

## "Race Sinks To Lowest Level In The Political Equation." --- Kelly Miller

President Coolidge's message has been presented to Congress and to the country. It covers the field of national interests in a comprehensive way and gives satisfaction to those who like it and arouses criticism on the part of those who do not. The document is carefully, if not craftily drawn, in view of the ensuing national election. The president is the head of his party, and is always supposed to keep one eye upon its political advantage, while watching the welfare of the nation with the other. This is allowable and expected. The fate of the republican party is in the balance. Is Coolidge to be, or not to be the next candidate? He himself probably does not know. But no word will escape the presidential lips for the next twelve months which will not have this contingency in view.

The New York Times believes that his references to prohibition and his remarks on the Negro question had reference ultimately to his own self succession. However this may be, we find that these items are of greatest special importance to the Negro race. The President discloses no conviction on the moral quality of the Eighteenth Amendment. One does not learn from this disclosure whether he is wet or dry by private conviction. But he does declare in terms unmistakably for the enforcement of the amendment because it is the law. His position is much broader than the moral question involved in prohibition. It strikes at the very vitals of lawlessness, of which violation of the Eighteenth Amendment

is but a single form in which its brazen audacity asserts itself. These are his words—"Some people do not like the (18th) Amendment, some do not like other parts of the Constitution, some do not like any of it, but for any of our inhabitants to observe such parts of the Constitution as they like, while disregarding others, is a doctrine that would break down all protection of life and property and destroy the American system of ordered government."

President Coolidge is a man of even temperament and cool spirit. Like Tennyson's linnet, he is void of noble rage. One could wish that Theodore Roosevelt might have expressed the same sentiment with his dynamic personality and vehement righteousness. The president indulges in polite form of speech when he says that this practice would destroy ordered form of government. The case calls for the indicative, not the subjunctive mood. This widespread practice is destroying orderly government and is breaking down protection of life and property. Mississippi elects to ignore the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, while adhering to the rest of the Constitution. New York disregards the Eighteenth Amendment, but swears undeviating allegiance to the rest. They both equally undermine the foundation of government and bring our boasted institutions to naught. America is the most lawless nation among civilized people. This nation flouts with impunity its own fundamental law. The president says that those entrusted with the enforcement of the law ought

not to violate it. This is a high and holy sentiment, expressed with sermonic impotence. Mr. Coolidge is responsible for the enforcement of federal law. Every office holder is responsible to him. Sermonizing is not enough. Roosevelt would have said that any office holder found violating the prohibition law would be summarily dismissed. The nation would have approved the drastic pronouncement. Gloved hands will not do the work of the bare fist.

Let the South heed the wisdom of the President's wise words. Let the "wets" heed it. They are both undermining the foundation of free institutions which they so fervently avow to uphold.

But above all, let the Negro heed these words. He is the chief sufferer from violated law. He must uphold the Constitution in its integrity. He can not pick out the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments and insist upon their enforcement, while flagrantly violating the Eighteenth Amendment to appease his degraded appetite or to swell his evilly made fortune. The conscience of the nation must be aroused upon the moral integrity of the law. Massachusetts cannot point the finger of scorn at Georgia, nor the Negro at the white man. We all fall too far short of respect and reverence for law. The Negro should give the nation a model lesson in obedience to the Eighteenth Amendment.

When the President engages to deal with the Negro question per se, he becomes more tenuous, less logi-

cal and less convincing. His reference is entirely well meant and kindly. The fact that he would step aside and mention the Negro in his annual message serves to bring the question before public attention. The general tendency is to let the issue pass by default. It is no longer considered good form to mention the Negro issue in public discussion. On more than one occasion Mr. Coolidge has condescended, if it be a condescension, to make reference to this disagreeable topic. For this he is due our racial thanks. We have been so far degraded in the public equation, that the smallest favor is thankfully received. If the President's reference to prohibition was a sermon, his mention of the Negro was in the nature of a prayer. But when all other modes of procedure fail, the prayer may be the last resort.

