

The Colored American

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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication should reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

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THE AFRO-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Word has come to us by way of Kentucky, that a meeting of the National Afro-American Press Association was held in that city, June 29th, that resolutions were adopted, and a letter addressed to the people of the United States has been issued. This is the extent of our information, and we are forced to guess at to what the other business transacted was. We suppose that the same officers were re-elected, that the next place of meeting was designated, and so on *ad infinitum*. This Association which should have great power for doing good and for enlightening public sentiment, has been gradually going down for the past three years.

At the meeting in Philadelphia, some three years ago, five delegates were present and the meeting was held and officers elected before two of these delegates could get into the place of meeting. The year following this, the meeting was held at St. Paul, Minn., and the same election program was gone through, with the same few men at the head. There is said to have been four delegates at the St. Paul meeting. Now comes the meeting at Louisville, Ky., this year without any previous announcement, and we learn that there were just three active newspaper men present. To use a slang expression, Mr. Cyrus Field Adams, who seems to be the whole thing in the matter and who publishes a newspaper somewhere in Illinois, Minnesota, or Missouri, is running things pretty much to suit himself. There ought to be a Negro Press Association in which the publishers of all live newspapers are interested, electing their officers and committees from the ranks, instead of the under handed way that matters have been conducted for the past three years. What say ye, brethren of the press?

THE NATIONAL AFRO-AMERICAN COUNCIL.

The Afro-American Council is in session this week at Louisville, Ky. Its proceedings will be watched with keen interest throughout the country. Its main purpose is to be sentinel on the watch tower of the race's liberty and rights and to sound the alarm when they are attacked and to call our people and their friends to their defense. It seems to us that here is a great opportunity for our leaders. If self-seeking and personal exploitation be omitted in their deliberations, if an earnest, cogent, dignified presentation of all the iniquitous schemes of our many enemies be prepared with the essential facts educed and submitted to the great conscience, the Christian heart, and justice loving sensibilities of these United States, a long step will be taken in the struggle between righteousness on the one hand and on the other the baleful forces and the ever increasing powerful influences which are inimical to our progress towards a full measure of manhood and to that position in the economy of American life.

The men at the head of this Council already have our confidence. They have already won their spurs in different fields of usefulness and we look for practical results from the friction of ideas at their Louisville meeting.

There are many matters claiming their grave attention, not the least of which is the consideration which should be given to the prosecution of the suits against the Southern constitutions and their disfranchisement features. To a layman it appears that the seminal proposition is to avoid the smaller corollaries and aim to secure from the highest tribunal of the land a clear-cut, direct decision upon the infamous grandfather clause.

A call from this body of eminently distinguished colored men will no doubt cause the subscription of an adequate amount with which to push such a case through all the intermediate channels of the law up to our Supreme Court and finally extract from that exceedingly deliberate body an authoritative deliverance on the subject.

A TIMELY SERMON.

More than usual attention has been attracted to a sermon preached on Sunday last by Rev. Sterling N. Brown, pastor of Lincoln Temple, on the demoralizing effects of too many of our colored dancing schools and social clubs. It was a most powerful, eloquent and timely effort. There is no doubt that incalculable injury is being done to many of our most promising youths of both sexes by the indiscriminate admission to these resorts, and especially by the failure of some of the managers to deny admission to the very youthful. Parents are themselves not blameless. The pursuit of their own pleasures and preferences have but little time to enforce healthy restrictions upon their minor children or to ascertain with definiteness where and how these youths are occupied when absent from their homes. We hope to see this severe but justifiable arraignment by Mr. Brown followed up by attacks all along the line from our other pulpits upon such of these places as are obnoxious to his criticism.

The Colored American is devoting considerable space this week to a sketch of Hon. John G. Capers, U. S. District Attorney, as well as Republican National Committeeman for South Carolina and to some details of his official and political activities.

Mr. Capers comes from a long line of Democratic forbears on both his father's and mother's side, and he was himself a Democrat until the silver heresy was injected into the vitals of the Democratic party. Like many other brilliant young men of high social standing and advanced thought, he found the heresy intolerable and at once bravely renounced his allegiance to the mossbacks and joined the party of progress and national honor, rendering conspicuous service on the stump

in both the McKinley campaigns.

President McKinley recognized the value of the acquisition to the party and appointed him to his present Federal position, during a recess of the Senate and upon succeeding to the Presidency, Mr. Roosevelt ratified the appointment; confirmation by the Senate followed. We present this sketch as a matter of news and and of fairness and we hope at an early date to present the political situation in South Carolina from the point of view of Hon. E. H. Deas, Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, who is at odds with Mr. Capers on the question.

BOSTON'S PREMIER TAYLOR.

Mr. J. H. Lewis, the Leading Merchant Tailor, in Massachusetts, a Self-Made Man and a Product of the South—The Secret of His Success—A Leader Full of Public Spirit and Patriotism.

