

# THE VOICE

A NEGRO WEEKLY

"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people"

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## HOW SHALL WE BEGIN?

The secret of success in many adventures is a good beginning. And how to make a success of the coming year, for many of us, will largely depend on how we begin it. Like a new and unexplored country it lies before us all unknown. What perils and dangers, or what joys and triumphs it may reveal, we cannot tell. What opportunities for progress, for usefulness and service to humanity; what new fields of endeavor, what possibilities of good or evil, what victories and defeats the new year may bring to us, not one of us knows.

How shall we begin? We shall begin as creation began, with God. If the coming year is to have any real meaning or purpose, any worth or dignity; if it is to lead us to any goal worth while, to any loftier level of manhood or womanhood, then He who is the source of all life and the inspiration of all noble living—God—must stand with us on the very threshold of the year and step out with us on its undiscovered highways.

"Keep me, my God, for my boat is so small and Thy ocean so wide," was the prayer of an old sailor. And it is in the spirit of that prayer that you and I should face this next year. The expanse of the next twelve months is so wide and so deep, and our little boat is so small; the storms of trouble and sorrow are so great, the tides of opposition so strong, the shoals of temptation and reefs of danger so many, that you and I can never hope to make the harbor in safety unless the Great Pilot Himself has hold of the helm.

In the beginning, God! And on to the end, God!

F. R. L.

## "NEGRO IN AMERICA"

Editors Note: The following article was contributed by Mr. Robert T. Malone, president of the Urban League and is taken from the "Yours sincerely" column by James W. Ivy of New York City.

Dear George Cokker:

I shall answer your question on the "Negro in America" through citation of pertinent facts and statistics. I hope in this way to etch in the portrait of our largest American minority.

Negroes in the United States constitute roughly about 15 million citizens, or 9.8 percent of our total population. Brought here in the 17th and 18th centuries as chattle slaves to furnish a needed labor supply for a virgin country, they were freed after a bitter civil war, and given full citizenship status only 78 years ago with the adoption of the 14th amendment to our federal constitution.

Our Negroes are still largely a southern rural folk, with more than 77 percent of them still residing in the former slave-holding states of the south.

It is here that the so-called Negro problem is most acute and the incongruities sharpest, for life in the south is bi-racial.

But there are growing progressive elements among the southern whites who are working to better race relations and to improve the status of the Negro. They are fighting to eliminate the poll tax, to abolish lynching, to better the schools, to widen Negro suffrage, and to unionize the South.

Since their emancipation 81 years ago, Negroes have reduced their illiteracy from 81.4 percent in 1890 to less than 8 percent in 1946.

More than 40,000 are enrolled in institutions of higher learning, and the number of college graduates has jumped from 313 in 1879 to more than 5,000 in 1946.

There are 7 million Negro church members, mostly Protestant; 128 Negro hospitals; and 155 Negro newspapers with a combined circulation of over 2 million. Though most Negro labor is unskilled, they now constitute 4.4 percent of American skilled craftsmen. In the mechanical and manufacturing trades nearly 30 percent of them belong to trade unions. Their banks have combined resources of 11 million dollars, and retail sales from 30 thousand Negro business establishments total more than 80 million dollars annually. The combined annual purchasing power of American Negroes is estimated at twelve billion dollars.

During the war just closed, 511,493 Negro troops served overseas in the various theatres of operation.

Our Negroes with the help of white friends and sympathizers are daily fighting for full equality

and first-class citizenship. They have little of that sad serenity of acquiescence so often extolled in song and story.

Yours sincerely,  
James W. Ivy

## HONOLULU JOTTINGS

by John Miller

Honolulu

December 18, 1946

Dear Readers:

This column has been dedicated to you for your reading pleasure. Those of you who would like your news printed will please contact Mr. Ruffus Mallory at B. Q. 43, Apt. 310 CHA No. 3, Honolulu 59, Hawaii. Note: all your news must be of general interest and of good taste. The editor reserves the right to reject any letters or make any deletions as may be deemed necessary by his judgment. The editor wants you to know that the sole purpose of "The Voice" is to promote better welfare among men and to make good things better. It is a requisite that all news items be sent in with your name and address as evidence of good faith.

Almost a founding last Thursday night was 7 year old Fabiola Butler of New Orleans, La., who arrived at John Rodgers Air Port expecting to meet her parents whom she hadn't seen in 3 years. Fabiola had boarded the plane earlier in the day at San Francisco but when a telegram was delayed, her parents failed to meet her. They were located in CHA No. 3 by the Police and rushed to the Air Port. Among other recent arrivals here are Mrs. Hosea Townsend and children, Rolland, Beverly, and Janet aged 6, 7, and 8 respectively. The Townsends formerly of Newton, Kansas plan to make Honolulu their home.

Among those leaving this week for the States is Mr. Clifford Minor of Tulsa, Oklahoma where he has a wife and two children. The list also included Mr. Ralph Jackson of Detroit, Michigan as well as others whose names are omitted for lack of space. To all of you who are sailing *The Voice* wishes you a Bon Voyage, happy landing and God bless you all.

## OPEN LETTER

To Our Subscribers in Honolulu

We acknowledge with grateful appreciation your letters of commendation and subscriptions to "The Voice." We shall be happy to receive and publish articles of interest to you and our readers.

Should you want the papers to be sent "air mail" each week an additional 4c per copy or \$2.08 per year will be the cost; otherwise you will receive each issue through the regular channels.

Your continued cooperation will be appreciated.

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