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JOHN L. THOMPSON, EDITOR

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The Iowa State Bystander is the oldest Afro-American journal published in Iowa. It was established in 1894, and is read by nearly all the colored people of Iowa. We have correspondents in the following towns:

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EDITORIALS

THE GREAT WAR.

We enter 1917 with the great war in Europe still raging, with the armies in a death struggle. The most gigantic carnage of blood and human slaughter that the world has ever witnessed, and for what we do not know, nor do they, unless it is simply selfish greed and ambition to rule the world. Peace negotiations have been suggested by one side and hooted at by the other side. Consequently it does seem that there will necessarily be millions of more lives lost and human carnage and destruction will go on at least many months or even years. It does seem that with so many of the great powers against Germany they would soon crush her and her allies, but she has held with TWO—Bystander—such superhuman strength and winning in most of the engagements seems providential. Yet let us work and pray, if need be, to bring about lasting peace.

OUR NEW GOVERNOR.

This week Iowa has changed governors almost with the changing from the old year to the new. Hon. Geo. W. Clarke has just passed out of the gubernatorial chair to enter into the presidential chair as dean of the law department of Drake university and Hon. W. L. Harding of Sioux City was sworn in as governor. Governor Harding has the unique distinction of being elected by the largest majority of any governor in Iowa, over 100,000

majority, which undoubtedly proved that the people of Iowa wanted him, and we congratulate Mr. Harding and hope for him a good, strong, progressive administration that will keep Iowa in the forefront of our sisterhood of states and let the world know of all that is good Iowa affords the best.

PASSES 120TH YEAR OF LIFE.

Mrs. Mary Talbot, Former Slave, Observes Anniversary With Relatives.

Ottumwa's oldest resident, whose birth preceded the establishment of the city by many years, celebrated her one hundred and twentieth birthday anniversary Christmas day. Mrs. Mary Talbot, who was born December 25, 1796, in Kentucky, and who resides with her grandson, E. T. Jackson, and Mrs. Jackson, on Waverly avenue in Riverview, was the center of a family gathering on the big holiday. Another grandchild, Mrs. Bert Allen, of Albia, and Mr. Allen were present at the Christmas dinner.

Mrs. Talbot has been confined to bed all this winter, but suffers little save from the weakness natural to one of her advanced age, and spends the time piecing quilts. Her eyesight remains singularly clear and she is bright and cheerful. She has many wonderful tales to tell of ante-bellum days, as well as the civil war period. She has been unable to attend church for several years, but is a devout member of the A. M. E. church. She is affectionately cared for by Mr. and Mrs. Jackson.

CUSSING THE PREACHER.

On every hand the church is being criticised. On every hand the preacher is being discussed. In a weekly paper in our city a physician is reported to have taken the Negro preacher severely to task.

The so-called educated Negro, especially seems to take particular delight in criticising the Negro church. He will discourse long and loud about "building too many churches" and "supporting too many preachers," but he will hardly open his mouth against the too many saloons which drag our boys to destruction; he will not complain about making so many saloonkeepers rich; and he will often live in the same block with questionable houses and never criticise them.

The Negro preacher is condemned if he has a poor church edifice, which is called a disgrace to the community, and he is heartily abused if he has a fine building. So what shall he do?

The preacher is abused if he stays into business, and abused if he goes out.

He is abused if he wears a greasy coat, and if he wears fine clothes.

His morality is attacked on the merest hearsay by men who are known to be moral lepers.

His honesty is attacked by men who have court records for dishonesty.

If the preacher makes the people shout, he is attacked; if he does not he is also attacked. Indeed it seems to be the order of the day in some circles to always "knock" the preacher.

Why is this? It is based on selfishness purely. The preachers lead the people. Some lawyers, some business men, some physicians, and others think the preachers ought to hand that leadership over to them. They forget that leadership is based upon service. The preacher leads for no other reason than, at the present stage, he renders best service. If others are to lead it will not be by abusing the preachers, but by rendering service. And there is abundant field for such.

One frequently hears these critics say that instead of having the people put so much money into churches they ought to put it in businesses. They forget two things: First, the preacher's business is not commercial; and, second, that the people put but comparatively little money in churches. The Negro does not put one cent out of every dollar into his churches. Instead of inquiring about the 99 cents, these jealous Negroes are making a fuss about the 1 cent.

The Negro does not put enough money into churches. And any fair-minded person can see it. What is needed is for the business is for the business man, the lawyer, the physician, the mechanic to get theirs not out of the 1 cent the church gets, but the other 99 cents.

The Negro church has its hold by service and organization. Is it not better to organize business and learn to serve the people rather than to continually attack the church?

