

The Colored American

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THE NEGRO PRESS.

As the years come and go the Negro Press indeed wielding much power. There was a time when the Negro Press amounted to but little in the estimation both of its own people and the whites as well. Times have now changed and from every little hamlet where the Sons of Ethiopia are to be found there also is his paper hammering away, often weakly, but ultimately telling blows, while the road of Negro Newspapers is not strewn with roses and those engaged in the business must necessarily sacrifice much, if success is to be perched upon their banner, there comes to many engaged, a satisfaction when they think of the cause in which they labor. It is an exceedingly uplifting spirit that comes over one as he reads the hundreds of big and little Negro journals hailing from various parts of the country expressing as they do the ideas of so many brilliant minds as well as voicing the sentiment of the race in that locality upon questions of the hour. It has long since become a concluded fact that there is much power in the Negro press. That it is not still should be, is the fault of the Negro as a mass. In the course of time as the Negro becomes more enlightened, in the ways of the world and awakes to a true conception of the influence for good wielded by the Negro press, then we believe he will give it that patronage it now stands in need.—The American Citizen.

We reproduce the above editorial from our esteemed contemporary the American Citizen because it contains so many wholesome truths. The Negro Press is indeed a power and it is growing more powerful as the days go by. The ablest writers and opinion moulders of the people are graduates of the press. The Negro editor must write the contemporary as well as the past history of his race, while the Dunbars and Chestnuts must immortalize the legends and romances. And what a rich legacy? The Negro should sustain the Negro press not by promises but by substantial support.

In the controversy now going on about the monument to be erected to President McKinley at Canton, Ohio and other parts of the country, the memorial arch movement in this city

should come in for a little attention. Mr. McKinley's well known friendship for the colored people has been recognized everywhere, but the committee having in charge the memorial arch movement has ignored the colored citizen altogether in any place on the committee. It seems to be purely a white man's affair. The Canton movement embraces not only all countries but all races and the colored men have been assigned to important places on the committee. The Nation's Capital does itself no credit in its action of caste prejudice.

The readers of The Colored American will remember that in a recent issue a portrait and sketch of Mr. Theodore W. Jones of Chicago was printed and his most excellent address before the National Negro Business League which met in Chicago last August was printed in full. Mr. Jones is one of the most successful Afro-Americans in the great western metropolis and was eloquently pointed out by Mr. Washington as an example of the possibilities of the race. News comes to us of a fire this week in which Mr. Jones' entire building with a large number of horses, carriages, wagons, etc., were destroyed. The loss amounted to \$75,000 which was fully insured. The moral is Mr. Jones' good business sense stuck to him to the last.

It would seem from the number of criticisms made on the leaders of our race by other so-called leaders that, a craze of croaking has been inaugurated. Every colored man in public life is coming in for his share of criticisms and especially such men as Prof. Booker T. Washington, Hons. H. P. Cheatham, George H. White, H. A. Rucker, J. C. Napier and others. Some of our so-called leaders and editors seem bent on proving to the opposite race that the Negro is a weakling, an inferior, unfit for self-government and incapable of receiving higher education.

There is food for thought and a moral lesson to be taught in the news letter from Atlanta, Ga., this week. It tells the story of the success of a colored contractor whose work has spread into a number of the southern states. It also shows a side of Senator Tillman not heretofore known to the public. The letter deserves careful reading.

The November number of The Colored American Magazine has just reached our desk. It is replete with good things and seems to improve with every number. It should receive the heartiest and fullest support from the race everywhere.

A MASTER OF ENGLISH

Harvard's Professor of English Praises the Simple yet Effective English used in "Up From Slavery."

The following letter from the Professor of English at Harvard University was received by Principal Booker T. Washington some days ago, and bears the highest testimony yet received by Mr. Washington as to the character of his recent book, "Up From Slavery."

HARVARD COLLEGE.

My Dear Sir:—Will you allow me to express the pleasure which your book, "Up From Slavery," has given me. For about twenty years a teacher of English, and mostly of English Composition, I have become perhaps critical as to the matter of style. Certainly I have grown less and less patient of all writing which is not simple and efficient; and more and more of a style which does its work with simple, manly distinctness. It is hard to remember when a book, casually taken up, has

proved, in this respect, so satisfactory as yours. No style could be more simple, more unobtrusive; yet few styles which I know seem to me more laden—as distinguished from overburdened—with meaning. On almost any of your pages, you say as much again as most of men would say in the space; yet you say it so simply and easily that one has no effort in reading. One is only surprised at the quiet power which can so make words do their work.

The story you tell is a stimulating one—a stirring new phase of the world—old per aspera ad astra. The chief reflection which it excites in me goes deep in human nature. By what might commonly be held a lucky chance, I have happened in this world to be singularly free from hardship. The most severe moral efforts I have known, then, have been those needful to keep me at work in spite of need. I wonder whether you yourself quite understand the great, if disguised, opportunity which has been yours. It is the needful effort which has strengthened you to pierce the hardships and the star-light.

Sincerely yours,

BARRETT WENDELL.

Professor of English.

LAWYER HAY'S ELOQUENT APPEAL.

