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### "WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING?"

There is no story which appeals more strongly to thoughtful men and carries a stronger and more pointed moral than that of the humane Egyptian who put a frozen viper in his bosom, which, as soon as it was thawed out, turned and bit its preserver to death. If it were possible to do this President Mckinley must have felt on reading The Washington Post of last Sunday, that the editor of that paper had it in mind to do for him what the viper did for the Egyptian. At any rate, The Post, which has all along stood as an administration organ for a purpose, has now turned upon the President and declared that he and the party have steadily lost popularity in the nation during the past three months; it goes further and declares that the anarchism which lurked in the Chicago platform upon which Bryan was nominated in 1896 was more in the mind of the campaign orator than in the platform itself. Then it admits on the other hand that the Republican party has eliminated this anarchical possibility within the next six years by the legislation which makes the gold standard the fixed policy of the nation. Free trade it also declares to be an impossibility within the next six years, even though we should have a Democrat in the White House and a majority of Democrats in the House of Representatives All this is interesting as showing that having got what they want the viperous Democratic editors of the country like The Post are now ready to line up with Bryan and their party in November next. It is a splendid object lesson in strategic politics in which the Southern Democrats have always been past grand masters. They not only know how to hoodwink their enemies but failing in that how to bludgeon them.

It is true that the Republican party in its executive and legislative capacity has done all that a great party could do to make impossible the anarchistic features of the Bryan Chicago platform; it is also true that those features abide in that platform and are the basic tenets of Democratic policy, and will remain so until the Democrats can meet in National Convention and adopt another policy. It is impossible to regard the matter from any other point of view. The Democratic party stands on the Chicago platform, and what the Chicago platform stands for has been sufficiently emphasized to need no recapitulation here.

The white Democrats of the South to whom the administration owed nothing have been large beneficiaries of Republican favor, in war and in peace, since the election of President McKinley. How will they requite these benefactions? The attitude of The Post sufficiently indicates how they will do it. Treachery and lack of integrity, when these are necessary to Democratic success, have always been resorted to by the moulders of Democratic opinion.

We expect that President McKinley will be re-nominated and re-elected, but he will be nominated by Republican votes and if he is elected, he will be elected by Republican votes. The Southern States are lined up solidly for Bryan and the Chicago platform, and they are buttressed by shot guns, behind which are desperate men. That this is to be the mode of procedure is sufficiently emphasized by the statement of Chairman Simmons of North Carolina that before next November there will be two thousand white supremacy clubs in North Carolina; that is to say the old Ku Klux plan is to be reorganized under a new name but with identical purposes to insure Democratic supremacy.

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The white politicians' "principles" are usually heavily capitalized and profitably invested.

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It is very nearly time for the Negro to be getting some recognition in the civil government provided for Cuba and Porto Rico, and to be in line for something rich and juicy in the Philippines.

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### BISHOP ALEXANDER WALTERS.

The recent address of Bishop Alexander Walters at a New York banquet and reception, was a notable one. It was strong, outspoken, logical and timely, and the audience that heard it and was convinced thereby, was typical of the race's highest intelligence and broadest culture. Bishop Walters' picture of the crisis through which the Negro is now passing was not overdrawn, although sketched on sombre lines as to the background of outrage and proscription, but the lighter tints of energy, ambition and determination to organize, lent a glow of hope. He saw in such combinations as the Afro-American Council, with its Whites, Browns, Lawsons, Fortunes and other equally earnest men at work, the agencies by which the race was to be rescued. Their activity on the firing line, reinforced by the preachers, educators and journalists, presented a battle array that would be found invincible when put to the crucial test. Bishop Walters sees a Promised Land ahead, but believes that to reach and enjoy it, there must be another march like unto that of the Children of Israel. Reward awaits those who fight a good fight and who are faithful to the end.

No man in the country except Mr. Washington, has grown upon the country as Bishop Walters has done. His breadth of vision, liberal heart and confidence in the wisdom of the plain people, coming to light just in the nick of time, have combined to make him one of the most notable figures of this generation. He is young yet, and will continue to grow. The people believe in him, and will stand by him and the Council over which he presides. The radiant page which Bishop Walters is contributing to history will illuminate the pathway of many a Negro now wandering in the dark.

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As an illustration of the wide circulation of and vast area covered by The Colored American, our mailing clerk last week, in addition to the usual foreign and domestic bundles, sent extra consignments per order to Berlin, Germany; Vladivostock, Russia; Sidney, N. S. W., Australia; Dawson City, Alaska; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Wellington, New Zealand. The Colored American is not only a national newspaper. It can lay just claim to being international.

