

THE MONITOR

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT OMAHA, NEBRASKA, BY THE MONITOR PUBLISHING COMPANY

Entered as Second-Class Mail Matter July 2, 1915, at the Postoffice at Omaha, Nebraska, under the Act of March 3, 1879.
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES, \$2.00 A YEAR; \$1.25 6 MONTHS; 75c 3 MONTHS
 Advertising Rates Furnished Upon Application
 Address, The Monitor, Postoffice Box 1204, Omaha, Neb.
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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.

EPHRAIM'S IDOLS

EPHRAIM is joined to his idols, let him alone; but if Israel transgress he shall be punished.

These words are particularly applicable to certain conditions which are confronting many northern communities where hitherto, with certain limitations, the civil rights and privileges of colored citizens, in common with those of other citizens, have been respected. But it cannot be denied that in recent years sentiments which have been idols of the South have become prevalent in the North. One of the South's most popular idols, its fetish to which it bows down with all the blindness of a benighted African savage, is that of race prejudice. This manifests itself in a fanatical determination to humiliate the American of color in every way possible and make him feel that he is a pariah. This is the prime purpose underlying segregation, jimcrowism and the denial or curtailment of civil rights and privileges. These are the South's idols. "Ephraim is joined to his idols." Too blinded by his idolatry and ignorance to know the extent and folly of this transgression and sin. So all we can do, and should do, is to pray for his conversion that his eyes may be opened and that he may be brought to see the light. The North, however, has not, AS YET, fallen completely under the spell of this idolatry. There is, however, unmistakable evidence of its growing apostasy. If it bow to this idolatry, it will undoubtedly be punished. Almost daily in our own community we are confronted with this same fanatical desire to humiliate the colored American. A flagrant case of this character, and it is but typical of many, occurred last week when Dan Desdunes, one of our most useful and highly respected citizens, who had been invited to confer with a prominent business man of Minneapolis, Minn., at the Fontenelle hotel was not permitted to enter the passenger elevator. "I thought this was the North," said the indignant guest when informed of the affront put upon Mr. Desdunes. Denial of full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of inns, restaurants, public conveyances, barber shops, theatres and other places of amusement; subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to every person," which is becoming all too common in this and other hitherto comparatively fair-dealing and liberal-minded communities is indicative of

the fact that the North is bowing down to the South's idols. Can it afford to do this without sustaining great spiritual and moral loss? What will American civilization gain by fanatical worship of Ephraim's idols?

THE RIGHT STAND

THE MONITOR desires to personally thank Washington and Jefferson University for its manly and righteous stand last Saturday in refusing to withdraw Charles West, its gentlemanly and stellar halfback, from its football team at the demand of Washington and Lee University simply upon the ground of his color. Washington and Lee demanded that West be removed from the opposing team or they would not play. The Pennsylvania team stood pat which was the only right, manly and sportsmanlike thing to do and the Virginians forfeited the game. Universities should stand for liberal culture which recognizes men upon their merits and makes for broadmindedness and not narrowness and bigotry. This should make impossible the unsportsmanlike spirit shown by many American colleges in the field of athletics. May other universities have the courage to stand with Washington and Jefferson.

SUPPORTING OUR INSTITUTIONS

OUR Citizens should take special pride in supporting all our welfare institutions. All who have visited the Old Folks Home will realize that this is a worthy charity in which we should be deeply interested. The same is true of the North Side Branch of the Y. W. C. A. Not only should we do our full share in the maintenance of these institutions but as Omaha citizens we should stand ready to contribute our share towards the support of all welfare organizations functioning here.

HOLD UP IDEALS

IT is a serious mistake which some parents make in telling their children who may have displeased them, that they never will amount to anything. The law of suggestion is strong. Hold up to them ideals and encourage them to strive after those ideals. They will try to do so. The same is true of classes, groups and races.

The estimated value of the property owned by Negroes in the United States is \$1,500,000,000.

BOOK CHAT

By Mary White Ovington
 Chairman Board of Directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"The Widening Light"—By Carrie Williams Clifford. Can be secured through The Crisis, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York. Price \$1.50. Postage 10c.

"The Widening Light" is a collection of verse covering a considerable period of composition. Mrs. Clifford is an "occasional" writer, and sings of various happenings in the Negro world. The Negro Players of Broadway, The Silent Protest Parade, The East St. Louis Riots, The Tercentenary of the Landing of Slaves at Jamestown, The Lynching of Mary Turner. She tells of the Negro's lack of opportunity, and she praises the great men of the race, Douglass, Dunbar, Braithwaite. Her poems show a deep horror of injustice and cruelty.

