

SOUTHERN MINISTER GIVES GEORGIA SENATOR A SEVERE DRUBBING.

(By Associated Negro Press)
 Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 16.—Never in the history of the country has a United States Senator been given a severe drubbing at the hands of a Southern white citizen as Senator John Sharpe Williams received from the Rev. C. B. Wilmer, Rector of the St. Luke's Episcopal church, this city. Rev. Wilmer undoubtedly, shows not only great intelligence but great courage in his statement to the Associated Negro Press, which says:

"The whole world seems to be like a volcano which may erupt at any moment and bring universal destruction. If there ever was a time in the history of the human race when only words of truth and soberness should be spoken that moment is now. If ever there was a time when we needed to know what forces are really effective to stamp out rebellion and crime, it is now. It is no time for lunatics to me abroad. One must therefore deplore the reported utterances of Senator Williams of Mississippi, to the effect that the protection of women transcends all law, human and divine." It is within bounds to say that is as wild and incoherent a statement as ever proceeded from a madhouse. To assume that the understrained orgy of revenge and passion is going to protect anybody or anything is crazy; to assume that we can protect anybody that ought to be protected by transcending divine law is blasphemous.

One of the minor aspects of this debate in the senate, reported in this morning's paper, if debate it can be called, is the humiliation, every right-minded southerner must feel over the fact that a southern man, one we are all proud of, who has been doing valiant service for the League of Nations which represents an effort to bring law and order righteousness and peace out of the world's welter of war and slaughter should expose himself to the deserved rebuke administered by Senator Borah. The senator from Idaho, may be wrong-headed on the League of Nations, but he told the exact truth when he said that the advocacy of lynch law was sowing the wind to reap the whirlwind; that it could only end in the disintegration of the republic.

This is the practical and serious aspect of the matter. So far as our situation in the south is concerned I cannot conceive of a more pernicious doctrine to spread abroad than that we can protect our women by the course recommended. Nothing so fires the southern heart as the appeal to chivalry. Nothing, accordingly, is so dangerous if misdirected. There can be no greater appeal to our sympathies than is presented by the victim of brutal crime. If it were true that we could stamp out crime by the fury of violence, that blazes the way of our redemption. But it is not true, and most awful is the appeal to all that is best in us to work the worst. Satan is disguised as an angel of light.

I challenge the statement of the senator from Mississippi and I appeal to him as a citizen of a great republic whose mission it must be to lead the world between the extremes of autocracy and anarchy; as a member of the law-making department of government; as a man with a brilliant and trained mind, capable of tracing effects to their cause; above all as a Christian and a churchman. I submit to him and to all others the opposite proposition, viz: that there is no protection of our women save in the maintenance of law and order and in the bringing to bear in all our problems the spirit of true religion. I say to him in all solemnity—and if he will open his mind to the truth he will be bound to believe it—that every such occurrence as that at Omaha actually imperils the safety of our homes throughout the length and breadth of the land. Every participant in a mob and every apologist for mobs is joining hand with criminals to bring about the unchecked reign of anarchy. There is no use in disguising the issue. "If Jehovah be God follow him; but if Baal, follow him." If lawlessness, if revenge, if hatred, be our God, then follow them. Let the United States Congress adjourn and the senator from Mississippi retire to his cotton plantation. Let the Atlanta council instead of wrangling over the necessary taxes to keep our public schools going, disband, having first abolished the public schools altogether; and let the church of the

Living God evaporate in smoke. Let us then all get together on the only proposition which is likely to command universal consent, viz: that Satan, he is the God; Satan, he is the God.

On the other hand, if the true Deity is righteousness, justice and love; if normal and spiritual forces must ultimately prevail; if St. Paul was not crazy, but on the contrary, was inspired of God, when he wrote that "the powers that be are ordained of God," and that he who opposes the state in its divinely authorized character of wielder of the sword of divine justice, is withstanding the ordinance of God and destined to bring the divine judgment upon himself (Roman 13)—if these things be true, then is Jehovah our God. How long halt we between two opinions? There is no compromise possible.

If ever he whom of us worship as "God manifest in the flesh," and all knowledge as the world's supreme teacher, spake truth of the most practical character it was when He said, "Ye cannot cast out demons through Beelzebub the Chief of Demons." Not "ye ought not," but "ye can not." It will not work. There is a fanaticism in human nature. Retaliation is not limited to the breasts of mobs. It has abundant place and play in thousands of others. "The wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." Evil begets evil. Evil must overcome evil with good. There is no other way. We of the white south have the choice today of lining up with one or the other of two movements. Either we cast God and good aside, or we make up our minds to apply seriously and intelligently all the intellectual and moral and spiritual forces to which is due whatever to progress the world has ever made, and we go back swiftly into barbarism and undo in a decade the achievements of thousands of years. We can mobilize the existing character and good will of innumerable Negro leaders in a sympathetic combination to work with us for the coming of the kingdom; or we can tie their hands and render them impotent, while the ignorant masses are turned over to radicals and extremists."

DR. GRIGGS BACK IN MEMPHIS. Was Orator at the National Baptist Convention.

Special to The Express.

Dr. Griggs returned to the city yesterday from Newark, N. J., where he went to deliver the principal address in the National Baptist Convention is said to bring together the largest number of representative Negroes that gather for any purpose, and the honor of delivering the principal address is reserved for the person regarded as the outstanding leader of his race.

Although an admission fee was charged, delegates and visitors so crowded the entrance to the armory where the address was delivered, that four policemen were required to prevent congestion. The daily papers of Newark estimated the audience to number 12,000 persons.

Dr. Griggs discussed the situation of the Negro race in the world, and gave his views as to causes and remedies. The delegates who returned to the city yesterday state that the impression made by the address was profound and caused Dr. Griggs to be rated as the foremost thinker in the Negro race. His views met with complete acceptance, the tribute to him by the convention being adopted by a unanimous vote. Dr. O. L. Hailley, the officials representative of the Southern Baptist Convention, was present and heard the address. He said: "I regard that address as de-

serving the widest possible reading and shall be glad of the privilege to help extend its influence."

Delegations from all sections of the north and south waited upon Dr. Griggs and extended him urgent invitations to come among them. He accepted invitations to speak in Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City and West Virginia and other places in the North upon dates that will not conflict with his duties to his congregation in Memphis."

—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

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