The 1 cent paid in the church brings the best dividends the Negro race has. This one cent has accumulated nearly \$75,000,000 worth of property which is the race's largest social surplus.

This one cent has built and largely supports the leading schools for higher education of Negroes in the south. If they were not for church school there would be practically no opportunity for higher training for nine-tenths of the race.

This one cent has established the chief literary voices for the race during the 50 years of emancipation in that the chief newspapers and magazines have largely had church support.

This one cent has brought together the people and taught them how to support the Negro in business, the Negro in professions. But for the church the Negro physician would never have gotten the foothold he has.

This one cent now supports the leading publishing plants of the race, and sends out yearly more literature to educate and inspire the race than

the whole 99 cents does.

This one cent gives more dignity to the race in its bishops, general officers, ministers, than any other one cent the race has.

If the Negro did not spend this one cent for his church, ten thousand communities would have no leadership—and the people would scatter, degenerate and die out.

It is because the Negro has done so well with this one cent that every intelligent man ought to encourage him to make it two cents and to organize the other 98 cents.

No, brother professional men, don't cuss the preacher for the wonderful results he has gotten from one cent of the Negro's dollar. Rather compliment his service, his wisdom, his organizing power, and then learn from him how to organize your part of the remaining cents of that dollar, till we have organized the Negro's whole dollar.

Let us pull together, not apart. If the preacher has a foothold, don't spend your energy pulling him down; for in so doing you pull yourself down. What the race needs is not less confidence, but more.

Of course the church has its faults and so have the preachers, and none is beyond criticism; but the systematic effort of one class to try to discredit the ministry is to be regretted by all who have the true well being of the race at heart. Such efforts only retard the race.—Christian Recorder, Philadelphia, Pa.

LEGISLATURE EMPLOYES SELECTED.

Governor Harding reappointed Douglass Miller as his messenger. Those selected by the legislature: Assistant postmistress, Mrs. Fred H. Gresham of Cedar Rapids; chief janitor of the senate, Jeff Logan of Des Moines. Other men in senate cloak room, Homer Jones of Keokuk, Wm. Thompson of Ottumwa, Fred Wright of Davenport. Chief janitor of house, Wm. Tomlin of Des Moines. Others selected were Henry McCraven of Des Moines, J. H. Miller of Newton, Wm. Given of Council Bluffs, E. H. Jones of Buxton, Harry B. Burnaugh of Mt. Pleasant, Assistant matron, Mrs. Wm. Jones of Des Moines.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy Most Effective.

"I have taken a great many bottles of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and every time it has cured me. I have found it most effective for a hacking cough and for colds. After taking it a cough always disappears," writes J. R. Moore, Lost Valley, Ga. Obtainable everywhere.

er had determined to take up the study of law and for that purpose had been attending evening school. But now, upon the advice of his pastor, he engaged to take a course under Professor Scott of the faculty of Kiskadee college, Brooklyn. For nearly three years he studied under Professor Scott, when he was advised by Dr. W. T. Dixon and others to take charge of the Ebenezer Baptist church, Babylon, N. Y.

He began with that church as pastor the first Sunday in July, 1894, having been licensed to preach in the previous August. Here he remained, attending the Babylon high school till he graduated, and then took up higher studies under Rev. Drs. Raymond and Plimm, the object being to follow the same course as given at Colgate university. He studied thus till June, 1900, when he was called to the pastorate of the Messiah Baptist church, Yonkers, N. Y., where he labored with great success till November, 1906, when, having accepted the call, he took charge of St. Paul's Baptist church.

He is a constant student, a hard worker and a faithful pastor. The church which he now pastors he found, on going to it, to be in debt to the extent of \$18,500. By 1908 this debt had been cut down to \$12,000. The church was remodeled in 1910, making it almost twice as large, with light and splendid ventilation. This remodeling was done at a cost of nearly \$4,000. All other expenses of the church have been met, and the membership is now about three times what it was when Rev. Mr. Booker became its pastor.

The church is twenty-three years old and has had four pastors in all. Rev. Mr. Booker has succeeded in organizing the church into good working shape, and there is a brighter outlook for it in the future than it has ever had before. The Rev. Booker was united in marriage to Miss Lulu J. Floyd Feb. 27, 1895. They are the parents of three children—one son, who is a student for the ministry, and

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CELEBRATION OF DOUGLASS' MEMORY URGED BY LEAGUE

National Equal Rights Body Takes the Initiative in Great Movement.

Great and vital causes are advanced by honoring the memory of their illustrious exponents. When the work of these moral heroes is yet unfinished or is being undone the present day struggle for humanity is strengthened by public observances of the anniversaries of the pioneers. Such events furnish the occasion to recall the careers and recite the noble utterances of the great advocates of reform and to urge present day devotion to their ideals. The sentimental appeal which goes with the centenary of the birth of a moral leader makes its celebration, if carried on in the spirit of his life work, of telling help to the same cause today.

