

Quarter Million Slaves Freed in Africa

South Side Social Settlement Submits Its Annual Report

The Social Settlement Association, which conducts centers at Thirty-first and Q streets and Twenty-ninth and R streets, South Side, has just issued its twentieth annual report, which discloses many interesting facts and reveals a vast deal of character-building work.

The Social Settlement seeks to serve its neighborhood through two centers in an elastic and constantly varied program of organized activities, co-operation with others, and neighborliness. It seeks to bring people of different backgrounds into fuller understanding by offering opportunities for association and the discovery of new and common interests.

The report discloses that within one-half mile radius of the settlement are four packing plants, employing a minimum of 6,000 people; stock yards, second largest in the United States; 29 soft drink parlors and pool rooms; one public school; three parochial schools; five white churches; eight Negro churches; one small ball park; no public playground or gymnasium; one night school, financed by women's organizations; one citizenship class at Armour's packing plant, conducted by Y. M. C. A.; 21 foreign nationalities, and 2,000 Negroes.

Organized activities, including toy-making, cabinet-making, carving, other handicrafts, mechanical drawing, sewing, dressmaking, cooking, folk dancing, music, dramatics and others too numerous to mention here, are carried on by both paid and volunteer workers, both at the Settlement House, for whites and foreigners, and at the Colored Cultural Center.

It would be interesting to quote full statistics of work done at both centers, did space permit, but all that can be done is to give a few from the Cultural Center, where 675 organized sessions have been held with an attendance of more than 9,000, and an attendance of over 6,000 on the playground.

The head worker of the Settlement is Miss Helen W. Gauss, who has as her director of activities at the Settlement House, Miss Helen Mussle, and of the Cultural Center, Mrs. M. L. Rhone.

The following, taken in full from Miss Gauss' report, tells of the work at the Cultural Center:

"Turning to the work of this Center (the Cultural) we find it hard to believe that only 16 months ago was the house opened—so great has been the record of growth and achievement since that time. The Center's activities have fully justified the hopes of the Colored Parent-Teachers Association and their president, Mrs. Busch, who first asked for it, and whose long, untiring efforts in co-operation with the Settlement, the city commissioners and others, finally achieved it. From the beginning it was a community enterprise and it continues to be so. At first it was only the few who saw its possibilities—who saw that such an opportunity for Negro initiative along lines of race progress, was to be desired. Many stood off and criticized.

"But steadily the work has moved on, growing stronger month by month—steadily drawing into fuller sense of their common interests and needs a large part of South Omaha's colored group. This is a group rich in religious spirit. There are eight churches active, of several denominations. The great lack heretofore has been some binding force, some non-denominational, practical program for community welfare on which all groups could unite.

"Since the Center has been organized, it is supplying this program, as far as four small club rooms and two small playgrounds will permit. Following the lead of the churches, working with them at every point possible, its workers are striving to build up a spirit of active community service among both old and young, and succeeding to a surprising degree. This spirit of good-will was notably manifest last month on two separate occasions when large number of adults came together.

"The first meeting was one which

all eight churches of South Omaha helped to assemble, some dismissing early that evening in order to permit their members to attend. It was a meeting of 106 mothers and married women to discuss the "Responsibility of Mothers and Daughters." The special significance of the subject was given it by a juvenile delinquency situation, which had lately shocked the community, and in remedying which the Center was able to help in many ways. Representatives of all eight churches were on the program. Of the 106 women present, 28 were without any church connection. Within so large a group, the strong spirit of good will and sympathy and understanding which showed itself, was taken by all as an omen of good for the future.

"The other occasion to be mentioned was the recent Christmas Benefit, sponsored by the Parent-Teachers Association. This benefit was inspired by the need of two invalids in the neighborhood for wheel chairs. The Parent-Teacher Association at a meeting in the fall had set itself the task of supplying these chairs and later gladly accepted the offer of Mrs. Rhone to let the children of the Center share the effort by giving a program at a Christmas Benefit party. The consummation of the plans was a large gathering a few days before Christmas in Swift's Employees' Cafeteria, most generously loaned by Mr. Cushman on this as well as other occasions. The audience again represented every church in South Omaha, and money enough was taken in to buy one chair and contribute towards the other. Boys and girls as well as grown-ups were present when the chair was presented and no eye was dry.

