

SOME PHASES OF THE NEGRO IN THE UNITED STATES.

Illiteracy—Article Number Two.

By John W. Felton.

There have been many theories advanced as to the reason that Negroes in the United States are discriminated against. In my opinion, there is no one reason, but it is safe to say that illiteracy plays an important part.

In viewing the Negro, not from the heights that he has attained but from the depths from which he sprang, the reduction of his illiteracy has been a marvelous feat.

In 1880 the illiteracy of the Negro was 70 per cent; in 1890 it was 57.1 per cent; in 1900 44.5, and 1910 it had been reduced to 30.4 per cent. When it is realized that within thirty years the illiteracy of the Negro has been reduced from 70 to 30.4 per cent, no one can truthfully say that his record in eradicating illiteracy has not been phenomenal.

This has been accomplished in spite of the fact that for every nine dollars spent in the State of Mississippi on investment in school property, only one dollar is spent for Negroes. It is also to be noticed that in Louisiana for every fifty-one dollars spent for the same purpose, only forty-nine dollars of it is spent for the "Whites." "Oh, Inconsistency, thou art a jewel."

These conditions do not exist in these two states alone, but throughout the benighted South. Facing such conditions as these, not to speak of the dastardly crimes committed against the Negro, we should not marvel because nearly a quarter of a million of them have left recently.

There are fifty cities that have a total population of 100,000. Of these, the highest percentage of illiteracy of the Negro in 1910 were as follows: Birmingham, Ala., 22.1; Nashville, Tenn., 22; and Atlanta, Ga., 20.9. Of the nineteen cities of this class having a population of at least 10,000 Negroes, the lowest percentages of illiteracy were: In Boston, 3.5 per cent; New York, 3.6; and Chicago, 4 per cent. The lowest per cent recorded in any of these cities was 1.4 per cent in Rochester, New York.

In Georgia in 1829 the following law was enacted: If any slave, Negro or free person of color, or any white person shall teach any other slave, Negro, or free person of color to read or write, either written or printed characters, the said free person or slave shall be punished with a fine and whipping, or fine or whipping, at the discretion of the court; and if a white person so offend, he, she, or they shall be punished with a fine not exceeding \$500 and imprisonment in the common jail, at the discretion of the court.

Similar laws were enacted in Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina and Virginia. Such southern writers as W. B. Smith and Thomas Nelson Page with their pseudo-scientific books on the Negro have yet much to learn about him.

W. B. Smith in his disgusting volume, "Along the Color Line," heaps unhalloved obloquy upon the Negro. He says that he is illiterate, criminal, etc., without stopping to consider the causes of these things if they are so. With such obstacles as the Blease "Walls" to scale, the Vardaman "Seas" to cross, the Tillman "Mountains" to climb, the Smith "Air" to breathe and the Page "Water" to drink, it would be well not to boast of scholarship and accomplishment, but rather marvel that the Negro is able to read the first reader.

The school attendance of the Negro 6 to 20 years of age is 47.3. Now, in order to eradicate the menace of illiteracy, the remaining 52.7 per cent should be made to attend school by law, if not by the parents of the children. If this was done immediately, in 1920 when the next census is taken, the illiteracy of the Negro would be so small that it would hardly be worth while to count.

THE ALPHA SUFFRAGE CLUB.

The Alpha Suffrage Club in its election of officers last meeting elected the following: Dr. Fannie Emanuel, president; Mrs. S. L. Adams, vice-president; Mrs. J. E. Hughes, secretary; Miss Laura Beasley, treasurer; Mrs. Ida Wells-Barnett, chairman of the executive board. A strong letter of protest was sent to Mrs. Joseph T. Bowen, president of the Juvenile Protective Association, in relation to coarse language used about and in the presence of colored women, officers of the Juvenile Court. Said language was by one, Mr. Guile, who was a juvenile protective officer in charge of the work in the colored district. A request was made that he be taken off the colored cases, and if it was possible to do so, a representative of the Negro race be put in the work.

The Ideal Woman's Club which held its Reciprocity Day meeting on Friday, appointed a committee to wait upon Mrs. Bowen in regard to the same matter. The clubs reported were: The Ideal Woman's Club, East Side Club, The American Rose Art Club, The

North Side Woman's Club and the Ida B. Wells Woman's Club. This committee waited on Mrs. Bowen on Wednesday morning of this week and had a most satisfactory interview with her. Mrs. Bowen is well known and is a staunch friend of the colored people.

THE WINTER FLY.

It is time now to talk about the winter fly.

But there are no flies in winter time, the average person would say.

The Department of Health, however, says that there are winter time flies. And these winter time flies are responsible for the countless millions of these pestiferous little insects that we have with us in the summer months. As a matter of fact, there is scarcely an office building or hotel in the loop district, and especially the latter, that has not harbored live flies all winter long and in which they might be found right now. Bakeries and bakery oven rooms are places for the flies to survive the cold season, and as already stated, the flies that survive during the winter are responsible for those that we have during the summer months.

