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CAYTON'S WEEKLY

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In the interest of equal rights and equal justice to all men and for "all men up."

A publication of general information, but in the main voicing the sentiments of the Colored Citizens.

It is open to the towns and communities of the state of Washington to air their public grievances.

Social and church notices are solicited for publication and will be handled according to the rules of journalism.

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HORACE ROSCOE CAYTON, Editor and Publisher

TELEPHONE: BEACON 1910

TRAVESTY ON CONSISTENCY

There is no doubt but that the verdict and the punishment meted out to the riotous members of the Twenty-fourth Infantry by the court martial that heard the case were in keeping with the law and the evidence in the case, as there could be no denial on the part of the soldiers of the charge. They did get their arms and they did shoot up Houston, Texas, and in doing so killed and wounded a number of white persons, and they did do so to retaliate on the white citizens of that town, for at divers times offering insults to them and often actually abusing them; and the law says, persons guilty of such offenses shall be hung by the neck until dead. The conditions that moved those men, thirteen of whom were hung last Wednesday and forty-one sent to prison for life, to commit that crime against the laws of the land should have at least entered into the consideration of the case, and though guilty they should have been given prison terms rather than the death punishment, and this conclusion is reached, not by reasoning from the view point of a colored man, but from the view point of fair play. Those colored soldiers did no more and not a hundredth part as much as would have white soldiers done under similar circumstances. For example, suppose the citizens of Tacoma should abuse and arrest the soldiers at Camp Lewis and in short treat them as did the white citizens of Houston the colored soldiers stationed near that city, Gen. Irons to the contrary notwithstanding, the Camp Lewis soldiers would burn Tacoma up and the rest of the country would shout, Amen! while they were doing so. Two wrongs, we admit, never make one right, but circumstances should always alter cases, and those men having been sorely provoked to desperation, in which they found themselves on that fatal occasion, their state of mind should have played a part in the punishment awarded. Wherever the colored soldiers are stationed they are always subjected to all the insults and humiliations that the white citizens care to impose upon them and they are commanded by their superior officers to take it without resentment, but human nature can stand a thing just so long, when it will rise up and defend itself, just as did those soldiers at Houston. Those men did not mutiny, but they did resent the accumulated insults that had from time to time been imposed upon them, and what fair minded man could blame them. The uniform of the United States of North America, if worn by a white man, is respected by all citizens of this country, but if worn by a black it is a signal for any kind of insult the white citizens are inclined to heap upon it. But

a few days ago and a colored lieutenant in Vicksburg was kicked and cuffed by the white citizens of that community and even by the soldiers because he dared to show up in that town, where his parents resided and he grew to manhood, wearing the garb of an army officer, and yet the authorities, so far as the general public is aware, have made no inquiry about it and the probabilities are, they will not. Suppose, if you will, one of the Senegambian soldiers now fighting for France and England would be insulted by the white citizens of either of those countries, the king of England and the president of France would punish the guilty rascals if they had to send an army to do it, but in the United States the black man has no rights that the white man is bound to respect, and if one white man does condescend to respect his rights, such an white man is ridiculed for so doing by the balance of the white folks, though the black man wears the garb of a soldier. The final outcome of the Houston court martial is no more than could have been expected owing to the domineering influence the Southern Democrats exercise over the present administration. In conclusion, permit us for your edification to quote from an ancient poet, which is as follows:

"Yet come it will, the day decreed by fate,
How my heart trembles while my tongue relates,

When thou, Imperial Troy, will bend
And see thy warriors fall, thy glories end."

The above we wish to apply to the South only, and we wish to be understood as not classing the average white man of the North with the white man of the South, for the white man of the North almost without exception, is for fair play for the black man and in the North the black man gets, for the most part, just as square a deal as the white man. We long to see the time come when that section of this country known as the South, will be wiped off of the map.

Though the black folk of this country are the recipients of multiplied thousands of insults by the white citizens, yet they are even more loyal than the white citizens themselves and about the same time the law was hanging the colored soldiers for having resented some of their many insults, a colored woman in New York was giving vent to the following patriotic utterances:

"We American citizens pride ourselves on patriotism. The love of our country has been instilled into our very lives from birth. We, as colored citizens, have the highest love of patriotism, and we are sending our sons and contributing our means as freely as any American born citizen that ever lived.

"I believe that every colored citizen's prayer went up in union on last Wednesday for the boys in the trenches, not as colored, but as one inseparable out of which God created us all equal.

"Let us continue to pray to Almighty God to clear up this chaos. No man can say when or where the war will end, but one thing we know, that God will bring everything out in His own time and that every cloud has a silver lining. Possibly this war will end the dread monster strong drink, which has claimed as many victims as war."

In the past Tacoma may have been a most excellent nerve-quieting resort, but it is a nerve-wracking community at present.

If Chief Beekingham was guilty of malfeasance in office then in our opinion Mayor

Gill was a particeps criminis and if Beekingham was slaughtered for a Roman holiday, Gill should be similarly punished. It's a new mayor and not a new chief that Seattle needs most.

BECKY IS THE GOAT

History will repeat itself, as may be seen in Seattle's recent cry for a moral renovation, which thus far has only resulted in making a goat of the chief of the police. About eighteen years ago Seattle underwent a moral renovation even more violent than the present one and the rotten mayor-ality administration at that time, all of which deserved life terms in the penitentiary for the part each and every one of them played in the criminal modus procedure, but the whole affair was compromised by making a goat of the chief of the police—Billie Meredith—who became so incensed at the treatment handed out to him by the mayor and his henchmen, that he went out on a man hunt for any of those who were instrumental in his downfall, which resulted in him losing his own life. Now, Chief Beekingham has been made the goat of the Gill administration just as was Meredith of the Humes administration, but lets hope history will not further repeat itself, and Beekingham lose his life trying to retaliate on his enemies. The moral condition of this city has simply been rotten and doubly rotten ever since Gill took office the second time. It was in a similar condition when the citizens recalled him and nothing will purge it of its rottenness until Gill is disposed of.

Chauncey Wright, without doubt the most successful restaurant operator Seattle or the Northwest has ever seen, is dead, and his family and friends mourn almost without comfort his untimely demise. "In the midst of life we are in death," wrote an ancient philosopher and that truly was the case of Chauncey Wright, who suddenly died while in the very hey day of life. After casting about, Chauncey Wright found his calling and he proceeded to push it to perfection. In Seattle he was the restaurant king and the string of magnificent eating houses that he owned at the time of his death and the financial success each of them was proving to be, all demonstrated the assertion that he was the king of the business. Eminently successful men are the ones that we should hold up for emulation and it matters not in what line of business they made a success. He who wrote, "the good die young" made no mistake, when applied to Chauncey Wright, especially when viewed from a business standpoint, which is the only one the general public generally view it from.

We have our suspicions that the road builders of King county are feeling a bit shakey these grand jury inquiry days. There may not be a "nigger in the wood pile," but a whole lot of us really think there is.

More colored persons have been found guilty and sent to prison for the East St. Louis riots than white men and yet that bloody riot was precipitated by organized labor and its sympathisers for the express purpose of driving the colored folk out of the community. Here is another case of "hell if you do and hell if you do not."