"Again, at the Improvement Club's Christmas Eve party for children, it was a boy who made the presentation speech when \$5.00 was taken from the tree as a surprise for old Mr. Clark. It was this boy who explained how 18 months ago when the Center was being made ready for occupancy it was Mr. Clark—then in better health than he is now—who labored day after day, volunteering his skill in the laying of the long stone walk which stretches from street to alley. Such enterprises are doing things to the community!

"As for the rest of the program—the definite activities along special lines can only be briefly suggested.

"Our director in charge, Mrs. Rhone, brings a quality of spirit, a spiritual and mental poise, as well as a high degree of executive ability and social vision such as we must be profoundly grateful for. Three and one-half years' experience in Y. W. work lay behind her when she came to us last March at the time when Miss Patrick, our previous director, had been called home by illness.

"Mrs. Busch, the original inspiration for the Center, and now its home visitor, is a kindred spirit and works in closest sympathy with Mrs. Rhone. Through her visiting in the homes, she shares a multitude of the neighborhood's problems and needs, needs both material and spiritual. Some of these problems the Center can help to solve; many it can refer to other agencies. One case conference held at the Center enlisted the co-operation of six different groups.

"The Center's Home Improvement Club is also reaching the homes. As one result of last summer's contest, an alley—long an eyesore in the neighborhood—drew two out of ten prizes awarded for improvement of premises. The first prize went to a yard which had been transformed from a bare patch of ground to a lovely mass of blossoming flowers.

"The boys' work at the Center has drawn in several workers during the year. Since last spring, however, Mr. Stewart has been with us, at first as a volunteer interested in a particular baseball team, and since September as the regular evening assistant, interested in ALL the boys. His natural interest in athletics and club work draws a quick response from the boys, and his ready co-operation with the other workers, means the

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EDITORIAL

We feel sure that our readers will be interested in learning of the activities of the Cultural Center on the South Side as revealed by the report published in this issue. It must be admitted that the Center is faithfully and earnestly striving to render a much needed service in the community. There is far too little constructive social service work conducted for and by our group. Character building agencies are needed in every community and we should lend our encouragement to all such worthy and deserving efforts to better conditions. This is particularly true of institutions which justify their existence by the work they are doing and by rendering a strict account of the funds placed at their disposal. The work being accomplished by the Cultural Center is most commendable. Our people should visit the Center, learn what is being done there and heartily co-operate with it in any way they can.

A STRIKING CARTOON

The Monitor whose policy is to give credit where due and to encourage our people to their best endeavors in any line of praiseworthy work, desires to compliment Mr. R. A. Ashford, for his excellent cartoon, "Sowing the Wind and Reaping the Whirlwind," which appeared in last week's issue of The Omaha Guide. The cartoon graphically represents one of those atrocities which mars our American civilization—the burning of a Negro at the stake with a jeering mob looking gleefully on. Below this swept by a whirl of wind is depicted, a white youth, evidently intended for Hickman, kneeling beside a bathtub, holding a dismembered arm in his hand, while fragments of a human body rest on a towel on a chair near by. The cartoon is most suggestive and shows the cartoonist to have talent of a high order which should be cultivated. We compliment our contemporary upon publishing the cartoon.

CAN IT BE DONE?

We are wondering if the year 1928 might not see the successful launching of a building and loan association or home such financial enterprise among our people in this city. It takes knowledge and experience for such institutions and we have been wondering if their might not be found here some person or persons who could successfully manage such an institution. We wonder if it can be done.