Flies do not hibernate; they are not long lived. When the chilling frosts of the autumn months come they disappear by the millions. It is only the few that manage to secure quarters comfortable enough to enable them to live and breed through the winter. Therefore, it is important that right now we should get after the winter fly. If every hotel and restaurant keeper in the City of Chicago and every bakery and delicatessen store should get busy now to exterminate the flies that they may find on their premises, it would be a most effective measure towards the prevention of fly plague next summer.

It is possible, too, that in a few places and comparatively few throughout the city, manure, in which flies' eggs have been deposited, has been stored in quantities so large as to retain heat sufficient to keep the eggs from freezing; and these, when warm weather comes and the manure is removed, will no doubt emerge as flies. The most prolific sources of supply, however, are found in the places named, where a summer temperature has been maintained during the cold weather and where the flies have had plenty to eat and managed to get along without discomfort or starvation.

Every housewife should also go carefully over her house to see that there is not a fly now living in it. It is not an uncommon sight in midwinter to see a fly buzzing on one of your window panes. The important thing is, however, to catch that winter fly. The Department of Health believes that this is an important matter, for the reason that the flies now living are laying eggs in favorable places for incubation in early spring, and some of these eggs are hatched out during the winter months in places where the temperature is warm and even.

It is hardly necessary at this time to repeat what so often has been said, that flies carry the germs of disease; that they are a menace to the health of any community in which they are allowed to exist. They carry the germs of such diseases as typhoid, dysentery and tuberculosis, and many medical men suspect them of playing a part in the spread of infantile paralysis. In view of the fact that Chicago may have an outbreak of this dread disease next summer, this appeal to start the fly-killing campaign now should not go unheeded. Let every one get busy and swat the winter fly.

To overcome diphtheria and wipe it gradually off the map, let all parents follow this advice:

Have your child's tonsils and adenoids properly removed by those who know how. These glands are favorite points for diphtheria to attack. In case of even slight sore throat, keep close watch, especially in the cold, indoor season, and get a doctor early. Insist that the child be given a prompt dose of antitoxin in case of the slightest question of the disease. Antitoxin will do no harm, the poison of diphtheria will.

PLATFORM LECTURE AT GRACE.

The chairman of the speakers' committee of the Young People's Lyceum, Grace Presbyterian church, has secured Miss Kathryn Johnson, Wilberforce University, a platform lecturer, to speak Sunday, February 4, at Grace church, at 5 o'clock. Miss Johnson has a thirty minute lecture that is a literary gem, brimful of wholesome instructions and advice. Until recently, she has traveled extensively for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Clarence Lee, the "wizard of the violin," will play, Miss Eloise Cook, a talented soprano, will sing; also a noted tenor singer is on the program. Miss Maude J. Roberts will preside. Miss Bertha Moseley, president, Cary B. Lewis, chairman of the speakers' committee. Best seats are secured at 5 o'clock. The public is invited. No admission.



JUDGE HUGO PAM.

One of the most popular and honorable jurists in Chicago, who will be re-elected as one of the judges of the Superior Court this coming fall.

GOING PAST.

Stock of "The Birth of a Race" Being Sold by Brokers and is Going Like Hot Cakes.

If you want to see two busy places visit the offices of the Birth of a Race Photoplay Corporation, and then visit the offices of the brokers, Giles P. Cory & Company.

After these visits there will be no doubt in the mind of any one as to the assured success of that big photoplay, "The Birth of a Race," now in course of preparation.

The stock is being sold in amounts ranging from \$10 to \$10,000. The list of Chicago stockholders is as long as your arm, and a very long arm at that. Every mail brings applications for stock from one end of the country to the other.

In talking with Mr. Barker, president of the Birth of a Race Corporation, he said: "I am a little surprised that most of the stock is being sold to White folks; but this is true. There is plenty of interest among the colored folks, but they seem to be a little slow. They have been waiting for something. I don't know just what that something is; but my advice is for them not to wait much longer. If they do, they will find that they have waited too long. A number of sales have been made to the colored people of Chicago, and all over the country as well. And every one of these stockholders is a good, substantial man or woman."

A little change has been made in the officers of the Corporation. L. C. Conner, formerly vice-president, is no longer associated with the company. The new treasurer is John Gulliksen, assistant cashier of the Union Bank of Chicago. The board of directors has been strengthened. Everything that could possibly be done has been done to safeguard investors, so that every share of stock will share equally with every other share of stock in every dollar of profit to be made from this big photoplay.

Geo. Frederic Wheeler, who is writing the story of "The Birth of a Race," is now in the South. While away he will visit Nashville, Chattanooga, Atlanta, Birmingham, Montgomery, Mobile, New Orleans, Tuskegee, Hampton, Piney Woods and many other places.

