

Our Children

By Mrs. W. B. Davis



Character

We often miss the opportunity to teach children the high character of Africans from whom the so-called Negroes of America sprang. The children learn much on the streets and from the biased literature which they study that Negroes had such bad habits as taking pigs and chickens which they had raised for their stingy owners who would not provide these hard-worked men and women with sufficient food. Children in the schools learn also that Negroes during those days often told falsehoods, but this is untrue except in case of trying to escape cruel punishment at the whipping post or to deceive the tormenting drivers with the lash. Later the whites encouraged Negroes to tell falsehoods on one another. In Africa stealing was unnecessary, for all worked together as members of the same tribe and enjoyed in common what they produced. Both stealing and lying were punished as unpardonable crimes, and Africans in their native state were generally without such habits. When the Moors, Arabs, Europeans, and Americans began to raid the shores of Africa and stole the Natives whom they sold into slavery these Africans learned such bad habits from their so-called civilized captors.

Africans showed high character when they were first settled in America. For example, an Englishman when visiting a planter in America a few years

before the American Revolution saw his host send a Negro servant to town with \$1,500 to pay a debt. The Englishman was unusually surprised that the planter had such confidence in a Negro servant. He remarked that no Englishman would be so rash as to trust any of the servants of his own race with such a large amount of money.

Colonel Ashley who had much experience with Negroes in British dependencies once said there were no people in the world that he would trust his property and life with sooner than with Negroes. He further said that during the insurrection of 1816 by which the neighboring parishes were ravaged he was suddenly called from home on military duty. After he had proceeded some distance, he recollected that he had left \$5,000 in an open desk at home. He immediately informed the Negro servant with him and sent him back to take care of it. The colonel knew nothing more of his money until the rebellion was quelled and peace restored. When he returned the Negro led him to a cocoa-nut tree near by the house and dug up the money which he had buried under its roots. He found the whole sum secure. The Negro might have taken the money, and the Colonel would never have suspected him, but would have concluded that it had been in common with other large sums seized upon by the insurgents.

WEDDING

Moss-Cooksey

Mrs. Bea Cooksey was united in marriage Saturday, December 21 to Oscar Moss at the A. M. E. parsonage. Rev. R. E. Handy performed the ceremony. The couple is at home to their friends at 924 Belmont Avenue.

Christmas Party

Among the unique Christmas parties was that held by the Custodial and Maintenance employees in the Post Office building on Tuesday. Arrangements were under the supervision of Miss Loretta R. Swanigan assisted by Mrs. Frances Robinson and Mrs. Kathryn Conway.

Mr. Chas. Cook was master of ceremonies of the program which included all of the 30 employees. They all expressed a desire to make this an annual affair. Refreshments were served and gifts exchanged.

Though your brother may be richer, you are stronger; if without arrogance or any false pride, you will reach down a bit lower and pull up that brother and welcome him to your side.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

Apartment for Rent—1136 Dawes Street, 3-room completely furnished for \$20 per month. Call Mrs. Bea Cooksey Moss 2-2719.

Tallulah Bankhead Publicly Opposes Washington Theatre Ban On Negroes

Washington—(ANP)—The age-old policy of barring Negroes from admission to the National theatre with the excuse that it is following a community pattern, was the subject of Miss Tallulah Bankhead's protest here last Monday evening. Miss Bankhead, the daughter of the late speaker of the house, William B. Bankhead of Alabama, is the star of the theatre's current play offering.

She declared bluntly that it was "an international scandal that our great country's capital should make a laughing stock of our constitution and bill of rights discriminating against any human being in any form." She offered the hope that Actors' equity will act soon on the proposed ruling that no member appear here unless Negroes are allowed in the theatres."

President of Actors' equity, Clarence Derwent, said that the proposal is still under consideration and that he personally favors admitting Negroes to any and all theatres.

Meanwhile, a large sign was posted in the lobby of the theatre which reaffirmed the management's policy of barring Negroes from admission. The sign said that if tickets presented by any person not conforming to the theatre's policy, admission would be refused and no refunds made. This move was seen as a blocking method designed to prevent Negroes from trying to gain entry with tickets purchased by white persons, and then turning the tickets in for refunds after it is too late to resell them.

On the other side, the Committee for Racial Democracy in the Nation's capital, headed by Miss Ida Fox, executive secretary, let it be known that should refunds not be forthcoming after admission is refused "our attorneys are prepared to take the necessary and proper steps to test the legality of the theatre's position."

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