

A POWER FOR REFORM.

Mrs. Francis Joseph of New Orleans—An Eloquent Champion of Prison Reform Work and an Active Member of the W. C. T. U.

An intelligent and representative gathering of the women of the women of the race was in the city last week attending the annual meeting of the W. C. T. U. Conspicuous among them were Mrs. Francis Joseph of Louisiana. The New York Defender spoke of Mrs. Joseph in its last issue as follows:

"Mrs. Francis Joseph, of New Orleans, La., the president of the State W. C. T. Union, is one of the greatest



MRS. FRANCIS JOSEPH.

women of her race. She has just returned from a trip to Scotland, as the national delegate of the W. C. T. U., representing the entire organization of the United States. No greater honor has ever been conferred upon a woman of our race and no woman of any race is more deserving of such an honor. We have known Mrs. Joseph for twenty-five years in the city of New Orleans. Her great ability as a leader began to assert itself whilst she was quite young until today she has no superior in the land. During her stay abroad she visited London, Ireland, the World's Fair at Paris and other places which will be described in the next issue of The Defender. She is engaged in the work of prison reform in the State of Louisiana and is highly endorsed by the Governor of the State, the sheriff of the city of New Orleans, the judges and other prison authorities. No woman in the country is doing a grander work for fallen humanity, regardless of color, than Mrs. Joseph. We reproduce a clipping from a New Orleans daily paper in our columns today which should be read with interest by all of our patrons to show the extent of the great work she is engaged in. Aside from her prison reform work and her Woman's Christian Temperance Union work, she is the organizer and supporter of a kindergarten school in New Orleans, where poor children are being taught by competent teachers supported by her energies and endeavors. But her life's work is to build a home for the young outcasts of the race who are rushed in prison for vagrancy and other trivial offences, without any hope but a criminal life before them, the Governor of the State having such great confidence in her work that he will turn over to her home this class of prisoners as soon as the home is built. She has already secured the land and is now busily engaged raising the funds for this laudable purpose, speaking at all churches who will open their doors and listen to her pleadings for poor outcasts. No work is more worthy of help than this from all classes, since her assistance reaches all colors, all

creeds and all nationalities. No one can hear and look at her recommendations without becoming interested in her work. The Defender delights to honor such a woman, and shall give all space necessary in our columns to foster her endeavors in this section.

"The race has never produced a greater woman and her work is worthy of the emulation of the race. Not less than \$5,000 should be raised for her in this section for the immediate erection of this refuge for fallen boys and girls so that they might be rescued from a life of crime. Bishop Derrick has taken hold of her work, and is planning a mammoth meeting for her to be held at the Bridge Street Church in the near future. While an African Methodist, yet her work being non-denominational and non-racial as far as her prison reform efforts are concerned, Bishop Alexander Walters, of the A. M. E. Zion Church, has been much interested in her and has given her great encouragement and support in all of the churches under him. We congratulate Bishop Walters for his generosity and large heartedness of a philanthropist and race leader. We trust that all of our bishops and clergy will do likewise. We ask for Mrs. Joseph the support of the race in this great undertaking and congratulate her for her courage and patriotism in such a holy cause. In her prison work she has been the means of completely reforming and Christianizing more than 2,000 souls. We feel proud that the race has within its ranks such a good, noble and grand woman. We commend her to the consideration of all."

WEST VIRGINIA

Beats New Jersey in the Capitalization of Charters.

New York, Dec. 14.—The record of new companies having a capitalization of \$1,000,000 and over for November shows that the total capitalization amounted to \$148,850,000, as against \$108,350,070 for the previous month. The total for the year is \$2,217,550,000. The records for the past month, however, do not indicate the real condition of the industrial movement, as there are many companies in progress of formation which have not as yet filed their application papers, and of which there is, of course, no official record. New Jersey, which in the consolidation movement, assumed first place, has fallen back to second place within the past six months, West Virginia taking the lead with capitalizations of \$60,000,000, while New Jersey has \$40,000,000; Colorado, \$14,000,000; Virginia, \$12,000,000; Delaware, \$9,250,000 and New York \$4,700,000. In one of two instances prominent New York syndicates have gone to West Virginia instead of New Jersey.

It may be interesting to our readers to know that Mr. Phil Waters, the corporation clerk in the office of the Secretary of State West Virginia, had the entire supervision of the issuing of these charters and did not make an error out of a corporation capitalization of sixty million dollars. Mr. Waters is an Afro-American and has held the position of corporation clerk for a number of years and is best known as the "Boy Orator of the Kanawaha."

Mrs. Mary Church Terrell and daughter, Phyllis, left the city this week for Memphis, Tenn., where they will spend the holidays, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Church.

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