

PROF DUBOIS

Lecture on John Brown — Recalls Criticism of the Life of John Brown

Prof W. E. B. DuBois delivered his lecture on John Brown, in this city last week. It is hard at this late day, to add anything to the history of John Brown. However, Prof. DuBois, is a very polished speaker, and a man of great mentality. His life of John Brown, from which a purely literary view point, meritorious, according to The New York Evening Post is full of inaccuracies. The Post reviewing it said:

That so gifted a writer as the author of "Souls of Black Folk" should be tempted to write a new life of John Brown from the point of view of the Negro is easily understood. It also goes without saying that Dr. DuBois has made a readable volume of his appreciation of the martyr of 1859, the fiftieth anniversary of whose execution is now at hand. So little the Negroes themselves done to honor the memory of John Brown that this book might have taken on a special significance. But Dr. DuBois's work is disappointing in that it betrays no original research and abounds in inaccuracies. This is partly because he has relied upon his predecessors in the field. His is the eighth serious biography of John Brown to appear and unfortunately only one or two of these were written in the spirit or manner of the historian who desires to be impartial and to go to original sources for his information. Thus Col. R. J. Hinton's book is frankly a brief for Brown, and Mr. Sanborn's biography, treasure-house of material, suffers from the author's association with the preparations for Harper's Ferry. It is, moreover, twenty-four years old and since its publication much has come to light, both in Kansas and elsewhere, which is of importance to the interpreter of Brown and his times.

For this and other reasons, Dr. DuBois leaned upon untrustworthy slaves when he relied upon his predecessors. A few examples will suffice. He accepts Col. Hinton's attribution to Edmund Babb of Cincinnati of the anonymous letter of August 20, 1859, betraying Brown's exact plans to Secretary Floyd. But it has been known for years that David J. Gue, now living in New York city, was the author of that letter and that it was written not to injure Brown, but to save his life by heading off the raid. The full story Dr. DuBois will find in Benjamin F. Gue's valuable "History of Iowa," published in 1903. Again, he follows Redpath in accusing the Border Ruffians of wholesale assaulting of women in the early Kansas days. In the entire range of Kansas literature and manuscripts now available, there are but two recorded instances of this crime, and these are by no means wholly established, for at least one rests only upon Redpath's word when acting as correspondent of an Eastern newspaper. Dr. DuBois also assumes, with another biographer that John Brown's victims on the Pottawatomie had the benefit of some sort of trial. But not a scintilla of evidence has yet been produced to confirm this belief. Indeed, the facts all make against it. Again, Dr. DuBois accepts without investigation the repeated statements that John Brown was descended from Peter Brown of the Mayflower, although this is denied by the foremost authorities on the Mayflower genealogies. Finally, it must be noted that Dr. DuBois follows Sanborn, Hinton and others in justifying the abominable Pottawatomie massacre, which, had it been perpetrated by Border Ruffians, would have been denounced as a crime against humanity.

But Dr. DuBois's own errors are numerous enough. He makes of George B. Gill, Brown's Kansas follower, a Canadian (p. 223), whereas he was an American; to Jeremiah G. Anderson of Indiana, born of sturdy, white farmer parentage, he attributes Negro blood (p. 282), and Lewis Sheridan Leary, a free-born Negro, becomes slave-born on the same page and is dubbed Lewis Sheridan Leary as well. Of the

twenty-two raiders, Dr. DuBois says that "six or seven" were Negroes; he adds John Anderson, a mythical raider, and Jeremiah G. Anderson to the five actual Negroes Leary, Copeland, O. P. Anderson, Green, and Newby. Incredible as it may seem, Dr. DuBois records that seventeen Negroes were "probably killed" in the raid, when, besides four of Brown's Negroes, Leary, Copeland, Green, and Newby but two slaves lost their lives, and neither of these while fighting. He accepts also, in all its absurdities, the narrative of O. P. Anderson, the Negro who escaped, and endorses it as a trustworthy document. Yet Anderson insisted, for one thing, that there were thirty men killed on the Southern side, in the face of Col. Robert E. Lee's official report to President Buchanan that there were but five deaths, all told, in addition to John Brown's own losses; and Lee is yet to be accused of falsifying facts or failing to obtain them.

