

# 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.

### HOW TO MEET THIS MENACE

IT is enheartening in the midst of so much that has a tendency to dishearten even the most optimistic and stout-hearted in these days to note the practical unanimity with which such a large section of even the southern press is denouncing the revival of the pernicious Ku Klux Klan. Another ray of light is short athrow the darkness by the utterances coming from the ultra-conservative pulpit of which the historic St. Paul's church of Richmond, Va., is representative. Press and pulpit are the great moulders of public sentiment, the all-powerful creators of public opinion. Whatsoever therefore these two powerful agencies favor or disapprove flourish or decline. Opposition therefore to the Ku Klux Klan from such influential sources will do much to discredit this diabolical institution which the rector of St. Paul's aptly excommunicates as "an insult to the forces of orderly government." We rather fear however, that this organization has gained such a headway that it will take something besides hostile public sentiment to stay its insane machinations. It has been organized and carrying on its secret work for six years and during that time has gained a momentum which it believes justifies its coming out into the open and frankly declaring its purposes as it has done in the last few months. One may be well assured that were it not for its consciousness of its power that it would not have given itself this wide publicity. We are of the opinion that in addition to the public sentiment that must be aroused against it, there is need for an organization equally strong to meet it on its own ground and to oppose force to force. Since it is organized avowedly to intimidate our people we ought to have an organization, compact, formidable, mobile, strongly financed to strike back in self-defense. If the government will not suppress these midnight assassins and outthroats of the "Invisible Empire" law-abiding American citizens whom the subjects of his imperial majesty attack will have to protect themselves, and will.

This in our judgment will be the most effective way to meet this menace.

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

THE Monitor desires to call the attention of the Department of Justice to the fact that according to a statement published in the World-Herald of February 15, one of its representatives, Special Agent Byrn, publicly endorses the Ku Klux Klan, and can see no objection to the formation of a branch of this un-American and dangerous organization in Omaha. Mr. Byrn is quoted as saying when advised of its proposed organization here: "Well, if the Klan stands only for what we understand it does—I'm mighty glad of it!"

"The Ku Klux Klan of modern times is nothing like that of the post-bellum period, as everyone knows. The members wish to make Americans pay more attention to America and not spend so much time and money and conversation in worrying about what is going on in other countries. They are out in the open, and so far there is nothing about them to criticize."

We do not believe the Department of Justice will knowingly permit its representatives to publicly sponsor any secret organization the avowed purpose of which is to overthrow the orderly process of government, by resorting to night-riding attacks and terrorism. Does the department endorse Mr. Byrn's views? As a government official is he within his rights in making such a statement, if he be correctly quoted?

### THE APPROACHING LOCAL CAMPAIGN

IN Nebraska the privilege of voting is accorded to all citizens of both

sexes, who can meet the prescribed qualifications. Nothing is exacted of one citizen that is not applicable to all. Since voting is a sacred duty, all of our citizens of voting age should qualify by registering and studying the issues before the community, and voting their sentiments honestly and fearlessly. The candidates are nominated at the primaries.

It is very essential, therefore, that our people should prepare to vote in the April primaries. At the primaries we have the privilege of selecting and nominating the men whom we desire to be our representatives in the community. Important issues are to be met in Omaha the coming spring campaign. The city government is to be chosen and in this we are all vitally interested. The Monitor, therefore, at this early date desires to call the attention of our citizens to the necessity of qualifying in order that they may vote intelligently in the spring campaign.

### WHAT THE EDITORS SAY

#### AN UNEXPECTED REBUKE

The showing made by the southern members of congress in the hearing before the committee on the census, in opposition to the representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was styled "humiliating" by such a devoted exponent of southern interests as the Memphis Commercial Appeal. Among other things it said:

"The representatives of this organization who appeared before the committee were Negroes of ability who presented their case impressively and with becoming dignity. But the manner in which they were bullied by southern congressmen, who were members of the committee, presents a humiliating contrast. The courtesy and ability with which the northern members conducted themselves, though they evidently sympathized with their southern associates, was highly commendable. From this exhibition it seems quite clear that the south must improve the quality of its representation, if it hopes to retain the respect of the nation. One cannot imagine Lamar or George or Isham G. Harris or Garland playing the role that these men did."

The fact that a rebuke like this should be delivered by a southern daily shows that a sense of public decency and decorum still exists in that section, though not manifest in its representation in congress.—The New York Age.

#### KU KLUX KLAN

Abraham Lincoln did not live to see the organization of the Ku Klux Klan in the south following the war. An institution so abhorrent to the ideals and ideas he represented must have made him turn in his grave.

Now the Ku Klux Klan is revived. It is composed of 100 per cent Americans, according to its "imperial wizard" (good name that, for chief of such a terrorist, lynch-law mob—"imperial wizard"—for "mystery" and "magic" are two of the weapons with which they terrify).

That ought to be enough to characterize the Ku Klux Klan. We have had sufficient experience to show us what "100 per cent Americans" are. They are intolerant, un-American, violent suppressors of freedom and democracy. They have to label themselves "100 per cent Americans," in order to justify their conduct to themselves.

