# THE MONITOR A NATIONAL WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

54 Prisoners Facing Freedom

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LIFT TOO

LIFTING-

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GROWING

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**HOUSTON MARTYRS SOON TO BE FREED** BY THE WAR DEPT.

Long and Persistent Fight By National **Association and Other Agencies Bring** Results

### EIGHTEEN GETRELEASE NOW

Report That Prison Sentences of Members of 24th Infantry, Alleged **Participants** of Houston **Riot**, Reduced

New York, May 23 .- The National Association for the Advancement of of Grace Leidy Burger, assisted by shall presently appear. Colored People has made public a Miss Rachel Rice, soprano, gave an exletter from John W. Weeks, U. S. Sec- cellent recital, Monday evening at the retary of War, reporting that the pris- North Side Y. W. C. A. Her program on sentences of every former member of the 24th Infantry, still imprisoned marked musicianship and ability. Miss for alleged paticipation in the Houston Rice has a pleasing soprano voice. than the choice by him of fit associ- as such feared by the natives of Riot of 1917, has been reduced, and Miss Inez Battles gave fine support that, according to the present revi- as accompanist. The program was as sions of sentence, every one of the follows:

Rondo

nien will have been eligible for re- Sonatina-Allegro ...... Schubert lease over a period from now until Concerto ...... Seitz 3 years and 7 months from now. The Allegro Moderato letter from the Secretary of War to Adagio the N. A. A. C. P. is as follows:

#### War Department Washington May 13, 1924.

Ag 253, 1 (5-12-24) Pris. Mr. Walter White, Assistant Secretary, N. A. A. C. P., 69 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. Dear Sir:

In harmony with the understanding with you, I am furnishing you the following information relative to the so-called Houston rioters.

ary when the board of officers visited that institution, thirty were serving pital, has sailed for Europe to take a cipal men on whom fell his election cruelty of their owners? life sentences. As the result of the special post graduate course in the to associate-leadership, with himself, Such, nevertheless, was the rerecommendations of the board of of- University of Paris.

A STORY OF THE MARTYRS OF 1822 THE NEGRO WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN AS and worked for, nevertheless there is cause for rejoicing in that those who have the longest sentences yet A Story of Ante-Bellum Days, Dealing With Slave Insurrection at Charleston last week, was opened by Rev. J. C. to serve have only three years and

seven months. "The N. A. A. C. P. and those agencies which worked so faithfully in this effort yet feel that full pardon which was asked for should have been granted these men. It will be noted from Secretary Week's letter that these cases are to be reviewed annually. The N. A. A. C. P. is gratified at the results secured. At the

same time it will continue its efforts for further reductions of sentence."

YOUNG VIOLINST GIVES

At Dawning ...... Cadman

..... Lieurance

Abrii Eestacy ...... Speaks

WILL STUDY IN PARIS

By the Waters of Minnetonka .....

arrested, pass naturally into one of organized action. Vesey's movement reached, in the winter of 1821-22 such a stage. As far as it is known, he had up to this time done the work of PLOTTER TAKES CRUCICAL STEP agitator singlehanded and alone and singlehanded and alone he had gone

A period of underground agitation, (

such as Vesey had carried on for

about three or four years, will, unless

Christmas of 1821, the long lane of

culated to put to the utmost test his

Berceuse ..... Godard Tarantelle ..... Drdla intelligence under the direction of the Swan ...... Saint Saens Mazurka ..... Mlynarski acter.

Philadelphia, Pa., May 23 .- (By the

blacks for resistance.

By Francis J. Grimke PART V

(By The Associated Negro Press)

## IN SELECTING LEADERS

through to and fro through that under- indicated that he was a man of firm world of the slave, preaching his gos- nerves and desperate courage. Peter pel of liberty and hate. But about was intrepid and resolute, true to his engagements, and cautious in observ-HER FIRST RECITAL his labors made a sharp turn. This ing secrecy where it was necessary; circumstance tended necessarily to he was not to be daunted nor impeded Miss Evelyn Battles, violinist, pupil throw other actors upon the scene, as by difficulties, and though confident

of success, was careful against any The first step taken at the turn of obstacles or casualties which might his long and laborious lane was cal- arise, and intent upon discovering every means which might be in their was well-chosen and interpreted with ability as a leader, as an arch plotter. favor if thought of beforehand. Gullah For it was nothing less mementous Jack was regarded as a sorcerer, and ates. On the wisdom with which such Africa, who believe in witchcraft. He a choice was made, would depend his was not only considered invulnerable,

own life and the success of his under- but that he could make others so by taking. Among thousands of disciples his charms; and that he could and he had to find the right men to whom certainly would provide all his followto entrust his secret purpose, and its ers with arms. He was artful, cruel, execution in co-operation with him- bloody; his disposition in short was self. The step was indeed crucial and diabolical. His influences among the in taking it he needed not alone the Africans was inconceivable. Monday strength of Vesey's forces as high as mental qualities which he had exhib- was firm, resolute, discreet and intelited in his role of underground agi- ligent."

