

The Colored American

Published by The Colored American Publishing Company.

A National Negro Newspaper
Published every Saturday, at 459 C St.
N. W., Washington, D. C.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

One Year, \$2.00
Six Months..... 1.10
Three Months60
Invariably in advance.

Subscription may be sent by post office money order, express or registered letter.

All communications for publication should be accompanied with the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

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.

Agents are wanted everywhere.—Send for instructions.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Reading notices 50 cents per line.
Display advertisements, \$2 per square inch, per insertion. Discounts made on large contracts.

Entered at the Post Office as second-class matter.

All letters, communications, and business matters should be addressed to

THE COLORED AMERICAN.

EDWARD E. COOPER, Manager,

459 C St., Northwest,

Washington, D. C.

Sold by all News Dealers.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1904.

SHAMS.

Washington's literati was treated to a lecture on "Shams" at Bethel Literary last Tuesday evening. The lecturer was the learned law giver of Chicago, Ills., Hon. Edward H. Morris. Mr. Morris has won fame and distinction before the Illinois bar, and an unusually large and intelligent audience greeted him. He ran over the list of "Shams" hurriedly, and was not long in reaching the marrow, his objective point, Dr. Booker T. Washington, upon whom he saddled every wrong, every sin, and every crime committed by the white people of this country against the Negro. He seems to have left the lofty station won by him as a lawyer and scholar and to have descended to the gutter for material to make out his case. His lecture was disappointing. He did not reach the empyrean heights of reason and logic. With the skill of the master lawyer he is, he took fragments of sentences from the writings and speeches of Mr. Washington to illustrate his points. He essayed to prove that Mr. Washington was responsible for the lynchings and friction between the races in the South. To cap the climax of his wild wanderings he stated that the harm done by Mr. Washington to the race could not be obliterated in two hundred years; and there were a few literary curiosities in the audience who tried to believe him.

Mr. Morris represents a class of leaders, who are a detriment to the race, who keep up strife between the races, and who retard the progress of the Negro. There are already too many of the fire-brand leaders in the North, East and

West. They never go South to work among their people to fight their battles, but give advice and very unwholesome advice at that, at long range. Mr. Washington has been a modest sincere worker from the very beginning of his career. He left Hampton as a mere boy student and opened a school in a cabin, a mere hen house, as it were, in the black belt of the South. In less than twenty years he has built up the largest and best known school of its kind in the Western hemisphere. What other man of the race has done so much, or half so much? He continues to live in the South among his people. He has the respect and confidence of the people of the North and South. He has the ear of the whole people. Only the much-abused colored preachers and bishops are in his class in doing good for the race. The following facts taken from his last annual report will give some idea of what he is doing.

During the present school year, we have had an enrollment of 1550 students, and the average attendance has been 1441. These figures do not include the 248 children in the model school, "The Children's House", nor the students in the night school and afternoon cooking classes taught in the town of Tuskegee, nor the 18 students in the night school sustained by us in the village of Greenwood nor the thousands reached and helped constantly through the work of the Annual Tuskegee Negro Conferences, with the local conferences scattered throughout the South. Our enrollment shows that there are 49 countries, and that the most of them are attracted because of the industrial training. Both the governments of Porto Rico and Hayti for example, have made special provisions for supporting a number of students here. Besides the students from the foreign countries, 34 States and Territories have been represented in our enrollment. The bulk of the students have come from the Gulf States.

The following industries have been taught in addition to the regular academic, religious and moral training: Agriculture, Basketry, Blacksmithing, Bee Keeping, Brickmasonry, Plastering, Brickmaking, Carpentry, Carriage-trimming, Cooking, Dairying, Architectural, Freehand and Mechanical Drawing, Plain Sewing, Dressmaking, Electrical and Steam Engineering, Foundry, Harnessmaking, Housekeeping, Horticulture, Canning, Laundering, Machinery, Mattressmaking, Millinery, Nurse Training, Painting, Sawmilling, Shoemaking, Printing, Stock Raising, Finning and Wheelwrighting—36 industries in all.

Now tell us what his critics have done?

Considerable space is given in this issue of The Colored American to Mr. Wm. H. Johnson, a lumber dealer at Baynesville, Westmoreland Co., Va. Mr. Johnson is a plain ordinary citizen, who has carved out his own fortune just as any other sensible, honest industrious man can do. He started out without education, but with a determination to make a success in life, and he has become such a factor in the tidewater section of Virginia, that he is well known and respected everywhere. He is not a politician, but a business man and is an enthusiastic worker in the interests of the National Negro Business League. He has attended nearly all, if not all of

the sessions of the Business League in Boston, Chicago, Richmond and Nashville, and can always be relied upon for a good sensible speech. His speech at the last session of the League in Nashville, Tenn., was a gem,—he dealt in facts and figures, but made them so interesting that a great mixed audience gave him undivided attention. The race needs more men of the Johnson type.

