

# 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.  
Telephone WEBster 4243

## 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.

### OBSERVANCE OF LENT

BEGINNING next Wednesday millions of people throughout the world will be observing, with more or less earnestness and consistency, the penitential season of Lent. This is a period of forty days duration, or to be quite exact forty-six days, including the six Sundays, which are not observed as days of fasting or abstinence. During these forty days which are supposed to conform with the Forty Days Fasting and Temptation of Christ in the wilderness, millions of Christian folk throughout the world are by the terms of their church membership and faith required to use "such a measure of abstinence as is more especially suited to extraordinary acts and exercises of devotion." In other words this is a period of intensive spiritual training. It is a time for religious stock taking.

That this season has such a long history and is so universally observed shows that it must be beneficial. If such a period has proven beneficial in days less strenuous than these it will be frankly conceded by all who are thoughtful that in this feverish rushing age of amusement and money chasing when even the cultural life, is given such scant attention, that such a period as this is most imperatively needed by the American people, of all people, to recall us to moral poise.

Lent calls for abstinence. Such a measure of it as is especially suited to extraordinary acts and exercises of devotion. Abstinence means a voluntary refraining from some indulgence of the appetite or the gratification of the ordinary propensities of nature for the attainment of some specific, and, generally, higher aim, object or purpose. It means self denial for the gaining of the mastery. This may be the mastery of self or of one's conditions. To illustrate: One may want to become a home-owner. For a term of years he must deny himself certain things which he would very much enjoy in order that he may pay for his home. Or, again, one desires to acquire an education, a trade, business or profession and become proficient in his line. For a time he must practice self-denial.

The objective of Lent is growth in the spiritual life. The principle underlying it, is that for a definite period of time such abstinence be practiced as will give more opportunity for prayer, meditation, serious thought, devotional reading, self-examination and like "acts and exercises of devotion," as will help develop strong, consistent Christian character. We believe that an earnest observance of such a season as this by all religious people, in the way in which it is intended to be used, would have a tremendous influence in raising the moral and spiritual tone of the nation.

### THE DUTY OF BEING PLEASANT

WE HOLD that it is a social duty for people to practice the art of

### THE NEGRO'S CONTRIBUTION NOT NEGIGIBLE

A moment's thought will easily convince open-minded persons that the contribution of the Negro to American nationality as slave, freedman and citizen was far from negligible. No element of American life has so subtly and yet clearly woven itself into warp and woof of our thinking and acting as the American Negro. He came with the first explorers and helped in exploration. His labor was from the first the foundation of the American prosperity and the cause of the rapid growth of the new world in social and economic importance. Modern democracy rests not simply on the striving white men in Europe and America but also on the persistent struggle of the black men in America for two centuries. The military defense of this land depended upon Negro soldiers from the time of the Colonial wars down to the struggle of the World War. Not only does the Negro appear, reappear and persist in American literature but a Negro American literature has arisen of deep significance, and Negro folk lore and music are among the choicest heritages of this land. Finally the Negro has played a peculiar spiritual role in America as a sort of living, breathing test of our ideals and an example of the faith, hope and tolerance of our religion.—Du Bois, "The Gift of Black Folk."

### THE TOWER

#### Looking On and Listening In by the Tower Man

The next Pan-African Conference, according to authentic information given Tower Man, will be held in principal cities of a number of the West Indies islands during December, 1925. This will afford an unprecedented opportunity for the darker people of the western hemisphere to unite on a change of viewpoint. Dr. W. E. B. DuBois is the founder and president of the conference.

the darker peoples of the world, and the newspapers of the nation are displaying fine judgment in the fine presentation of Mr. Parker's opinions. Too long has colored America been "asleep at the switch", taking the white viewpoint of darkskinned history of the world. It is a distinct contribution that we are now furnishing our own facts, and sensible white historians are now endeavoring to tell the truth.

### STUDY OF WARSHIP HULL FOUND HELP

#### Valuable Data Obtained for Designing New Craft.

Washington.—With a six or seven-year period ahead before the United States may lay down its first replacement battleship under the Washington naval treaty, navy experts will have ample time to make the utmost use of data obtained from experiments on the hull of what was to have been the superdreadnaught Washington and on other scrapped vessels in preparing designs for new ships.