It always affords us great satisfaction to observe and point out the career of successful colored men and the number of them is constantly enlarging. One of the very best types produced by the race is Mr. J. H. Lewis, the energetic and prosperous merchant tailor, of Boston, Mass. Mr. Lewis is in the prime of life and has made a phenomenal success by the application of integrity and correct business principles, to his occupation. He left his home in North Carolina in 1865, and made his way to Concord, N. H., where he secured employment almost immediately, though it was not very remunerative. Finally he was fortunate enough to secure an apprenticeship at the tailoring business and rapidly acquired full knowledge of it. After only four months' service he was making journeyman's wages and holding his own with all the other employees of the shop. Mr. Lewis' striking success was not achieved in Concord, but began almost at once on his arrival in Boston, whither he moved four years later and bravely began business for himself.

It is related that his business venture was started with a capital of but \$93, but he was master both of his business and himself and in nine years he had done such a volume of work that he was able to save \$50,000.

He has been in the tailoring business now for 31 years and the amount involved exceeds \$135,000 per annum. His customers are the rich and powerful people of Boston and are almost exclusively white.

One notable quality in Mr. Lewis is his absolute devotion to his business affairs. He suffers no one to do the things the master should do, and he illustrates the truth of the old adage that if you attend to business your business will attend to you.

He is equally blessed in his domestic life, his home being a perfectly happy one, and yet he finds time to be public spirited in a great many directions. He is an enthusiastic member of the National Negro Business League and at its first session in Boston, during the month of August, 1900, he made a most telling and timely speech of good cheer and encouragement to Negro business enterprises.

We point with pride to Mr. Lewis, who is without doubt the best exponent of the possibilities of our race. He has high character, acute business sense and he is in most comfortable financial circumstances, the result of his own thrift.

We want to see more colored men like him, commanding the respect of the communities in which they live and having accorded to them the decent consideration and good treatment merit is justly entitled to receive.

THE NEW SOUTH AND WHAT THE AFRO-AMERICAN IS DOING FOR HIMSELF.

MEMPHIS, TENN., Special.—Our city has her share of well to do Negro families, who are making earnest efforts to improve conditions in this section, by giving their children the very best educational advantages to be had. In this respect none are doing more for their children, the race and community than Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Har-

vey, themselves highly educated—having been engaged in educational work for many years, they know the benefits of a complete education. Their daughter, Miss Salie Elizabeth, who graduated his year from college and their son, Master W. J. Jr., who graduates next year, are as highly cultured and accomplished as it is possible to be. From a mere child, Miss Harvey evinced signs of great elocutionary powers—now, to hear her recite reminds one of drinking from that oratorical fountain of Rev. J. C. Price. With all of her attainments and advantages, there is not a more amiable girl in the whole city than Miss Harvey. Afro-Americans all over the city are congratulating themselves that they have a young woman of ability sufficiently interested in her race to come to its rescue as she did in the case cited below. Miss Marvey is stylish, neat and tidy to be sure, but she does not belong to that class of butterfly society girls, who have nothing to think about but an Easter dress and bonnet. Hear her words, which would do credit to a woman three times her age. Miss Harvey will in all probability be heard from again.

BROWN BONES.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

Mr. George W. Crawford, a graduate of Tuskegee, has won honors at Yale College, of which we are proud. This brilliant young man has more than once participated in these prize contests and in every case has acquitted himself in a manner reflecting credit upon both himself and the race. In addition to Mr. Crawford, Mr. William Clarence Matthews, also a graduate of this school, is winning honors in both the athletic and academic phases of work at Harvard College. Indeed, the Tuskegee graduate can be depended upon to take care of himself wherever he goes.

There is no justice in condemning industrial training because of its cost. The first few years of any new plant are of necessity expensive, but when the plant is once thoroughly established, the same machinery and equipment will be able to turn out five hundred graduates from a school at a cost per capita that will be but nominal as compared with the cost of those finishing the first year or two. The young Negro who possesses a technical education is always in demand, and will not wait for lucrative employment. This practical guarantee of success is worth much to those who wish a favorable start in life. The agricultural and mechanical institutions of the South reach an element of our race that would never be touched by Harvard or Yale, or by Howard or Lincoln. In providing for the masses, they perform a service which they alone can render, and giving instruction that is essential and fundamental, they furnish the beginning upon which a superstructure of the higher culture may be builded later. It is a significant fact that the cost of educating a boy to a point where he can make a good living and lay the foundation of useful and honorable citizenship, is less than one-fifth of the expense necessary to carry one through West Point or Annapolis.

The Mozart Conservatory of Music, in New York City, is meeting with great success. Prof. Albert F. Mando, who is at the head of the institution, is a musician of high order. His pupils are nearly all white. His orchestra, composed exclusively of colored musicians, has made name and fame for itself in New York City and adjacent cities and is exceedingly popular among all classes of citizens.

Commissioner T. Thomas Fortune's home coming from the Philippines is to be made notable by a complimentary dinner in his honor, to be given by the representative colored men of the country. The movement had its origin in Brooklyn, N. Y. and promises to be a great success.

Hon. J. Douglass Wetmore, of Jacksonville, Fla., after a warm contest has been elected to the City Council of that town. Mr. Wetmore is an advanced race man, capable and cultured.