tator, viz., serpent-like cunning and From this picture painted by bitter enemies, who were also their execumost alert and flexible discretion, but tioners, could any person, ignorant as well a practical and profound of the circumstances and the history Souvenir ...... Drdla knowledge of the human nature with of those men, possibly guess, with which he had to deal, a keen and in- the exception of Gullah Jack, to what fallible insight into individual char- race the originals belonged, or think intensely hostile witness, a slave

It is not too much to claim for Den- much as dream that they were in fact, of complicity in the intended uprising: Associated Negro Press) .- Dr. Harry mark Vesey, that his genius rose to as they were in the eye of the law Of the fifty-four of these men who Barnes, chief of the ear, nose and the emergency, and proved itself equal under which they lived, nothing more groes in any district of country within were in confinement in the penitenti- throat service of the Douglas hospital to a surpassingly difficult situation, than so many human chattels, sub- forty miles of Charleston," wrote this and assistant chief of Jefferson hos- in the singular fitness of the five prin- ject like cattle to the caprice and the witness, "is no evidence that they delight and instruct all who see it.

and to the work of organizing the markable group of blacks on w

These five had fallen Vesey's choice. And did and one of Denmark Vesey's drections

exploitation in the interest of the plot extended to the South into the two large islands of James and John's as for children whose mothers go out to well as to plantations across the Ashwork and have no place to leave their ley river. Vesey himself, it was said. children. We hope that every coltraveled southwardly from Charleston ored citizen of Omaha will help to between seventy and eighty miles, and make this a success. it was presumed by the writers that Board meeting of the Home the 1st he did so on business connected with Thursday in\_ June, all members are the conspiracy, which I consider alexpected to be out. toget, probable. He had certainly

its direction absorbed finally his whole time and energy. "He ceased working himself at his trade," so ran the testimony of a witness at his trial,

enlisting men." The number of blacks engaged in

Klan the Easter donation of \$25 to the enterprise was undoubtedly large. each. They are the Simpson Memor-It is a sufficiently conservative estimate to place this number, I think, at the Hall Chapel of the African Methtwo or three thousand, at least. One odist Episcopal Church. A polite note recruiting officer alone, Frank Ferguaccompanied the return. son, enlisted in the undertaking the

slaves of four plantations within forty miles of the city; and in the city itself, it was said that the personal roll of Peter Poyas embraced a membership of six hundred names More than don granted by the state board at its one witness placed the conjectural monthly session here this week was to James Sharp, a Negro boy serving 9,000, but I am inclined to write this a life sentence for the murder of a down as a gross overestimate of the white boy. He had been confined in people actually enrolled as members

of the conspiracy. Here is an example of the nice calculation and discretion of the man

who was the soul of the conspiracy. It is contained in the testimony of an you, that such a person would so painter, whose slaves were suspected "The orderly conduct of the Newere ignorant of the intended at-

tempt. A more orderly gang than my BISHOPS CHOSEN own is not to be found in this State

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION NEGRO CHILDREN The regular meeting of the Home Blaine, of the C. M. E. Church, who

was a visitor that day.

Mr. Blaine made a wonderful talk

al Methodist Episcopal Church and

PARDON BOY LIFE TERMER

Dover, Del., May 23 .- (By the As-

sociated Negro Press).-The only par-

the Newcastle County workhouse.

VISIT SCHOOL EXHIBIT

Saturday is the last day of the won-

derful school exhibit which occupies

the whole eighth floor of the Bran-

deis store. This is an exhibit which

along the line of establishing a home

Martha Smith, Pres.