Dr. DuBois is not, however, to be bound even by John Brown's words, for he evolves the astounding theory that the raid failed through the delay of the rear-guard in Maryland in moving the arms into Harper's Ferry before the trap into which Brown had walked was sprung. But, unfortunately for this, Brown repeatedly stated while in jail that he deserved to be hanged for his military blundering (for instance see New York Herald, November 24, 1859), and he assured Gov. Wise and others that his care for his prisoners led him to delay too long, despite the warnings of his men that he must leave the town at once. Part of Dr. DuBois's difficulty here is due to his belief that William Thompson, Brown's messenger to the rear-guard, failed to reach it. If he should read Terence Byrne's testimony before the Senate Committee of Inquiry and John E. Cook's confession, he would not only ascertain that Thompson did carry out his instructions, but find many details with which he is now unacquainted.

Coming to John Brown's trial, Dr. DuBois says that the jury "was empanelled without challenge," al-

MINISTERS MEET — INDORESE HUMANE BILL.

At a meeting of the Evangelical Ministers Alliance of Washington and Vicinity, held yesterday afternoon in Shiloh Baptist Church at which were present fifty-five pastors of churches of almost every denomination among the colored people in the District of Columbia, the following resolutions were offered by Rev. Dr. Waldron and unanimously passed.

Be it Resolved by the Evangelical Ministers Alliance of Washington and Vicinity that we indorse the laws already in force in the District of Columbia against cruelty to animals and that we disapprove of the efforts being made to change these laws.

"Be it Resolved, secondly, that we commend the good work being done by the Washington Humane Society for the suppression of cruelty to children and animals and that we will do all in our power, consistent with our calling as ministers of the gospel, to strengthen and enlarge the work of this Society; and be it resolved, finally, that the pastors of the Evangelical Ministers Alliance of Washington and Vicinity hereby promise to preach a special sermon to their congregations at some convenient time within the next three months upon the duty of kindness and mercy towards 'dumb brutes.' During Dr. Waldron's address he said, in part:

"While the Washington Humane Society causes many arrests and convictions each year of offenders of the law prohibiting cruelty to animals, it, except in rare instances, does not prosecute for the first offense, but seeks by counsel and dissemination of information and by warning, to turn the offender from the error of his way, and thus improve the condition of the abused animal and make arrests unneces-



MR. SIDNEY BIEBER, COLLECTOR OF THE PORT OF GEORGETOWN, D. C.

sary."

The Washington Humane Society was organized in 1870 and is modeled after the New York Society which was brought into being in 1866, and which, in turn, is fashioned after the Humane Society of England, which was started in 1824. The constitution, objects and method of work of this Society are the same as those of the Humane Society of New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago and other larger cities of the country.

"It would seem that no person who is properly informed upon the great need of the suppression of cruelty to animals in this city or who has taken the pains to investigate the excellent work done by the Washington Humane Society could be opposed to this organization and its work, but sad to say this is not the case; for just now an effort is being made by a certain organization, namely, "The Horse Owners Association" to have Congress pass a bill which, should it become a law, would destroy the Washington Humane Society and bring back into practice the cruel treatment of animals which was so common in this city before this Society entered upon the work of suppression of cruelty to animals 40 years ago.

The Horse Owners Association, which, by the way, represents only a very small portion of the owners of horses in the District of Columbia, is opposed to the law which forbids cruelty to animals, and as the Washington Humane Society represents that law in force, they, naturally, oppose this Society, for most of the officers and many of the members of the Horse Owners Association of the District of Columbia have been fined for cruelty to animals.

This nation cannot afford to take the backward step proposed in the Horse Owners bill, and especially should Congress refrain from doing so at this time for during the second week in October of this year, the International Conference of the Humane Societies of the world is to be held in this city, and during the same week, the American Humane Association, composed of all the Humane Societies in America is to assemble here. These two organizations will bring to this city many hundreds of leading men and women from all parts of the civilized world, and the citizens of Washington and the Congress of the United States would not dare to look these men and women in the face after having placed upon the Statute Books a law abolishing the Washington Humane Society and nullifying the laws preventing cruelty to animals.