Looking Over An Old Copy of "The Mission Monitor"

Last week we spoke of the fact that The Monitor was developed into a general race paper out of our little parish paper, The Mission Monitor, which was published monthly for the instruction of St. Philip's congregation. We acceded to the felt and expressed demand for a local weekly race organ and so began the publication of The Monitor in this larger capacity on July 2, 1915.

In looking over some of the old copies of The Mission Monitor published more than a quarter of a century ago, we found it rather interesting. We believe that our readers will enjoy taking a glance with us over some of those old copies.

Twenty-Eight Years Ago!

Well, here's the issue of March 1900. Notice that it is Number 3 of Volume V, showing that the little monthly is in its sixth year of publication. It is an eight-page "magazine," 11 by eight, three columns to the page, neatly printed and well-gotten up. On page one is a beautiful poem, "Though the Shadows Be Dark," by Emma E. Haanel, in the Home Circle. Then follows a sermon on "The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary," preached at St. Philip's and published by request. This occupies six columns. Two brief and interesting articles captioned, "Frankly Conceded" and "The Church Idea," by the Rev. George Betts, follow and bring us to page four, the editorial page, where the masthead proudly proclaims:

THE MISSION MONITOR

A Church Magazine Published Monthly Primarily in the Interests of the Church of St. Philip the Deacon And Devoted Chiefly

1. To instructing the congregation in the Doctrine, Discipline, Worship and History of the Church to the end that they may become devout and well-informed Churchmen.
2. To disseminating general Church information and especially intelligence as to work of the "Protestant Episcopal Church" among Afro-Americans with the hope of awakening and sustaining interest therein.
3. To discussing such matters of general interest as may seem to us wise and expedient.

Editor and Publisher
The Rev. John Albert Williams
1124 North 20th Street,

YOKE OF BONDAGE LIFTED IN AFRICA

British Decree Frees More Than a Quarter Million

Freetown, Sierra Leone, Africa.—The yoke of bondage fell from the shoulders of nearly 250,000 natives recently. The natives were held by Africans like themselves and served in the homes. A British decree, gained principally through the Christian efforts of a noble woman, Lady Simon, place them on a basis of political equality with their former masters.

DEATH CLOSES CAREER OF PROMISING YOUNG BAPTIST MINISTER

Had Made Many Friends During His Brief Residence Here as Pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church

The Rev. C. B. Burton, who came to Omaha from Minneapolis only a few months ago to become pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist church, Twenty-fourth and Ohio streets, died last Friday morning at the Methodist hospital, sincerely mourned, not only by the members of his own congregation, but by many outside who had come in contact with this promising young minister. While he had been a resident of this city for only about six months, he had made a most favorable impression. His death at the early age of 34 years is sincerely regretted.

The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from Mount Moriah Baptist church and was largely attended. The invocation was said by Rev. J. R. Young of Zion Baptist church. The sermon was preached by the Rev. J. H. Jackson, with brief addresses by the Rev. Messrs. John H. Grant, C. H. Trusty, O. J. Burckhardt, William Storrs and Z. E. McGee, and Mrs. Hiram Greenfield. Resolutions from the Ministers' Alliance were read by the Rev. J. C. Brewer; and from the church officers and auxiliaries by Mr. George W. Hibbler. The Scripture reading was by the Rev. F. S. Goodlet and the obituary by Mr. R. S. Simms. Solos were sung by Mrs. J. P. Mosley and the Rev. E. L. Hamlet, and other musical numbers by the choir.

The remains, accompanied by the widow, his mother, Mrs. Priscilla Jackson; Mrs. I. M. McIntosh, representing the congregation, and the Rev. Z. E. McGee, were shipped by Undertaker J. D. Lewis to Wichita, Kansas, for interment.

MASS MEETING HELD TO BID FAREWELL TO DEPARTING PASTOR

Rev. William Frederick Botts Accepts Call to California Church, Closing Eighteen Years at Zion Baptist

Sunday afternoon Zion Baptist church was filled by an audience who came to say farewell to the Rev. W. F. Botts and his wife, who left Monday night for Los Angeles, Cal., where he becomes pastor of St. Paul's Baptist church. Dr. Botts had been pastor of Zion Baptist church for 18 years.