Statistics Show Some Startling Factor Concerning Employment of Children in Various Occupations

**NEED PROTECTION OF** 

SANE LABOR LAWS

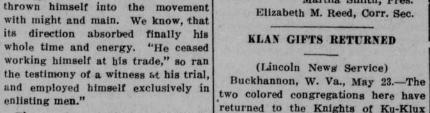
RACE'S PERCENTAGE IS HIGH

Nearly 22 Per Cent of Negro Children Between 10 and 15 Years of Age Are Engaged in Labor Pursuits

(Lincoln News Service)

Washington, D. C., May 23 .- Legislation whereby child labor shall be regulated is one of the gravest necessities which has ever confrontedAmerica's Negro population; for the future welfare of its children and their physical and mental condition, upon reaching maturity, will largely determine the type of citizenship which is to carry on the unfinished business of the present generation. A glimpse of the work status of Negro children in the United States may be held in the following figures and percentages: Of the 12,502,582 children in the United States, 10 to 15 years of age, of whom 1,060,858, or 8.5 per cent, are engaged in gainful occupations. 1,450,996 of the total are Negro children of that age span of whom 317,-231, or 21.9 per cent, or more than two and one-half times the total per cent, are gainfully employed in American labor pursuits. Of this working group of 317,231, Negro boys constitute 191,-877, or 26.7 per cent of their total, while Negro girls constitute 125,354,

no one should fail to see. If you have or 17.1 per cent of their total. In comparison with other racial not done so before, be sure to see it groups whose children are contrib-Saturday. The hours are from 11 to uting to the output of American la-6. It is a wonderful sight and will bor, the above percentages are astonishingly high. A stretch of the age span two more years makes a DOAR 5 IN THREE DISTRICTS girls totaling 541,348, of whom 405,-57 Oare engaged in agricultural, forestry and animal husbandry pursuits; 44,198 in the manufacturing and mechanical industries; 10, 855 in transportation occupations; 57,644 in domestic and personal service; 7,972 in clerical miscellaneous occupations. Since Republican sponsors of a constitutional amendment have, in their full realization of the menace of unregulated child labor, deemed it newaiting men who receive presents of union, won in his fight against the cessary to forthwith prohibit or regulate the working conditions of American children, how essential it is to provide doubly against betrayal at twenty-seventh quadrennial confer- get behind this movement with all the loyalty and power at our command. Political history shows that practito the cause from this class was great, ed: The Revs. A. L. Gaines of the Bal- cally all federal legislation for the benefit of women and children has as the sequel abundantly proved. Let dent of Wilberforce, and Reverdy Ran- been enacted by Republican Congressson, New York, editor of the A. M. E. es; and that the bulk of opposition to such legislation has come, just as The balloting was spirited and there it is now, from the Democratic "Solid are promises on contests over the elec- South." It is interesting, though distressing, in this connection, to note ing it he declared void because of ir- that while child labor is confined to no section of the country, it is at its worst in the solid Democratic southkins, financial secretary; Prof. Jack- ern states. In Tennessee, 17 per cent son, Texas, secretary of education; of the total child population is em-Dr. R. R. Wright, editor of the Chris- ployed contrary to the standards set tian Recorder; Dr. D. M. Baxter, man- by the government regulating child ager of the A. M. E. Book Concern; labor; in Arkansas, 19 per cent; in Rev. J. E. Coit, secretary of missions; Georgia, 21 per cent; n Alabama and Rev. G. J. Robinson, new editor of the South Carolina, 24 per cent; in Miss-A. M. E. Church Review, and Dr. S. issippi, 26 per cent. In the northern E. Churchstone Lord, official steno- states the percentage is much lower, and in the Pacific coast states only The election of the Rev. A. L. three per cent of the total child popu-Gaines to the bishopric marks the lation is employed in what is classifourth successive time that episcopal fied as gainful labor. Thirty states honors have been given to a represen- conform to the federal standard of tative of the Baltimore conference, the maximum hours for the employment others being Bishop Albert Johnson, of children eight hours per day. Of John Hurst and W. Sampson Brooks. these thirty, only three are southern The remainder of the conference Democratic states. One southern will be devoted to legislation. It is state, North Carolina, permits chilbelieved action will be taken against dren to be worked eleven hours a dancing, card playing and other sun- day, and one southern state, Georgia,



ficers, made after a most careful and exhaustive investigation and consid- WARM DEBATE OVER eration of each case on its individual merits, ten of the thirty men under life sentences have received reductions in their sentences that will make Methodist Episcopal Conference, Comthem eligible for release on home parole during the calendar year 1925; and the remaining twenty have received reductions from life to thirty years, which will make sixteen of them eligible for home parole in 1927, and four of them eligible for home parole in 1928.

weight was laid upon the evidence presented at the trial and the conduct Methodist Episcopal church being held in confinement of the prisoners con- here came up in connection with the cerned; and the investigations showed that the men whose sentences were Dyer anti-lynching bill. Proponents reduced to thirty years were the more of the resolution which was introdeeply involved in the affair, and had duced by the Rev. Gammon Morris of the poorer records of conduct in con- Gastoria, North Carolina, plead for its finement. Of the other twenty-four passage on the ground of law enforceprisoners involved in the Houston riot, ment. Opponents held that such legisserving sentences of less than life at lation was an invasion of state's right the time of the investigation of the This latter view was most effectively board, eighteen are eligible for par- presented by Judge Henry Wade Rogole during the calendar year 1924, and six will be eligible for home parole in former dean of the Yale Law School 1925.