Hence it is that the National Equal Rights league, representing the crusade of colored Americans for rights and liberties still denied, urges the celebration of the centenary of the birth of that greatest of all champions of liberty and of citizenship for colored Americans, Frederick Douglass, all day Wednesday, Feb. 14, 1917.

The league advises that these observances be in the name of the equal rights cause and that in every place where colored Americans are numerous an equal rights committee or Equal Rights league be formed to arrange the centenary observance of this great colored champion of equal rights.

This is the first great duty of our race collectively in the new year 1917 and is the league's New Year's message to the race. It will inspire our young people with respect for and pride in their racial strain to have brought out the wondrous ability of this man born a slave. It will give courage to our men and women to fight in an organized way color discrimination to learn of the brave stand taken by Douglass on many occasions. It will challenge the conscience of white Americans to know the life struggle and the eloquent plea made by him for justice to his race.

Douglas was the great colored abolitionist. An escaped slave, he naturally waged an independent campaign of agitation for the freedom of his own race. The approach of his centenary should be the signal for his people to rally to the standard of a fight of our race for rights denied because of our race.

Let there be fitting observances throughout the United States of America of the centenary of Douglass the orator, the abolitionist, the editor, the writer, the statesman, under the auspices of equal rights committees or equal rights leagues and the citizens all day Feb. 14, 1917. Thus will our fight for rights be strengthened in the land which Douglass helped make one of freedom for all.

BYRON GUNNER, President, Hillburn, N. Y. WILLIAM MONROE TROTTER, Secretary, 34 Cornhill, Boston.

THE NEED OF EDUCATION.

President Edward T. Ware of Atlanta University Makes Frank Statement.

In discussing the question why the colored people are leaving the south in such large numbers Edward T. Ware, president of Atlanta university, says: "If the colored people are to remain in the south they must be educated. We are conducting a campaign to raise half a million dollars toward the endowment fund of Atlanta university. This institution has been in existence fifty years, having been founded early in 1867, following the close of the civil war.

"The work of Atlanta university is recognized throughout the south and north. It was founded for the purpose of giving the colored people a chance for the same educational advantages that the white population of the southern states enjoys. If this work is to be done it must be done by men and women who have had more than an industrial school education.

"The whole system of Negro education in the south is separate from that of the white population. Consequently we must equip members of the colored race to carry on this work. Everybody recognizes that the Negro must be educated if he is to have the same opportunities that his white brother enjoys, but few stop to consider where this education may be given.

"One of the vital questions in the south at the present time is the exodus of Negroes from the south. The southern press has pointed out that if the colored people are to remain they must be educated and protected against lynchings. Already in southwest Georgia intelligent members of both the white and colored populations have got together to discuss what can be done. It is in just such situations that the educated colored person exerts his influence.

"Atlanta university is giving the south just such educated colored young men and women. The distinctive service of the university has been the preparation of teachers. Among the graduates also are successful doctors, preachers and business men."

Serious Blow to Knights of Pythias. A Washington dispatch states that nearly half a million dollars' worth of uniforms worn by the Knights of Pythias will be barred by the new law enacted by congress prohibiting individuals, secret orders or organizations of any kind from wearing any uniform similar to that worn by the United States army, navy or marine corps.

The Habit of Taking Cold. With many people taking cold is a habit, but fortunately one that is easily broken. Take a cold sponge bath every morning when you first get out of bed—not ice cold, but a temperature of about 90 degrees F. Also sleep with your window up. Do this and you will seldom take cold. When you do take cold take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and get rid of it as quickly as possible. Obtainable everywhere.

Proper Bestowal of Charity.

Dickens: There are not a few among the disciples of charity who require in their vocation, scarcely less excitement than the votaries of pleasure in theirs; and hence it is that diseased sympathy and compassion are every day expended on out-of-the-way objects, when only too many demands upon the legitimate exercise of the same virtues in a healthy state are constantly within the sight and bearing of the most unobservant person alive. In short, charity must have its compass, as the novelist or the playwright must have his.

"When you feel any temptation coming along," said the friend and adviser, "you must say: 'Get thee behind me, Satan.'"

"De's what I done said," answered Mr. Ephantus Pinkley, "an' Gen I 'magine I hyubs Satan answer me back: 'De's all right. We's both gwine de same way, nohow, an' it don' make no difference to me which leads de succession.'"

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The East Side Tailor Shop 511 1/2 East Walnut Street. All kinds of repair work, Dress Making, Cleaning and Pressing. PHONE MAPLE 28 Mrs. C. M. Wilson and M. F. Booker, Props.

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