The American people are besought to treat the Negro kindly, even fairly. The American people ought not to lynch the colored people for the Lord will not hold them guiltless for lynching the helpless victim. There is no indication of declarative intention or affirmative purpose, but an appeal to conscience instead of to the law. It may be that this is the only form of appeal that the American people will hear in their stiff-necked attitude of law defiance. Will they heed a prayer, though it comes from the President of the United States?

"Our duty to ourselves under our claim that we are an enlightened people requires us to use all our power to protect them from the crime

of lynching." These be heavily freighted words. Though kindly intended, nevertheless, they are potential with untold mischief for the Negro race. I believe that this is the first time in the history of the government that the President of the United States has identified himself with one element of the American people as contra-distinguished from another. He is supposed to be the president of all the people, and officially to make no discrimination on account of race, color or previous condition. The Negro does not expect to be relieved from the crime of lynching as a supercilious duty that the white race owes him on the basis of racial difference, but because he is an American citizen entitled like the rest to the equal enforcement of the law. But after all, lynching is not wholly a racial evil. Although the Negro for the time and in certain localities bears the chief brunt of the heinous practice, yet white men, and even white women have fallen victims of the mobbish wrath. Since the record has been kept, not a single year has passed that has not recorded white victims. No remedy for lynching or for any other form of lawlessness is going to be effective where the Negro is singled out as the sole beneficiary. Any such attempt is defeated at the start. The great defect of the Dyer bill was that it became interpreted as a Negro measure. Lawlessness knows no race; the law should be color blind. An effective law against lynching would be of greater national advantage than all of the pro-

posed legislation of the present session of Congress. But it must be nationwide in its purpose and purport. If Congress should pass an anti-lynching measure based on race, it could not be enforced. The president does not even suggest the enforcement of the Fifteenth Amendment, and if he did it would fall on deaf ears and dead hearts, because the Negro is the sole beneficiary. We want no class legislation for the simple reason that it would be futile.

One lays down the president's message with a sense of gratitude for a well meant, kindly word, but with the reflection that the race has sunk to the zero level in the political equation. The President speaks without any sense of political obligation. Whatever he does or says grows out of his own gratis, grace and goodness. We seem to have lost all power to demand, which the ballot confers. Let us reflect as to how long this political imbecility will continue. Will it still be so after the next administration, whether the present incumbent succeeds himself or not? It all depends upon the political sagacity of the race. If we use wisely the residue of political power which we now have, the next administration will regard the race as a worth while factor and not as a helpless mendicant.

Let the political tocsin for nineteen twenty-eight be—"The full enforcement of the Constitution including the fourteenth, fifteenth and eighteenth amendments."

—KELLY MILLER.

### ART CLASS HAS BEAUTIFUL EXHIBITION AT "Y"

Many Visitors Delighted With Varied Display of Exquisite Needle and Handicraft Work

The ladies who were members of the first Art class this fall, were "at home" Sunday, December 12, from 4 to 7 p. m. at the North Side Branch of the Young Women's Christian Association, 22nd and Grant streets. The many friends, who came and went during the afternoon, were perfectly charmed with the splendor of the occasion. From every corner, one could hear echoes of congratulations, satisfaction and appreciation for the many beautiful pieces of art that were displayed by the class.

There were roses, tulips, lilies, and other flowers, some of the plain crepe paper, others were waxed, several pieces of the plastic art done with jesso and clay; any number of pieces of the Egyptian cone embroidery—pretty silk handkerchief holders; many beautiful Glassine lamp shades in every style; lovely silk pillows, and various other pieces.

Delightful music furnished by Messrs. Overtree and Hunter was enjoyed. Even the delicious and daintily decorated sandwiches and cakes served with tea and coffee added to the artistic atmosphere of the affair.

Among the special guests were Mrs. A. Jeffers and her husband of Council Bluffs, Iowa, the proud teacher of the class; Mrs. Jas. M. Patton, president of the Central Branch, Y. W. C. A.; Mrs. J. H. Vance, chairman of the committee on colored work; Mrs. Carrie Ada Campbell, general secretary of the Y. W. C. A., and other secretaries and friends from the Central association.