Rev. Dr. I. N. Ross, pastor of the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church, presided at the meeting, and Rev. Mr. Alleyne, of the John Wesley A. M.

E. Zion Church presented a paper upon "Evolution and Genesis," and Rev. Dr. Ernest W. Lyons, Minister from this country to the Republic of Liberia, and the Military Attache Lieut. Davis were introduced to the meeting and made brief addresses. The ladies of Shiloh Church served all present with a free lunch at the conclusion of the meeting.

SIDNEY BIEBER COLLECTOR

Mr. Sidney Bieber, National Committeeman for the District of Columbia, has been nominated by President Taft, Collector of the Port at Georgetown, D. C. Mr. Bieber was one of the most active in the last campaign in the election of Mr. Taft. He was closely allied with Postmaster - General Hitchcock in the great fight at Chicago, Ill.

CHRISTIAN BAPTIST

Washington, D. C., February 17, 1910.

To the Editor of The Bee:

I dropped in the Baptist Ministers' Union at the Walker Memorial Baptist Church last Monday to see what the preachers were doing. I thought that I would catch them arranging memorial exercises to their late leader, Dr. Geo. W. Lee. But to my surprise, I found them passing resolutions to start another Training School, in opposition, it would seem to me, of the Baptist Training School, represented by Miss Nannie H. Burroughs, Rev. Waldron, Howard, Lamkins and others, advised against such a course. Dr. W. H. Brooks said that the school would be still-born. Nevertheless, after they were gone, the resolution was passed.

Rev. Toliver had a long set of resolutions striking at the R. v. S. G. Lamkins' Church, because they granted the use of their pool to the Asbury M. E. Church to baptize some candidate, a few Sundays ago. They are to speak against the Methodists next Monday, at which time the resolutions will be discussed. Rev. Gordon is heading the Training School movement. I wondered what kind of Christianity they had

A Spectator.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL BUILDING COMPANY

At a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Memorial Building Company, called by the President, Mr. W. Sidney Pittman, last Monday evening, many things of vital importance to the company and its stockholders were considered and adopted, to be carried into immediate effect.

The most important step taken was that of employing a General Field Agent to take over the management and directing of all agents of the company, and placing the stock on

the market in every feasible way possible.

It is the plan to give this General Field Agent absolute authority in arranging semi-monthly meetings of stockholders and all others who may be interested, and employing additional agents from all sources. It was decided that this person is to be a colored man of strong business capabilities, and a man of determination and energy necessary to push the movement to a successful end.

The selection of this General Agent was deferred one month so as to permit those who have applied for this position, and others who may desire a place of this kind, to compete for one month in selling the stock, the one selling the greatest number of shares to be given the first consideration.

The Lincoln Memorial Building Company is, according to the number of subscribers and stockholders, in a most flourishing condition, and it is the intention of the company to push this theatrical proposition to a final success within the very near future.

Mr. George W. Robinson, of Southwest Washington, has already been authorized to establish a branch office in that section of the city and to employ agents and make a thorough canvass. Other sections of the town will be similarly covered as soon as available men for these responsible positions can be secured.

WHY NOT?

Mr. Editor:

I believe the Negro men of Washington should wake up and wash their selfishness and dress up in sociability and tip their hats to females in remembrance of their mothers and sisters. Why not? I believe if it was not for the Negro Lawyers in this city the jail and work-house would not hold the Negro prisoners, and our Lawyers should be invited by the preachers to lecture once a month. I believe our Negro doctors could pull down the death rate by lecturing to the people once a month. Why not?

Subscribe and stop borrowing "The Bee." Why not?

L. C. Moore.

CHRISTIAN WOMANHOOD

Rev. Simon Drew Speaks Before Young Women's Association.

