

# THE MONITOR

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS

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THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor  
W. W. MOSELY, Lincoln, Neb., Associate Editor  
LUCINDA W. WILLIAMS, Business Manager

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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.

### LEXINGTON SETS EXAMPLE

KENTUCKY has again demonstrated her determination to see to it that men accused of crime shall be protected from mob violence and be given a hearing in court. It is, indeed, a serious reflection upon our vaunted American civilization that troops have to be called out and martial law proclaimed in order that an alleged criminal may be granted that which is a fundamental principle of jurisprudence from time immemorial and reiterated in the Constitution of the United States: "the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district where the crime shall have been committed." If, however, it takes the whole military force of the country to enforce this organic law of justice then there should be no hesitancy upon the part of those in authority to invoke this force. Lexington, Kentucky, under martial law, as an insistence that the law shall take its course shows a determination to uphold the constitution which must command the respect and admiration of the thoughtful. It ought not to be necessary in any enlightened and civilized community to call out the troops to restrain mobs and permit courts of law to function, but wherever and whenever it becomes necessary to teach the lesson that the law must be supreme military power must be used. Lexington sets a good example in this.

### NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

To arouse interest in and promote the study of what the Negro has contributed towards the history of humanity and the world the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, an organization which has done a vast deal of valuable research work, under the skillful and scholarly guidance of Carter G. Woodson, has suggested that the second week in February, beginning the 7th, be observed as Negro History Week. It aims to make it a national celebration, the purposes of which are to popularize the study of Negro history and to secure more support for its promotion. This is a most praiseworthy movement which should meet with a ready response from our people of intelligence everywhere. And not only from our own group but from the cultured of other races. The ignorance concerning the achievements of the Negro, or, Negroid people, if you please, is astonishing. An impartial study of their contribution to civilization is most enlightening and astounding. We as a group, whether we are willing to admit it or not, "Think white." We have a "white psychology." This begets an inferior complex. The impression that we

### THE NEGRO'S CONTRIBUTION NOT NEGLIGIBLE

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 has 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."

and in consultation with Walker agents. In a pleasant interview with *The Monitor* he told of the costly new plant which is about to be erected by the company in Indianapolis, and other proposed expansion and development. Mr. Evans left Tuesday for St. Joseph, Mo.

### COUNCIL BLUFFS NOTES

Rev. S. P. Jackson was called to Kansas by the death of his brother, Baily Jackson.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. N. Turner, Jr., was damaged by fire and smoke.

Mrs. Lillian Burke and Mrs. Emma Turner are on the sick list.

Mr. Philip Ford is confined to his home from a severe fall.

Mr. George Thompson is out of the hospital.

Mrs. Stovall entertained the Hollis Art Club Monday, February 1, at the home of Mrs. Bryant. A delightful luncheon was served.

The Hollis Art Club will give a masque party at Tabernacle Baptist church February 11th, and also a dollar hunt. Prizes will be given.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis entertained the Progressive Whist Club at the home of Mrs. Ellen Rose. The invited guests were Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Moore, Wilbur Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes of Omaha, Miss Inez Haynes, Mr. Adam Hall, Messdames Lyons and Alexander. A delightful luncheon was served.

### GYPSIES MUST STOP ROAMING IN RUSSIA

#### Soviet Government Closes Open Road to them.

Washington. — Gypsies must stop roaming!

The Soviet government has issued the fiat. Three years of grace are allowed the gypsies. Then there must be no more wandering through all the Russias. The covered wagon, the swarthy soothsayer in brilliant rags, wild gypsy music at the roadside campfire, must take up the trail to limbo.

"Of the many new decrees and programs of the Soviet republic, settling the gypsy on the land probably has as little hope as any of accomplishment," says a bulletin of the National Geographic society from its headquarters in Washington. "Many nations in many ages have tried to control that strange figure, the gypsy—and have failed."