The committee on arrangements for this occasion was Mrs. Jessica Wright, chairman; Mrs. Allie Jones, Mrs. Harry Leland, assisted by the branch secretary, Miss Edna M. Stratton. Other members of the class were Mesdames Louvinia Green, Hattie Hawkins, Bessie Kirby, Mabel Lecoq, Marie McDaniels, A. O. McGee, Anna Phoenix, Gertrude Shackelford, Hattie Smith, Rachel Woods and Miss Cuma Watson.

### BISHOP CLEMENT DEFENDS AL SMITH

Monroe, N. C.—Official note by the church was taken of the spread of the spirit of the Ku Klux Klan among Protestant religious bodies. Bishop George C. Clement of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, speaking here at the sixteenth annual session of the West Central North Carolina conference of the church, declared that he would advise Negroes a thousand times "to vote wet, Catholic, Democratic, Al Smith before you cast one vote for a dry, Protestant, Ku Klux Klan Republican like Jim Watson of Indiana."

"No true American," he asserted, "can oppose a man because of his religious belief, for the very cornerstone of American democracy is religious tolerance. But even to imagine voting for a Ku Klux Klansman, no matter what his party affiliations, is an absurdity."

### SEQUI-CENTENNIAL AWARDS HOWARD UNI GOLD MEDAL

Washington, D. C.—A letter has just been received by Emory B. Smith, alumni and field secretary of Howard university, from the jury of awards of the Sesquicentennial exposition, notifying that the international jury of awards of the Sesquicentennial Exposition has awarded Howard a gold medal for promoting the higher education of the Negro.

### HAYES TO SING AT TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.—Roland Hayes, internationally famous tenor, will appear in recital here Saturday night, December 18. It will be his first appearance in this state since his rise to fame in European music circles.

### HAMPTON DEFEATES UNION FOR THE C. I. A. A. TITLE

Hampton Institute, Va.—Five thousand people saw Hampton defeat Union, on Armstrong Field, in their traditional battle of the C. I. A. A. The Seaside's 12 to 0 victory over the Blue and Steel eleven, thereby brought them the C. I. A. A. championship, the Frank A. Young trophy and the Slaughter trophy.

### NEGRO VILLAGE DRAWS MANY FRENCH VISITORS

Marseille, France, Nov. 30.—(By The Associated Negro Press)—Among the curious things at the Foire Exposition, the Negro village is in the first rank.

It is a true Negro village and not a pale copy of the African reality. Situated between the Grand Palace and the Palace of Machines, this exhibit from the Sahara presents a picturesque appearance.

About twenty huts and a hundred Negroes make up the village. There is a chief, speaking the purest French, tall, a fine type of Negro. There is a spot of red on his breast: the cross of the Legion of Honor.

There are shops; jewelers who work in metal on the anvil; a kitchen, cooks carrying children on their backs while they prepare food for the tribe; a checker player—and a good one—who takes on all comers; a maker of tiny canoes; a school, where children learn to read from tablets; and in the center of the Monitor—Five village, a mosque.

There is music for all tastes—expert players of the banjo, the violin and the mandolin, with less than twenty-nine strings; and the balafon, a sort of rudimentary xylophone which Maria Valente has demonstrated at the Alcazar.

A spacious round hut with a conical roof is the dance hall, where are shown the dances which will be fashioned in France next year.

The Negro village is full of life, of reality, of local color. "Visit it," advises a writer for the "Radical," a Marseilles newspaper. "It will spare you a long trip to the Sahara. And you won't be shot."

### ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY CLAIMS MUSICAL HONORS

Washington, D. C.—Washington music lovers were delighted last Sunday when Mme. Lillian Evanti, Washington's own, assisted by Miss Lydia Mason, presented their brilliant program at the Belasco Theatre, but the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority to which both young women belong, took the occasion to express satisfaction with their pre-eminent position in musical circles.