He will look up locations for various scenes for the photoplay, discuss details with Emmett J. Scott, and make arrangements for the taking of much of the picture.

Mr. Wheeler has been asked to speak at the Negro Board of Trade of Nashville and to address audiences in other cities.

"The Birth of a Race" is broadening in theme and growing in interest. The story will carry a message to all races and nationalities. And why shouldn't it? The United States is a melting pot. Into it go all races, and out of it is born a new race—the American. The problem of having the different races in this country live and work in harmony is a national problem. Racial prejudice strikes at the very heart of democracy.

The government at Washington is thinking of this problem, and Mr. Barker is soon to have a conference to explain in detail the good that "The Birth of a Race" will do in bringing

about a better understanding between the races.

"The Birth of a Race" is a big work, but it is being pushed very hard. The men in charge know their business.

THE APPOMATTOX CLUB, THE LEADING NEGRO ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTRY IN A BIG DRIVE FOR RACE UPLIFT.

Beauregard F. Moseley Appointed Chairman of the Civic and Public Affairs Committee. Big "Symposium" at Club Parlors, February 4th, on "Negro Migration." All Lyceums and Literary Clubs of the City Invited to Have Representatives Present. President Col. J. H. Johnson Requests Presence of All Members, Wives and Friends.

The Appomattox Club seems to have at last struck the real note of the purpose of its organization, Race Uplift, and will commence its 1917 program on Sunday, February 4th, 1917, at 4 P. M., at the Club Parlors, in a big "Symposium" upon the latest question now before the American people, "Negro Migration."

The program is in charge of one of Chicago's most active and public spirited citizens, Beauregard F. Moseley, a lawyer of repute and great practice, who will be remembered as having put the Club on record last year in a big speech at Wendell Phillips High School, on the occasion of the Lincoln and Douglass anniversaries. He is surrounding himself as Chairman of the Civic & Public Affairs Committee, with some of the best talent in the Club, and purposes, with the co-operation of Col. J. H. Johnson, President, and the Board of Directors, to make things hum.

On the occasion of February 4th, next, the program will indeed be interesting, as not only the representatives of the Grace Lyceum, the St. Mark's Literary and that of Bethel, Olivet, Quinn Chapel, Wayman Chapel, St. Paul's M. E., Mt. Zion of Evanston, and other leading churches of the city will speak or read papers upon this subject, but each member of the Civic Committee will be heard, thus giving an opportunity to all who may attend to hear the best discussions possible upon this subject.

All clubs or literaries, desiring to have representatives present, should forward the name to Chairman Moseley not later than Saturday, February 3rd, or sooner.

On Sunday, February 11th, 1917, at 4 P. M., the Club will celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass with speeches. The day will be known as the "Douglass Centenary" and appropriate speeches will be made by the Hon. Albert C. Barnes, of the Appellate Court, upon the subject of "Abraham Lincoln," and Dr. Geo. Cleveland Hall, one of the noted physicians of the race, upon the subject of "Frederick Douglass" at the Club Parlors. Dr. Dickerson promises a real treat by first class musical program on each occasion.

The members of the Civic & Public Speakers Committee, as announced by President Johnson are as follows: Beauregard F. Moseley, Chairman, Hon. L. B. Anderson, Hon. S. B. Turner, Col. John R. Marshall, Hon. S. A.

T. Watkins, Mr. D. French, Hon. H. S. Daniels, Hon. Henry S. Anderson, Hon. E. H. Wright, Hon. Oscar DePriest, Dr. S. C. Dickerson, Hon. R. S. Abbott, Hon. W. R. Cowan, Major R. R. Jackson, Hon. A. L. Jackson, Hon. A. A. Wells—"C. M. F."

It is hoped that the Hon. Henry S. Anderson and the many other honorables will accomplish wonders in behalf of civic betterment.—Editor.

NEW JUDGES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT TO BE ELECTED AT THE JUDICIAL ELECTION THIS COMING JUNE.

The terms of Judges Albert C. Barnes, Joseph H. Fitch, Charles M. Foell, Clarence N. Goodwin, Marcus Kavanaugh, M. L. McKinley, William H. McSurely, Hugo Pam and Denis E. Sullivan, of the Superior Court of Cook county, all expire during the year 1917.

Mr. Henry M. Walker, who was a candidate for the nomination for judge of the Municipal Court at the September primaries, is a candidate for one of these positions for the election in June, 1917. He has resided in the City of Chicago for over fifty years, being raised on the South Side until the year of 1876, living on Sixteenth street near State street. At that time the territory south of Twenty-second and State streets was cow pasture up to Twenty-sixth street, where there were four or five houses on the west side of the street that had water pumps sticking out of the sidewalk, from which they got their water: He afterwards moved to the North Side and has resided in the Twenty-fifth Ward for the last twenty-eight years. He was admitted to the bar and licensed to practice law in 1892, since which time he has had his offices at 127 North Dearborn street.