Rev. Simon P. W. Drew, pastor of Cosmopolitan Temple Baptist Church, delivered a sermon on Christian womanhood before the Young Women's Christian Association, Sunday afternoon. He said in part: "As we bring to our minds the wonderful story of the crucifixion, there is always in the background of the picture that group of women. The disciples had fled and left Him; most of his friends had been afraid to go near the cross, but you could not keep His mother away. You could not keep the women who loved Him away. God, whom Christianity delighted to worship, had been upon the earth and had a mother, and could not turn that mother out of the Christian religion, or even keep her at the door. I like to think that we owe to the meekness and the purity of Mary the position of womanhood today in our own land.

"It was because of Mary and the worship of her and what she represented and what she stood for, and the idolization of her that man at last, in his roughness and smoothness, his masculine regards of simple things, and the more fragile and delicate side of life, came to bow his head to the ideal of the feminine. It is through Mary, mother of Jesus, that today womanhood stands in her proper place beside manhood."

ATTORNEY L. M. KING

Attorney L. M. King, who represented the Atkin faction of Elks at Delaware last January 5th and 6th, is daily receiving congratulations for the part he took in bringing together the two grand lodges.

Mr. King is now making preparations in conjunction with local lodges to entertain the Grand Lodge of Elks, July 26 to 29, next.

PARAGRAPHIC NEWS

By Miss G. B. Maxfield

According to the Census Office, the city of Washington, among those cities having a population of 300,000 or over has the smallest number of saloons — 521. While Pittsburg has 818.

There are in the United States 2,504 second class publications of every description, of this number 2,553 are dailies and 13,315 weekly Magazines and other periodicals, weekly, monthly and quarterly, of general circulation number 5,436.

More than \$1,000 has already been subscribed by school children of this city for the proposed convention hall and George Washington Memorial building. Charles J. Bell and others who are promoting the fund collecting says seven times the above amount has already been promised.

Nebraska is gradually becoming a great butter State. It produced 35,000,000 pounds last year.

William J. Bryan is to launch a prohibition newspaper in Nebraska, in the campaign which begun against the whiskey interests.

Thomas C. Platt, former United States Senator, intensely interested in the Republican party from its organization in 1856 died unexpectedly March 6. Senator Platt was a natural born, organizer and leader of men and will not only be missed by the State of New York, but by the entire Republican party.

An American woman has been selected to perfect the plans for the installation of a modern heating system in the palace of the Sultan of Turkey. Miss Anna Barber has been connected with a London firm engaged in the manufacture of heating apparatus, and has become a specialist in the study of science of heating large buildings.

The monthly report of building Inspector Hackett shows 479 building permits issued during the month of February involving an expenditure of \$1,311,279.

President Taft is to appoint J. C. Napin of Tennessee to a position in the Treasury Department.

Rev. John Hurst, D. D., urges cooperative charity.

Jack Johnson will have a hard time to get out of his recent troubles. The Niagara Movement is the coming organization among colored Americans.

Senator N. B. Scott, of West Virginia, will have a fight on hand to return to the Senate.

Heafin of Alabama is at it again. This time he wants Jim Crow cars in this city.

The National Baptist Review of Nashville, Tenn., is one of the best publications in the United States.

All Georgia is rejoicing over the appointment of Attorney Johnson.

Collector Rucker of Georgia is being pursued by the crackers. He has made a good collector.

Many regrets have been expressed by the leading journals of the country over the retirement of Recorder Dancy.

The colored press of the country doesn't take kindly to the removal of one colored man from office and the appointment of another.

The National Religious Training School at Durham, N. C., is said will be the greatest institution for colored people in the United States. Heafin's bill on Jim Crowism has been defeated in the committee room for the District of Columbia.

The Baptist Churches and other institutions are doing great work for the people.

SPECIAL NOTE

The public is warned to pay no money to Prince Hariston or to Geo. Smallwood. These men are in no way connected with The Washington Bee. They are neither authorized nor empowered to collect for or to solicit for The Bee.

The African Mining and Real Estate Company is offering an unusual opportunity to investors. You should look up their advertisement on page 5.

The Bee leads and all other papers follow.