"We are more proud of our artists who are recognized wherever they go as most successful in voice or instru-

### SHOT WHILE BURGLARIZING

Little Rock, Ark.—Tom McDowell, 35, with an alleged long police record, was killed here Thursday at midnight when he was caught burglarizing the Reavis Mercantile store by H. W. Warner, white. Warner operates a restaurant on the opposite side of the street from the Reavis store and heard McDowell breaking a glass to get in.

### BISHOP GREGG DEDICATES CHURCH IN SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town, South Africa—Born in 1898, Bethel Memorial African Methodist Church was dedicated recently by the Rt. Rev. James A. Gregg, presiding bishop of the Seventeenth district of his church. Bishop Gregg was assisted at the dedication services by the Rev. E. M. Gow, and members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church from all over the Union of South Africa.

### CHURCH OF ST. PHILIP, THE DEACON

The services last Sunday were well attended at 11 o'clock after which the Every Member Canvass was made under the chairmanship of Mr. B. B. Cowan.

### "VAMPS OF 1927"

When the last analysis is made of the season's successes, it will be a great surprise to local playgoers if the "Vamps of 1927" are not included in the list, if the local engagement measures up to one-half the good things that are promised from Phil Peters and Rose Bernard according to the reports received from their receptions elsewhere. The "Vamps of 1927" is tabulated to occupy the stage at the Gayety Theatre, on Sunday, December 19, with the aforesaid Peters and Bernard as the principal farceurs of that occasion. Phil Peters is no stranger in these parts and Rose Bernard is just as favorably remembered; both have at various times demonstrated their abilities to arouse laughter and sustain it during the evening, and as that is evidently the mission of their present concoction, there ought to be no apprehension as to their efforts not being successful upon this occasion. The reports about this show are said to be most encouraging.

### OLD FOLKS HOME

The Christmas tree for the inmates of the Home will be held on Christmas Eve. Persons desiring to give presents will kindly see that they are sent in by December 24. Services were held Sunday afternoon by the Rev. Mr. Stell. Open doors will be held New Year's day. The public is invited. The following donations are acknowledged with thanks: Half peck of potatoes, Mrs. J. H.; one trunk of clothing, Mrs. J. M. Goff; two jars of fruit, Mrs. Alice Harding, Lincoln.

MRS. BROOMFIELD, Superintendent.

### FATHER FLANAGAN'S HOME MAKING GOOD AMERICANS

An Institution Which Exemplifies True Christianity by Taking Care of Boys Irrespective of Race, Creed or Color

A new record for visitors has been set at Father Flanagan's Boys' Home this year. More than 3,000 have inspected the Home during the last eleven months, according to the Rev. E. J. Flanagan.

The Home is always open to visitors. The boys have a smile of welcome for everyone and are anxious to show the visitors the dining room, sleeping quarters, recreation grounds, classrooms, work shops and other places of interest.

This Christmas the homeless lads of Father Flanagan's Boys' Home are planning to have their annual Christmas party, providing the friends of the Home are loyal. Many gifts and offerings have been sent to the Home, but not enough to assure the homeless lads of a real Christmas party.

"Christmas is the time when we exchange gifts," said Father Flanagan. "For the gifts of the public, we are offering good American citizens. Our job is to make good citizens out of poor homeless boys."

Father Flanagan's Boys' Home is non-sectarian. It provides for boys of all races, colors and creeds. It gets no support from the Community Chest, Church, city or state.

### Good Fellow For Half Century

Mobile, Ala., Dec. 2.—(By The Associated Negro Press). While serving as a member of the county grand jury forty-five years ago, the Rev. M. F. Owens was delegated by members of that body to collect money and food to give the inmates of the county poor asylum, detention homes and homes for the aged, a Thanksgiving dinner. Year by year without interruption, Rev. Owens has gone among the merchants, bakeries, and stores and collected the funds and supplies necessary. This year a bountiful dinner was served to white and colored alike. Although moving to Solms, Ala., several years ago, where he is now connected with the Selma University, he made the annual pilgrimage.