But then, also, these particular "100 per cent Americans"—the Ku Klux Klan—are organized for the purpose of "maintaining the supremacy of the white race." Educated persons know that anything that has to have its supremacy maintained has no supremacy. It is like contempt of court. It is the court that brings itself into contempt, by its own illegal actions, in

most cases. Supremacy maintains itself. The phrase is mere camouflage to cover up the real purpose of the Ku Klux Klan which expressed in plain, southern white man's English, would be "to keep the niggers down." Just think of such a thing in the south—in the United States—in this day and age.

In the south? The "imperial wizard" (somehow that title suggests a monkey on a stick) announced at a public initiation of 527 Kluxes at Birmingham, Alabama, last month, that there were 30,000 members of the Ku Klux Klan in the north. And that 7,000 of these were in New York and Chicago!

This seemed to a bewildered editor impossible, until he read in the Chicago Daily News a dispatch by a Chicago newspaper correspondent who so far forgot whatever decency he may have acquired, as to describe himself as having "had the honor of being the first northerner not a klansman to see such a sight" as this public initiation, which was obviously staged to invest the "klan" with more terrors for southern black folk. A very doubtful honor, it seems to a civilized man.

The "imperial wizard" (imperial is a frank word, at least) said that northern headquarters for the Negro-terrorizing organization would be opened shortly in Chicago or Cincinnati. It seems as if there ought to be some lawful way to wipe out this unlawful organization. That its influence has really penetrated to the north cannot be doubted since a Chicago high school had at its graduation exercises, January 28, a college instructor as orator, who poisoned the minds of the graduating high school boys and girls, as well as the vast audience, by a speech in which he stirred race hatred, developing the theme that races could not mix and therefore white "supremacy" had to be maintained.—The New Majority Chicago.

#### ALL-YEAR ROUND RELIGION

One of the pressing needs of the times appears to be an all-year round religion, a system of religious observance that can be depended upon for a steady pull instead of requiring to be speeded up at intervals by spasmodic revivals. Most churches today seem to be unable to arouse or maintain the interest of their followers without recourse to the services of visiting evangelists and the evoking of an emotional outburst of religious sentiment of a transitory nature.

The system of revivals, as conducted at present in most of our churches, is expensive in its cost and in most cases devoid of practical results, so far as the solid growth and extension of the church work is concerned. Much money is raised at these meetings, for the evangelic visitors must be paid as the laborer is worthy of his hire. Those who attend the meetings either witness or participate in the flood of religious emotions excited by the fervid oratory of the exhorters and many profess religion. This exaltation of feeling lasts for a few weeks until the evangelists depart and the flood of enthusiasm subsides. The church returns to the beaten rut of conventional service and most of the new converts relapse into their former ways until the next revival season.

What is needed in most of our churches is an all year round religion, which every pastor acting as his own evangelist and preaching the gospel of right living as well as dying in the triumph of faith. Every pastor should realize the real meaning of the term evangelize and carry it out, by preaching a living gospel of good works and the developing of strength of Christian character. With this kind of a religion, there would be no need for costly revivals.—The New York Age.

#### HANDICAPPED BY RACIAL PREJUDICE

Mr. A. L. Jackson, himself a Negro, takes up the cudgels for his race in the February Forum. He says:

"As with the Indian, so it has been with the Negro. In most every field of endeavor his demonstrations of ability and fitness have had to be on a racial basis. He has had no other choice. Therefore, many achievements by Negro men and women have been to him not so much accomplishments of talented individuals, but racial accomplishments refuting the constantly repeated assertion of pre-ordained inferiority.

"For generations the Negro has been looked upon as a predestined tiller of the soil. Any effort to break down this notion was frowned upon. So he filled the soil in an effort to satisfy tenant and unscientific overseers and plantation owners, until the day came when, following the advice of wiser men, he began acquiring his own land. Today more than 220,000 Negroes are owners of their own farms; 672,954 are renters or share croppers looking forward to the day when they will be owners; \$492,892,218 worth of farm-building stock and equipment are owned by these tillers of the soil."

#### CHAMBERMAID WINS SUIT FOR DAMAGES

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 17.—Miss Ella Wade, 1215 Woodland avenue, former chambermaid at the Coates House, who was arrested on the charge of suspicion of having stolen the pass keys at the Coates House and who was held forty-eight hours for investigation, brought suit against the Coates House by her attorney, J. B. Gibbs, and in Judge Buckner's division No. 1 she received a verdict of \$500 damages. Judge

Gibbs is being congratulated on all sides for this splendid victory.

#### HAS OBJECTIONS TO BECOMING WHITE

ALDERSON, W. Va., Feb. 17.—Mrs. Mary Jones, residing near here, who is of a decided chocolate complexion, has begun turning white in spots. So anxious is she to retain her original color that she has appealed to physicians for aid. She has been told, however, that there is no remedy for her.

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