There is a gentler note. A lover of nature she speaks of "the tiny cloud that o'er the hilltop clung" at Grassmere; of "the ocean, gripped by the tide, of 'the helting night fading toward the dawn.'" Her pictures of outdoor scenes are warm and fragrant, but the book stands primarily as an indictment of the white man.

"Whose, whose the condemnation then, if I Shame the false lips that lured them with a lie?"

Thus the mother cries who has given two sons, her first born and her last, to war that promised freedom and democracy and that ended in a lie. She inveighs against prejudice, the filthy sore

"Polluting all the currents of pure air. Dispersing its vile atoms everywhere."

And she hopes, wistfully for a future that shall be free of the rank weed, injustice.

What a wasteful thing is race prejudice! Man has taken over this noble planet and is moulding it with his very human hands. Certainly he needs all the love and kindness and ability of every race to keep his world from becoming a mud ball, grimy, ugly, gnawed away by parasites. And yet he spends the fast speeding years in preventing his neighbor from helping him! It is ludicrous as well as pathetic. Mrs. Clifford sees this and thus voices her hopes of the future.

And ye, who view life daily thro' a veil,

At length shall read its riddle face to face!

The hidden springs of beauty and the grace

Of fuller living wait beyond this trail

Blood-stained and steep; there stands the Holy Grail

Whose healing waters shall the woes efface,

Of plodding pilgrims, who still seek the place

Where men of every race shall say, "All Hail!"

To this broad shrine, we too shall bring our gift

Of joyous laughter, song and loyal love;

And rank on rank still surging up, we'll lift

Hosannahs to the God-of-worlds above!

His listening ear will catch our minor, sweet,

Making the concord of the spheres complete.

Going! Going! Where? ? To beautiful Dreamland Hall in the new Jewell building, Tuesday eve., Oct. 16. Adv.

Mrs. Jean Lattimore, who has been seriously ill for several months, is reported a little better.

WHAT OTHER EDITORS SAY

Shifting the Color Line

Hatred breeds nothing good. In the South, where so much of industry and agriculture is dependent upon Negro labor, the spread of race hatred is injuring the best interests of that section of the country. The northward migration of Negroes in recent years has been so great that fears are expressed about the future of the supply of laborers. The cotton planters will be hard put to secure an adequate number of workers, even at an increased rate of wages.

This situation, sensed by leading southerners, has led to much discussion, and recently President Coolidge was requested to create a commission to study the problem. The only remedy which has proved effective in many districts is better treatment of the laborers. For the Negro comes north, not so much to compete with white wage earners in northern cities, but because he feels, rightly or wrongly, that he is not treated fairly in many parts of the South. A keener analysis of more important social problems and a more tolerant attitude on the part of the employing group would alleviate much of the difficulties which face them. — The Omaha Bee.

TEACHERS' EXAMINATION

An examination for Teachers' Certificates will be held at the County Superintendent's office at the Court House in Omaha on Saturday, October 29, 1923.

Subjects for County and State Certificates will be given.

HENRY M. EATON,
 County Superintendent.

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Nebraska Civil Rights Bill

Chapter Thirteen of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Civil Rights. Enacted in 1893.

Sec. 1. Civil rights of persons. All persons within this state shall be entitled to a full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of inns, restaurants, public conveyances, barber shops, theatres and other places of amusement; subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to every person.

Sec. 2. Penalty for Violation of Preceding Section. Any person who shall violate the foregoing section by denying to any person, except for reasons of law applicable to all persons, the full enjoyment of any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, or privileges enumerated in the foregoing section, or by aiding or inciting such denials, shall for each offense be guilty of a misdemeanor, and be fined in any sum not less than twenty-five dollars, nor more than one hundred dollars, and pay the costs of the prosecution.

"The original act was held valid as to citizens; barber shops can not discriminate against persons on account of color. Messenger vs State, 25 Nebr. page 677. N. W. 638."

"A restaurant keeper who refuses to serve a colored person with refreshments in a certain part of his restaurant, for no other reason than that he is colored, is civilly liable, though he offers to serve him by setting a table in some private part of the house. Ferguson vs Gies, 82 Mich. 358; N. W. 718."