no offspring, the parties to the outlawed relationship having willfully prostituted the elementary purpose of the creation of the family. Legally, they have committed no offense, but by every precept of the moral law, they are murderers. Every "common law" husband can easily be arraigned as an actual lawbreaker by the very act of his living in "common law." Beyond that, he is a wanton, a potential thief and a moral murderer.
 Since black people are coming to the North and are finding their fellows disregarding and condoning by their inactivity this insidious institution, they must bear in mind that if they wish to build up compositely a red-blooded, virulent race of people, real strength must be infused by the family relationship. The black man, being weak because of oppression from without and apathy from within, must build up a race of men and women—not weaklings and moral derelicts.—Chicago Whip, January 29.

CAMP FIRE

Group Ocowasin held their social meeting at the Y. W. C. A. Friday afternoon. A short program was rendered, the following persons responding: Miss Polly Turner, piano solo, "The Storm;" Lucille Bivens, reading, "The Acorn;" Irene Brown, piano solo, and a few short stories by the group in general.
 Lucy Allan and Lucille Bivens were hostesses for the afternoon. Miss Ruth Jones was appointed assistant secretary instead of secretary as mentioned in last week's paper.

SOUTH SIDE LOCALS

Mr. Simmons of North Platte, Neb. is here visiting with relatives and friends.
 The Rev. Mr. Burkhardt of Lincoln has been assigned as pastor at Allen Chapel Methodist church, Twenty-fifth and R streets.
 Mrs. Paralee King, 1441 South Eighteenth street, is quite ill at the University hospital.
 Mr. and Mrs. L. Pegram, 2627 Y street, entertained at a dinner party in honor of Mr. and Mrs. William Carter and family. Covers were laid for ten, and the evening was spent very pleasantly.
 Mr. Wilks of Muscatine, Ia., is here visiting with his daughter, Mrs. Dixon, 5402 South Twenty-eighth street.
 Dr. and Mrs. Riddles, formerly residing on the South Side, are now living at 964 North Twenty-seventh street.
 A Valentine party will be given in the T. D. C. hall, Twenty-ninth and T streets, February 14.
 Drs. Jones and Northcross are sponsoring the organization of a Pastors' Aid club on this side. A complimentary number are enrolled in the club.

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