THE DIGNITY OF LABOR.

We have been taught from the very beginning the dignity of labor. We are now taught by the new apostles of higher education among Negroes that there is no dignity in labor; that if one is just smart the problem of the race is solved.

The great leaders and molders of opinion usually come together when there are differences among them. The old saw is that "in the multitude of council there is wisdom." The so-called Negro leaders do not believe in these teachings.

A Conference was recently held and the leaders of various opinions were invited to it for the purpose of harmonizing their differences, and, if possible, to come to some understanding. It was to be a secret conference. And what was the result? Some went to the conference with daggers up their sleeves, covered with velvet; some went with carefully prepared type-written objections, and some bore elaborate essays, picking to pieces in advance the leaders of the movement, and still others gave out a full report of the meeting before it had adjourned.

The Negroes cannot trust one another, and those of to-day are not much of an improvement on the poor ignorant slaves in the days of slavery.

The Colored American is anxious to hear and to learn of their silly explanations.

THE CHICAGO ATTORNEY.

The sentiment of the sensible people in Washington grows all the stronger against a certain lawyer who delivered an address before the Bethel Literary Association recently, because of the fact that it has lately become known that for three days this lawyer had an opportunity to face Mr. Washington and tell him of his disagreements, and attack his position in Mr. Washington's presence. During the three days that he was with Mr. Washington he scarcely opened his mouth in opposition, but waited until he got behind the latter's back and had an opportunity to twist his writings into any kind of meaning that answered his purpose. The brave and manly thing would have been to have attacked Washington face to face and not waited for this opportunity to distort and misinterpret his utterances. One can take the Bible, as is often done, and take disjointed sentences and verses and prove anything desired, and the same thing can be said of any man's writings. But, after all, the bulk of our people and the thinking ones, come back to the proposition that the difference between Mr. Washington and his critics is that he has actually accomplished something that is tangible, visible, and of monumental value to the race, while they have done nothing but throw mud and try to pull down what he has accomplished. The people cannot be fooled; they know the difference between the real and the spurious. They know that a race cannot be

helped by mere talk, complaint, condemnation or fault-finding, but that we must have leaders who will actually go forward and accomplish something for the uplift of the race.

The Chicago attorney needs to come again and win the respect of our people. Whatever high opinions once held regarding him have been miserably shattered!

In a recent address, Mr. Edward H. Morris, of Chicago, condemned Booker Washington because he called attention to the weak points of the race. In an address before the Bethel Literary Association a few days ago, he spent practically the whole time in trying to ridicule members of the race, and calling attention to their weak points. Aside from this, Mr. Morris declares that he has no especial interest in the race, and has never done anything to help them except to get money to feather his own nest in every way possible. The spectacle would be funny if it were not so pitiable!

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER EXONERATED.

Mr. G. C. Wilkinson takes this opportunity to express his appreciation to his many friends for their sympathetic consideration of him in the recent test put upon his character. Judge Scott in dismissing the case stated that the case should never have been brought before him, that there was no evidence of any assault having been committed, and that Mr. Wilkinson acted in strict accordance with his duty, to protect the lives of pupils entrusted to his care.

The fight among rival candidates for elective positions in the A. M. E. and A. M. E. Zion Churches goes beautifully on. There are quite a number of candidates for every place, and in most cases the men seeking these positions are competent and worthy. It will be too bad if the places cannot go all around.

Some of the well known correspondents are not doing the cause of journalism any good, nor helping themselves by keeping up strife among the editors and leaders.

We are giving considerable space to the discussion of "Shams" in this issue of The Colored American, and it is done to counteract a false impression that has gone out from this city, to the effect that the enemies of Dr. Washington had scored a point against him. These interviews, and not half of them are printed, show that the men in the District, who represent the intelligence and wealth, who pay taxes, and who stand highest indorse Mr. Washington's work to the letter.

The unspeakable Vardaman, Governor of Mississippi, is out again in a diatribe against the Negro. Mr. Vardaman talks a great deal, but doesn't say anything.

We have not heard of any new colored league or national organization of any kind this week.

Bishop C. B. Galloway, of Jackson, Mississippi, has consented to preach the commencement sermon at the Tuskegee Institute, May 22. Bishop Galloway is one of the most prominent men in the South, and his presence will add greatly, we are sure, to the pleasure of the commencement exercises.