As this recent investigation has re- appeals of the state of Connecticut. sulted in reductions in sentences in every case of the so-called Houston solution were the Revs. A. R. Howard rioters, with the exception of six who of South Carolina and A. J. Mitchell are eligible for parole not later than of Anapolis, Md. Dr. Elmer L. Kid-August, 1924, and as the latest date ney of the Pittsburgh conference (under the modified sentences) on joined Judge Wade in the opposition. which any prisoner will become elig- Discussion was closed by Dr. F. H. ible for home parole is August, 1928, Butler of the Delaware Conference and it is considered that the War Department has been most liberal in its work for colored conferences, who treatment of the prisoners.

Under a rule of the War Departany action taken upon its recommenof the prisoners involved.

> Very truly yours, (Signed) John W. Weeks.

statement:

"To summarize the above letter the commission of five members to work facts, in brief, are: 18 of the Houston for the passage of anti-lynching legismartyrs are eligble for immediate re- lation:

lease; 16 of them-10 serving life sentences and 6 long terms, will be eligible for release within a year; 16 will be eligible for release early in 1927; and the remaining four early in 1928, or three years and seven months recently announced that he has mat-

ched Jack Dempsey and Harry Wills from now. The men were committed "The Black Panther," for a world's to Leavenworth Prison in December, 1917 and have thus served six years heavyweight championship fight at and 5 months. Boyle's Thirty Acres, Jersey City, on September 6th, next,

"While the results obtained thus far

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL posed Largely of White Delegates, Divided in Opinion. FINALLY PASS RESOLUTION Springfield, Mass., May 23 .- (By

SUPPORTING DYER

the Associated Negro Press.)-One of In passing upon these cases great the most spirited discussions in the probability and truth, I will insert incourse of the long conference of the passage of a resolution endorsing the ers of the New York East conference

and now judge of the circuit court of Among those to speak for the resecretary of the Epworth League called particular attention to the

points anent state's rights advanced ment governing the subject, the case by Judge Wade. Dr. Butler reminded of every military prisoner is consid- the conference that in all its action ered for clemency at least once each thus far it had hewed close to the line year; and neither the recent investi- of law enforcement, deploring in varigation by the board of officers, nor ous ways the laxity of enforcement seen in the prohibition law and redation, will preclude the considera- minded the conference that the failure tion annually of the case of each one of the Eighteenth Amendment could in large measure be traced to the indifference shown toward the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments. He Secretary of War." won the conference over to law en-

In making public this report, the forcement, no matter whom it might

which means the appointment of a

DEMPSEY-WILLS FIGHT PERHAPS

(Lincoln News Service)

New York, May 23 .--- Tex Rickard

N. A. A. C. P. made the following hurt. The resolution was passed,

men, who became his ablest and most they not present an assemblage of was, that they should assume the most efficient lieutenants, were Peter Poy- high and striking qualities? Here implicit obedience." as, Rolla and Ned Bennett, Monday were coolness in action, calculation, Take another instance of the ex-Gell and Gullah Jack. They were all foresight, plausibility in address, ntraordinary aptitude of the slave lead-

slaves and, I believe, full blooded Ne- delity to engagements, secretiveness, ers for the conduct of their dangergroes. They constituted a remarkable intrepid courage, nerves of iron in ous enterprise. It illustrates Peter's quintet of slave leaders, combined the the presence of danger, inflexible pur- remarkable foresight and his faculty EAST AND SOUTH ARE WINNERS occupations; and the remainder in very qualities of head and heart which pose, unbending will, and last though for scenting danger, and making at

Vesey most needed at the stage then not least in its relations to the whole, reached by his unfolding plot. For superstition incarnate in the character fear lest some of their critics might of the Negro conjurer. Masterly was sneer at the sketch of them which I indeed the combination, and he had am tempted to give, as lacking in no ordinary gift for leadership, who was able to hit it off at one surpris-

