

THE VOICE

A NEGRO WEEKLY

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

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Does The Negro Find Justice In The Courts Of The United States?

by Joseph W. Adams

The courts of "The United States" care a great deal for the minority races on paper, but their enforcement of it is a weakened effort. As we can see from the news about us the man on the bench cannot enforce the laws. He sees injustice carried on in his courts every day by the law enforcement officers and by the juries which he has to use and yet he does not have the power to stop it.

We the people can do a lot by using our power of voting to choose the right kind of an officer to uphold the statutes of our courts. It is the people who are the juries and they prosecute their fellowmen. Why is it that we have to see these deplorable manifestations of racial discrimination at home. They are exploded to the people in Europe when you travel abroad. Why is it that you want to give justice to these people in Europe and of the world with your injustice at home.

Do you think that you can get harmony in the world court of the U.N. when you cannot get it in your own state courts for your own people.

—A Veteran of World War II

HOW LONG

"Go break to the needy sweet charity's bread,

For giving is living," the angel said.

"And must I keep giving again and again?"

My peevish and selfish answer ran.

"Oh, no!" said the angel, piercing me through.

"Just give till the Master stops giving to you!"

—Edwin Markham

Dark Merit



by
Kathryne
Favors

The Free Negro during slavery

It is interesting to note that during slavery there were many, many free Negroes. Some were freed for loyal service by their masters, and some worked and saved their earnings and bought their freedom.

There were many wealthy Negroes who were free during slavery. Jehu Jones was the proprietor of one of the most popular hotels in Charleston and owner of forty thousand dollars' worth of property. Thomy Lafon in New Orleans accumulated real estate to the amount of almost one half million dollars. In New Orleans also was a woman who owned a tavern and several slaves. Carter G. Woodson says, "A Negro in St. Paul's Parish, South Carolina, was said to have two hundred slaves, and a white wife and son-in-law, in 1857. In 1833 Solomon Humphries, a free Negro well known by men of all classes in Macon, Georgia, kept a grocery store there and had more credit than any other merchant in town. He had accumulated about twenty thousand dollars' worth of property, including a number of slaves. Cyprian Ricard bought an estate in Iberville Parish, with ninety-one slaves, for about \$225,000. Marie Metoyer, of Natchitoches Parish, possessed fifty slaves and an estate of more than 2,000 acres. Charles Rogues of the same community left in 1848, leaving a Negro wife and children possessed of 4,500 arpents of land, eighty-nine slaves and personal property worth \$46,000."

All free Negroes, of course, were not as wealthy as these. Many of the Negroes, especially in the south, were mechanics. In the south, there were more favorable conditions for the Negro mechanics. By some, the Negroes in the early nineteenth century were ranked by many as economically and intellectually superior to any other group of such persons in the United States.

We might wonder about the situation in the North. The slave found it very difficult. There was just as much prejudice in the North as there was in the South towards the free Negro. This feeling still exists today to a certain extent in the North. Some states in the North, as one would expect are not as prejudiced as others. In California, I have noted, that all races may be seen walking down the street and chatting with one another.

Mary Bethune Literary and Art Club Meets

The regular meeting of the Mary Bethune Literary and Art Club met Thursday afternoon at the Urban League with the president, Mrs. Jennie R. Edwards presiding. After the regular business session a program followed with Mrs. Harry Peterson in charge.

Among the guests attending the meeting were: Mrs. George Randol and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Elwood Randol of St. Louis, Mo.; and Mrs. W. Mosely of Monroe, La.

Negroes or Colored

There has been much controversy over the words Negro and Colored. Some members of our group prefer one name and others prefer the other.

Technically for means of racial classification I believe the word Negro is used. When referring to individuals Colored seems a nicer word. If I had to choose between the two I would rather be called Colored.

But why should there be any differentiation at all? Very few of us were born anywhere except in the U.S. I understand there are near 2000 members of our race in Lincoln. I think there are only 2 who were born in Africa. Those two are real Africans because they were born in Africa. If we were born in America are we not American? If this country is a melting pot of the races of the world, why can't those people who are considered as being citizens be just American and check the word American instead of Colored or Negro?

I think that we as a race tend toward isolation by not stressing this point whenever we meet a racial situation. We should be proud of our prominent people because they are Americans and not because they are Colored. Every American regardless of race has a just cause to be proud of such persons as Marion Anderson, Joe Louis, and the late President Roosevelt, Will Rogers, and other great Americans.

If we stress nationality or color less, more opportunities would be open to us. If we apply for a job our race or religion should never be asked. Our ability and references should be the only qualifications.

I suppose I have a few who would agree with me and I would appreciate anyone writing just how they feel about this.

Laura Lee

1,000 Enrolled At Hampton Inst.

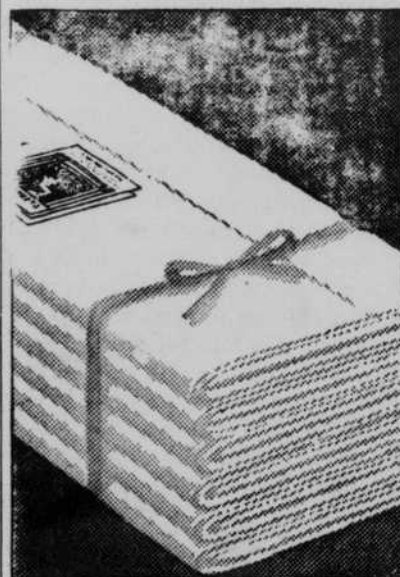
Hampton Institute, Va.—With an enrollment of approximately 1,000 students, the largest number ever registered in a summer term, Hampton Institute's 1947 summer session began June 18, and will continue through July 29 for the six-week term, and through Aug. 20 for the nine-week term.

A faculty of over fifty persons, including thirty-nine teachers from educational institutions in different parts of the country, will teach the 117 courses and three workshops scheduled as a part of the session which proposes to prepare teachers, principals, supervisors, and other leaders to meet successfully the problems confronting them in their schools and community.

"Many States Represented"

Texas, Alabama, Georgia, Missouri, Kansas, Tennessee, Oklahoma and other localities are represented in the large number of Negro students attending the summer session at the Uni. of Nebraska. Nebraska U. is really becoming well known throughout the country.

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Mrs. Bethune Warns of Critical National Choice

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune in a radio address on "Americans All" program over WWDC, Sunday night appealed to the nation to be careful in choosing which road it will take as it approaches this critical junction in the history of the world and the destiny of the nation.

The easy, downhill road, she said, is that of suspicion of other nations, disagreement, conflict and war which would blast civilization from the face of the earth. It takes strong men to travel the uphill road which is tortuous and rocky. The road is that of national and international understanding, resolving of differences, compromise, agreement and peace she pointed out.

She names the uphill road as being the democratic one which would offer equal opportunity for all men—regardless of his station, his color or national origin. The other road is designed for the chosen few, the high born, the select, for those of the "right" religion or the "right" race.

She urged all citizens to fight to make America realize the ideals upon which its government was founded.

Rare U. S. Nickel Turns Up in Liberia

Rare U. S. coins have a way of bobbing up in many foreign countries. Recently one turned up in Monrovia, Liberia in the possession of Jacob Browne, a local ANP correspondent.

The coin is a silver five-cent piece, on one side of which is the American coat of arms and the date 1836. The reverse side bears the head of an Indian with 13 stars.

Mr. Browne says he will be glad to dispose of the coin to any person or persons interested. He may be contacted at P. O. Box 20, Carey Street, Monrovia.

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