The Action of the Virginia Constitutional Convention to be Contested by Eminent Legal Talent—Notes

Charlottesville, Va., Special:—The Tabernacles of Love and Charity of this city celebrated their anniversary at the First Baptist church Monday night. Visiting tabernacles from the county were in attendance. The address of welcome was delivered by Prof. R. Kelsor. The annual address to the Order was made by Lawyer James H. Hayes of Richmond, Va. It is needless to say that Lawyer Hayes did justice to the occasion, for all who have heard Lawyer Hayes know that he has few equals as one of the most clear and polished orators, not only of Virginia but of the country. Music was furnished by the choir of the aforesaid church. Among other things Mr. Hayes spoke of the great fight that the colored people of Virginia are making against the Constitutional Convention now in session at Richmond and the determination to fight in the courts any law made to disfranchise the Negro. The services of United States Senator Thurston of Nebraska, Hon. John S. Wise of New York and Judge L. L. Lewis of Virginia, associated with several of our best colored lawyers have been engaged to test before the United States Supreme Court the constitutionality of any disfranchising act that may be passed. The Negroes of Virginia are thoroughly aroused and will not tamely submit to any humiliation aimed at them.

Mrs. Alice Scott, visited her mother in Washington, D. C., last week.

Mr. George Southall, formerly of this city, but now of New York visited his old home last week.

Mr. Henry Ragland, Mrs. Rosa Walker and daughter Miss Bettie James who have been staying in Richmond for several winters past, are at their home on Preston avenue for the winter.

Rev. W. C. Michie who has been quite ill at his home on South 12th street. Rev. Michie is one of our oldest and most highly respected citizens.

Mr. Charles H. Marshall, a former resident of Charlottesville, but now of Jeffersonville, Indiana, is visiting relatives and friends in the city.

Rev. A. F. Gordon of Gordonsville, has opened a broom factory on West Main street, across from "Midway Park" and is meeting with flattering success. We are happy to see our people engage in business and rejoice at their success.

Mr. R. Lee Gordon is home from Richmond, Va.

Mr. William H. Parago, one of our leading young pianists and the sole agent for this district of the Cable Mu-

sic Company of Richmond, Va., pleasantly entertained a few of his friends at his home on South 12th street on the night of the 13th. Among those present were Messrs. George W. Lawson, W. H. Dabney, E. Wade, J. N. Carter, R. E. Wood, Thornton Coles, George Carter, A. W. Bullock, Fayette Walker sr., James Key, Fayette Walker jr., R. L. Bowles of Ivy, E. B. Allen and C. H. Bullock.

The Y. M. C. A. work is showing signs of increased progress in our city. The meeting last Sunday at the First Baptist church was exceedingly interesting and a good crowd was present, regardless of threatening weather. Every young man in Charlottesville should become a member of the Y. M. C. A., and the indications are that many more join in the work, for the young men, by the young men and of the young men.

THE BENEFIT ENTERTAINMENT

A Success—Fev. McMillan of Boston at Zion Church—Arrangements Being Made for Holiday Entertainments—Harford Notes.

Harford, Md., Special:—Miss Josephine Washington and Mr. Nathan Lewis were married by Rev. J. S. Ha Cooper, pastor of the A. M. E. Zion church Thursday of last week. The benefit concert and entertainment on the 14th inst., at the A. M. E. Zion church was a success considering the many other attractions on the same evening, and the program rendered was enjoyed by a good sized audience. All the selections were highly complimented. The McKinley hymn sung by Mrs. Hattie B. Thompson brought to mind the sad September morning in Buffalo. Prof. Fred Major of the Capital City Band rendered a cornet solo. Mrs. Sadie Jacklin took the place of Mrs. Randolph, whose absence was due to her daughter's illness, and sang a solo. Rev. McMillan of the North Russell street A. M. E. church of Boston, Mass. was in the city last Sunday and preached morning and evening at Zion church the occasion being general rally day.

Miss Vera Major is arranging for a Lilliputian entertainment to be given at Zion church on the 19th of December. The Capital City Band will give an entertainment Christmas night at the House Guards Armory. Mrs. H. Fisher of New Haven, who took part in the benefit entertainment, was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Green of South Prospect street and her mother, Mrs. G. Howard, was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. George Dedrick of Hicks street. They remained over Sunday. Charles Edward Greely is the name of the new arrival at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stacy Greely on the 10th inst. Mother and baby are doing well.

The race needs leadership—shrewd, courageous and unselfish leadership. So many of our well meaning exchanges confound leadership with dictatorship, and naturally file objections. Our growing intelligence resents the idea of yielding to bossism, but it must be granted that there is a positive demand for capable men who can go forward for the race at critical moments, and secure for us the rewards that legitimately belong to us. We need more men like Prof. Booker T. Washington, Prof. W. H. Council, President Wm. L. Taylor of the True Reformers' Bank Isaiah T. Montgomery, of Bishops like Turner, Grant and Walters, of political leaders like Lyons, Cheatham and Rucker and more Fortunes, Bruces and Kings, more Paul Laurence Dunbars and Charles W. Chestnuts,