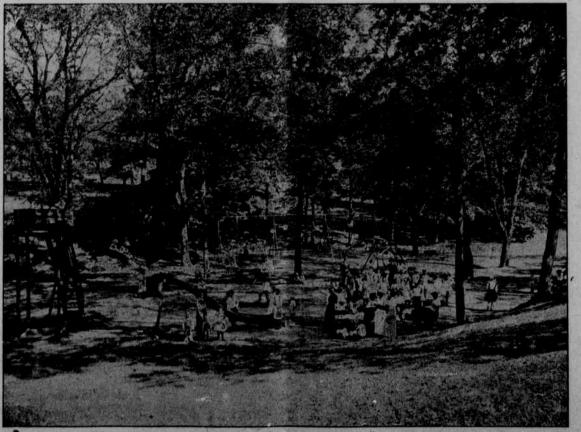
stead the careful estimate placed upon ing stroke. them severally by their slave judges. As the work of organized prepara-And here it is: "In the selection of tion for the uprising advanced Vesey his leaders, Vesey showed great peneadded presently to his staff two printration and sound judgement. Rolla cipal and several minor recruiting was plausible and possessed uncomagents, who operated in Charleston and in the country to the north of mon self-possession; bold and ardent, he was not to be deterred from his the city as far as the Santee, the purpose by danger. Ned's appearance Combahee, and Georgetown.

ATTORNEY AND MRS. ADAMS SUFFER SAD BEREAVEMENT

Edith, aged 11, youngest child and only daughter of Attorney and Mrs. sulting in her death. She was a John Adams died Wednesday afterbright and lovable child and the symnoon from pneumonia after a week's pathy of their friends go out to the illness. Mrs. Adams and Edith had bereaved parents. The funeral will come from their former home in Pueblo, Colo., Saturday, May 10, to rejoin be held Saturday afternoon from St. Mr. Adams and the other members of the family who had preceded them.

but it was not greater than the reality, me not, however, anticipate. (Continued next week) Their MAKES EXCELLENT RECORD Tuesday following Edith had her ton-Margaret Dallas, 119 No. 37th St. sils and adnoids removed and was was one of the successful participants brought home from the hospital on Wednesday. Pneumonia developed re-

in the Music Memory contest staged by the public schools at the city auditorium Friday, May 9th, scoring one hundred per cent-thereby winning a gold medal. Receiving 8 A's on her md-semester report card, she was promoted from the 8th grade to the 8th B John's A. M. E. church, Twentysecond and is to graduate from Saunders school in June at the age of twelve.



One of Omaha's Park Scenes

TO FILL VACANCIES

African Methodist General Conference in Session at Louisville, Ky., Has Spirited Balloting for **Coveted Offices.** 

the same time provision for meeting Louisville, Ky., May 23 .- (By Assoit. In giving an order to one of his ciated Negro Press)-Ira T. Bryant, assistants, said he, "Take care and present secretary of the African don't mention it (the plot) to those Methodist Episcopal Sunday school old cats, etc., from their masters or bishops of the church when he was they'll betray us." And then as if to re-elected by a large majority at the their hands, he added, "I'll speak to ence of the church now in session them." His apprehension of disaster here. Three bishops were also electtimore conference, J. A. Gregg, presi-

Review.

tion of Mr. Bryant, Bishop Jones mov-

regularity. Others elected are Dr. John R. Haw-

grapher for the conference.

dry ills. Senator Watson of Indiana has no limitation. was denounced this week for endorsing Edward Jackson, Ku Klux Klan

republican candidate for governor of ed, not in any particular section of the state.

## DIVORCES MADE HARDER

Springfield, Mass., May 23 .- (By the Episcopal church, after a vote on a report from the judiciary committee, all members of the church, ministers and laymen, are forbidden to remarry after divorce for any other reason than statutory charges, attested to by court records. Pastors of the local

churches are to be the sole arbters in determining the culpability of the members.

Education, recreation, health supervision, and other attentions are need-

the country, but everywhere; and with a heavy population of Negro children busily at work in farm pursuits of BY METHODISTS the Solid South, which has been so derelict in its protection of Negro children, the duty s plain to see that at Associated Negro Press) .- According the polls and elsewhere full cooperato rules just made by the Methodist tion is given to the Republican party and its program, if it is ever to be hoped that the children of today may be the real men and women of to morrow.

> Cleveland, Ohio, employs over 80 colored teachers in the public ac one heading Latin Department in the High School.

and Willis avenue at 3 o'clock.