The mass meeting or farewell reception was under the auspices of the New Era Baptist association of which the departing pastor was the organizer and its moderator for ten years. An interesting program of speeches intermingled with music featured the affair. The Rev. F. S. Goodlet was master of ceremonies. Among the speakers were Mr. H. L. Anderson, Mr. H. J. Ford, Attorney H. J. Pinkett, Mrs. M. M. Griffin, of Lincoln, head of the women's department of the association; Rev. E. H. Hilson, Rev. D. McQueen, Rev. John H. Grant, pastor of St. John's A. M. E. church, and Rev. John Albert Williams, rector of St. Philip's Episcopal church.

Mrs. Bailey, on behalf of the Boosters' club of St. John's A. M. E. church, in a most appropriate speech, presented Dr. Botts a basket of flowers; the Rev. J. H. Jackson, pastor of Bethel Baptist church, South Side,

PLEAD STRONGLY FOR PROMOTION OF RACE GOOD WILL

Dr. Mordecai Johnson, Dr. John Mott and Sherwood Eddy Prominent Speakers at Students' Convention

Detroit, Mich.—Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard university, made a powerful plea against the austere treatment of some peoples under the government of the United States at the Student Volunteer Movement convention here. Dr. John R. Mott, pioneer in the student movement in the United States and other countries pictured the gradual blending of Christian ethics into the world forces that are making for the unity and solidarity of the human race.

Dr. Johnson criticized the policy of the United States in its treatment of the peoples of Haiti, Nicaragua, and other Caribbean and Latin-American countries.

He affirmed that the 40,000,000 Christian people in the United States participated in what he called a policy of political and racial discrimination.

"The Christian people of America exploit the Negroes in our midst, depriving them of their political franchise and segregating them in an unbrotherly fashion not only in cities and towns but even in churches. The church in America is falling far short of influencing in any dominant way the social and economic life of our nation.

"We are witnessing today the gradual enfeeblement of Christian enterprise and this condition will continue until we produce a church that transcends all national and racial boundaries."

Golden Rule Among Nations
Dr. Sherwood Eddy of New York followed with an address that stressed the spiritual unity of the human race.

"The unity of the human race implies the mutual interchange of the best within each national culture. The potential brotherhood of men requires for its ultimate fulfillment not only the preaching, but the practicing of mutual respect and of international peace."

ANSWERS FINAL SUMMONS HENRY W. WILLIAMS

Henry W. Williams, aged 59, died at his late residence, 2416 Parker street early Tuesday morning. Although he had been in poor health for several years he only took to his bed Sunday.

The deceased, who was the fourth son of the late Henry Williams and his wife, Adaline D'Or, was born in London, Ont., August 2, 1868, and lived for a number of years in Detroit, Mich., and Chicago, coming to Omaha 18 years ago where he has since resided.

He is survived by his widow, Jennie; a son, Bert E., of Chicago; a sister, Mrs. Sarah B. Canty; a brother, Rev. John Albert Williams; three nieces, Mrs. Alice M. Smith, Dorothy E., and Catherine A. Williams, and a nephew, Worthington L. Williams. The funeral will be held Friday afternoon from St. Philip's church with interment at Forest Lawn.

on behalf of the New Era Baptist association, in a fitting address, presented the retiring moderator with a bejewelled gold medal, and Mrs. Mamie Griffin presented Mrs. Botts with a silver tea set and orange spoons. The recipients expressed their deep appreciation for the tokens of esteem. Each speaker in bringing greetings to Zion's departing pastor and his wife, voiced regret at their leaving and wished them God-speed in their new fields. Several of the speakers, both clerical and lay, stressed the importance of a high standard of life upon the part of the ministry.

The shoemaker should certainly get there with both feet.