They are expected to achieve a decided advance in warship construction as a result of their prolonged studies.

The Washington experiments, details of which are regarded as among the most confidential matters in the custody of the Navy department, afforded an opportunity to obtain information of an unusual character.

The four ships of this class, three of which were completed and are now with the fleet, represent the most powerful defensive and offensive development in battleship building the world will know until the two new British superdreadnaughts are launched and commissioned.

The only vessel approaching the Maryland, West Virginia and Colorado now afloat is the Japanese 16-inch-gunned, post-Jutland battleship Mikasa. Designs for this class of ships were prepared in the Navy department while the European war was in progress, but before the United States entered the conflict.

The submarine menace had almost reached its climax in threatening allied defeat before the plans were completed, and there are many things in the hull construction of the ships which grew out of war experience of the allies as observed by American experts.

These have to do for the most part with better protection against torpedoes and mines and the experiments with the Washington hull afforded the only chance naval engineers of any nationality have had to test the methods of protection adopted on a scale that would furnish reliable data.

#### Coast Railway Explains Significance of Toots

Los Angeles.—The mysteries of the language of railroad engines, as spoken through the engineer's whistle, have been revealed by the Southern Pacific company in an announcement for the benefit of the general public.

The significance of his whistle is explained as follows:

Four blasts, two of medium length and two short, are a warning that a locomotive is approaching a grade crossing.

A succession of short blasts tells trespassers to get off the track.

One long blast, followed by three short ones, sends the rear flagman back to protect against a following train.

Four or five blasts of medium duration recall the flagman.

Four short whistles is the engineer's way of asking for train order signal.

Two short whistles mean "Thank you" or "I get you."

One whistle of medium duration, followed by two short blasts, calls attention to signals displayed for a following section.

One long blast is given when train is approaching a station, drawbridge or junction.

Two short blasts given three times are a signal to the trainmen that the air brakes are sticking.

There is no use talking, a white man who only occasionally comes in contact with the world of "Sun-Kissed America" cannot get our angle of the "eternal fitness of things". Over in Cleveland, Ohio, for example, the distinguished City Manager W. R. Hopkins, a fine spirit personally, has "got in bad" with the populace when, inaugurating the Phyllis Wheatley campaign for \$600,000 he referred to the 40,000 newcomers to Cleveland in the last ten years as a "menace". He has been explaining and on the defensive ever since. Take in the matter of advertisements in our newspapers, white artists, even though kindly in spirit, having been reared under the caricature environment, cannot put the soul into drawings of us that our artist see, being with us day by day in every way.

The Tattler, illustrated weekly of New York, is about to have another birthday. The Messenger, monthly, same city, with its eighty pages in the January issue, has been given an impetus that helps magazine reading everywhere. Chicago, foremost in racial news gathering, service, and newspapers, is about to launch a new magazine backed by white and colored capital. Memory goes back to the "Voice of the Negro", but this is a new day, and, though, they moved the Voice to Chicago after the Atlanta riot and it could not make it, Chicago now has the vision, and we'll just have to wait and see how things are coming out.

There are hundreds of new visioned Americans who are pinning much faith on the future, both in an artistic and commercial way, in the further musical development of colored America. It is a big field, we are in the swing of it, and it looks like we are going to keep right on going "until Shiloh comes".

"Questions and Answers in Negro History" by George Wells Parker of the Associated Negro Press staff, is regarded by eminent thinkers as the most constructive department established for racial journalism in years.

Mr. Parker is an acknowledged authority on the subject of history affecting

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### Survey Shows Saturday Night Bath Is No Myth

New York.—About 1,000,000 new bathtubs were made in the year 1924. Since for the average bath in a tub between 40 and 60 gallons of water are used, the tide of soapuds rises high. And it is at its flood on Saturday nights.

This is proven by accurate measure of the additional amount of gas consumed in the cities to heat the water to between 140 to 150 degrees. It requires from two to three cubic feet of gas to raise a gallon of water 100 degrees.

The per capita consumption of water in American cities is 200 to 300 per cent greater than in European cities, and on Saturday nights this percentage is doubled. The ordinary householder in this country uses about 7,500 gallons of water a month.

Representatives of the largest soap producers in this country assert that every family (averaging 4.4 persons) in the United States consumes at