**The Flame of Nomadism.**  
"Since the early part of the Nineteenth century students and scholars have tried to understand the gypsy. They have compared the gypsy of Russia to the gypsy of Hungary, Spain, England and America. They have charted his westward advance. They have examined his language and linked it with Sanskrit and tongues of India. They have set down his customs. They have accounted for nearly every characteristic of the gypsy race except the one that sets the gypsy apart from all other races. Why has the flame of nomadism lived in the gypsy? Why can't he deny the call of the open road? That is the real mystery. It stands unexplained."

"Gypsies have had inducements to settle on the land in nearly every nation they have invaded. In Scotland they paid for vagrancy with their necks in the time of James V. A few countries can report permanent communities of gypsies, but generally the law glides over their black heads and falls to mold them into 'good, solid citizens.'"

**Another Gypsy Mystery.**  
"Another mystery of Gypsydom, the capacity for keeping the race strain pure, although they wander the world over and mix with men of all nations, is easier to explain. Strict obedience to three precepts of gypsy law has saved their individuality from the world's melting pot, according to George Borrow. This British missionary studied the gypsy nearly 100 years ago, yet so fine is his prose, so accurate were his observations, and so unchanging is the gypsy, in both lineage and language, that Borrow's books to this day are treasures of lore. The three commandments of Romany are: Separate not from the husbands. Be faithful to the husbands. Pay your debts to the husbands. "Rom" means 'man' in the gypsy tongue. The first and third commandments are directed to the 'rom.' The second is directed to the women whose position in the tribe is hinted by the repetition of the word 'husbands.' Indeed, 'Romany' may be translated 'the sect of husbands.'"

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### Abrogates Debtor Custom.

"The first injunction, 'separate not from the husbands,' is responsible for the maintenance of the tribal spirit and the language. That the second has been strictly observed, there is ample testimony by the fact that gypsies the world over have staring black eyes, rich black hair, and a swarthy complexion. The last commandment has lost force because civilized law will not permit operation of the old gypsy law compelling the defaulting debtor to serve as slave to the lender for a year and a day.

"The name gypsy itself is the perpetuation of an error. The first tribes arriving in England told the British they came from 'Little Egypt.' In the rough-and-tumble of language 'Egyptians' became 'gypsies.' The French fell into error, too, and their mistake has been transplanted to English. Thinking gypsies came from Bohemia, the French called them Bohemians. With the big 'B' become dwarf, we have a label for a 'light-hearted, sophisticated man-about-town.' A Bohemian, perforce, is a 'root' relative to Bohemia, the eastern knob of Czecho-slovakia, which is not particularly famous for light-heartedness, sophistication or man-about-town.

"The Soviet edict was probably directed to the 'Zigani.' This appellation is far more accurate than 'gypsy' and may be regarded as the true universal root name by which the race itself prefers to be known. In the Balkans it becomes Tsigani; in Greece and Turkey, Tshinglan; in Italy, Zingari; in Germany, Zigeuner. Their international name may not have escaped the English language entirely for some authorities find it in our word 'tinker.' The gypsies were the peddlers and the itinerant repairmen of Old England—the tinkers."

### Orphans "Kidnaped" From Grandmother by State

Philadelphia.—Two Camden school children were legally "kidnaped" from their classrooms and taken in charge by the state board of children's guardians, because their grandmother was financially unable to properly nourish them. The youngsters are orphans.

Once before the state attempted to get the children, but the grandmother Mrs. Augusta Wilhelm, refused to give them up and the method of taking them from school was resorted to.

One of the children, John Palmer ten, was taken from the Mickle school and Viola, twelve, was taken from the Sacred Heart parochial school. Mrs. Wilhelm waited for their return and after they had been an hour overdue she received a telegram from Miss Frances Day, superintendent of the state board, informing her of the action.

The father of the children was killed in a railroad accident at Mauch Chunk, Pa., nine years ago. Their mother died four years ago from tuberculosis and since that time the grandmother has slaved to keep them.

She has received 50 cents a day from the state for the care of the children and her only income was the few pennies she picked up doing odd jobs at infrequent intervals.

Miss Day said the moral and physical care which Mrs. Wilhelm had given to the children was of the best, but her age and inability to work made it impossible for her to properly support them.



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