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### WE SHALL STAY "AT HOME."

These schemes to deport the Negro to some far-off island are like unto the ravings of a fool. A wholesale transfer of Negroes to any designated locality is not only undesirable but impossible. Individual Negroes, or groups of Negroes may find it advantageous to move their worldly effects from one part of our country to another. A few may invest their muscle or money in the new possessions—just as the whites do,—but there will be no general exodus. America is the Negroes' home, and here he will stay. He has as much right to be here as any other race or nationality, and a far clearer title than can be shown by the average foreigner. Those of our Caucasian friends (?) who cannot remain here with us, are at liberty to move out whenever the limit of their endurance is reached. We shall not make any effort to stop them, as they very frequently do when some of our folks get the emigration fever into their brains. We shall not desert our home, though it is far from ideal, but shall remain and bend our energies to reform and purify it.

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### A NEWSPAPER AN INVESTMENT

The Negro must learn many things the white man already knows. Not least among those may be cited:

A newspaper is not a luxury.
It is a prime necessity.
It is not an expense.
It is a profitable investment.

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Congress lacked the nerve to stick to its committee veto of the civil service commission's appropriation, and that arch humbug of the century, we still have with us.

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It is a good general rule to never trouble trouble until trouble troubles you.

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Leaders of the two great Methodist denominations express themselves as well pleased with the hearty interest taken in their affairs by The Colored American. Our indorsement and advocacy of church expansion is approved by every progressive member of the Bishops' Council and by the departmental heads. Methodism must spread out. Her work is the evangelization of mankind upon every quarter of the globe. Now is the time to scrape the moss off the backs of the timid, and break the shell of conservatism, by providing for an immediate extension of church boundaries and the selection of enough active healthy men to carry out the plans formulated. As a starter the A. M. E. Church should elect six Bishops, and the A. M. E. Zion should not choose less than four, and the scope of the several departments should be appropriately enlarged and fortified with ample funds. The people will pay the bills when they are shown the great benefits sure to accrue therefrom.

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### LET THEM ALL GO TO THE CONVENTION.

The office holders will not be greatly in evidence in this year's national convention, as there is a feeling that Mr. McKinley's popularity will be more strongly attested by a nomination at the hands of the people at large. This, however, need not affect the colored office-holder as the few of them who will have an opportunity to go as delegates will not present such a formidable appearance as to warrant a yell that the convention is "packed" in the administration's interest. Lyons, Cheatham, Green, Dancy, Rucker, Morton, Lewis, Webre, Cashin, Deveaux and the whole "push" can be elected delegates, and Mr. Hanna's face will not show one beam less on account of their presence. The people of their states know that they are all right, and Hanna, Dick and Company are never so well satisfied as when the people are in a contented frame of mind.

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### "THE UTAH INCIDENT."

It is quite inconceivable that an incident could occur in Utah which has attracted so much attention. Mr. J. Gordon McPherson, an intelligent Afro-American, a veteran of the Santiago campaign, an ex-member of the 24th U. S. Infantry, was called in a murder case at Salt Lake City and qualified as a juror, but a number of the white jurors after the first day's session and after exhibitions of most obnoxious prejudice insisted that they would not serve with this man on account of his color, and he was excused from service. It is a pity that isolated cases of this kind should occur, and we say isolated because they are in the Northern and Western States, as they feed the flames of race prejudice and intolerance in the Southern States where these flames need no further excitation. But they should be regarded as isolated cases, to be regretted, withal, yet they are isolated cases.

Now, it seems to us that the proper thing for the court to have done in a situation like that was to excuse the eleven white jurors or so many of them as objected to serving upon the jury with this black veteran. That would have been a rebuke that would have immortalized the judge who ordered the dissolution of the jury. What we need in high places are men who are conscious of their integrity and insist upon it that in the eye of the law all men of all races are absolutely equal. We are having this sort of antagonism all along the line, and we shall continue to have it. We have no fear. Right and justice will prevail. The wheels of progress are never reversed. They turn always to the betterment of mankind, and this is accomplished as well in the decline of nations as in the recuperation and growth of new ones.

We are making splendid progress in this country. Isolated cases of injustice and intolerance are to be expected, and they are none the less to be fought to the end. "He who would be free himself must strike the blow." Let us take courage. We have God and right on our side, and we cannot fail in the end, although the end may be a long way off.

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Nevertheless and nothwithstanding, attorney Albert S. White is still a candidate for delegate to the national republican convention from the fifth district of Kentucky.