Mr. Walker, being a Mason of high degree, contributes a large share of his time to charity work, often defending unfortunate and poor people without fee. During the last year he spent a month's time in one of such cases, as well as handling between twenty-five and thirty others of a similar nature, and deserves credit for his work in this direction, and he will make the right kind of a judge.

OREGON LEGISLATOR INTRODUCES INTER-MARRYING BILL.

"If White and Colored Love, Let them Marry," He Says.

OTHER EFFORTS MAKE HIM APPEAR AS FRIEND TO RACE IN THE NORTHWEST.

Salem, Ore. (Special).—Representative D. C. Lewis, of the late city of St. Johns, again is championing the Negroes and other colored residents of the state.

Lewis was author of the resolution adopted at the last session submitting to the voters the proposal to eliminate from the state constitution an obsolete section prohibiting Negroes from voting. The proposal was defeated at the recent election.

But Lewis came forth with another bill designed in the interests not only of the Negroes but of Chinamen and Kanakas as well. It would repeal provisions of existing laws making it illegal for Whites and Negroes, Chinese and Kanakas to intermarry.

"If a White man loves a Colored woman or a Chinese woman, let him marry her," he argues.

"No, I have no particular couple in mind, but some of my colored constituents asked me to introduce the bill."

He will also introduce another bill making it unlawful for the secretary of state, state printer or other officer to print as a part of the state constitution those provisions making it illegal for Negroes to vote or to hold property.

He says that this course will eliminate the objectionable sections from the constitution—that the fourteenth amendment to the federal constitution abrogated them long ago. It was not necessary even to submit the repeal amendment to the people at the last election, he says.

COLORED PAINTER'S PICTURE IS SELECTED FOR EXHIBITION.

Painting is One of Five Selected to Go On Record Exhibition of New York Color Club in that City.

TEACHER IN TRAINING SCHOOL.

Cheyney, Pa.—One of the paintings displayed at the recent exhibition of the New York Color Club was the work of Miss Daura Wheeler, teacher of art in the Cheyney Training School for Teachers, and former winner of the Cresson Prize Scholarship from the Academy of Fine Arts of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The painting is entitled, "Heirlooms," and was one of the twelve selected out of five hundred as a permanent illustration for the Water Color Club catalogue. Last spring Miss Wheeler had five paintings on exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago.

NEGROES OPPOSE ANDERSON FOR DE PRIEST'S PLACE.

Five hundred Negro voters of the Second Ward, at a mass meeting held last night at 3249 South State street, protested against the selection of Louis Anderson, an assistant corporation counsel, as an aldermanic candidate by the Thompson Republican organization. The gathering indorsed William Randolph Cowan as a candidate and denounced city hall dictation in Second Ward politics. Cowan has already filed his petition.

"We take the position," said A. L. Williams, one of those present, "that the colored people of this ward should select their candidate. We are opposed to having Congressman Madden and Senator George F. Harding pick a candidate for us. Anderson was picked at a meeting of forty precinct captains and he received thirty-three votes.—The Chicago Herald, Feb. 1, 1917.

CAPTAIN JAMES S. NELSON CONTINUES TO MAKE GOOD AS ONE OF THE ASSISTANT PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS OF CHICAGO.

It was stated a few weeks ago in the columns of one of the weekly newspapers of this city that just because Captain James S. Nelson happens to be real light in complexion that he ought not to have been selected as one of the assistant prosecuting attorneys of Chicago.

Not one word was said in the article against his reputation or character, nor against his qualifications for the position. Captain Nelson belongs to almost all the secret societies among the colored people in this city and never attempts to get away from or side-step his race and pass for white. It is the height of folly for any one to belittle him on account of his color.

MILLIONAIRE CLOSES BUSINESS TO ATTEND NEGRO JANITOR'S FUNERAL.

New York (Special).—Vincent Astor, one of the world's richest men, was one of the chief mourners at the funeral of Mitchell Morton, the Negro janitor in the offices of the Astor estate in Twenty-sixth street.

Not only were the offices closed during the services in Mount Olivet Baptist church, but Astor, the entire office force and several prominent persons attended the funeral. It was one of the greatest tributes of wealth to faithful services performed in a lowly capacity that the city has seen.

Morton was 46 years old and was born in Virginia, entering the employ of the late Col. Astor twenty years ago.

THE NEGRO FELLOWSHIP LEAGUE.

The Negro Fellowship League will celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of Frederick Douglass at the Reading Room, Sunday, February 4, 1917, at 4 o'clock p. m. Members of the League will give sketches of Douglass' life, also quotations from his works. All Douglass lovers are requested to be present.

Last Sunday the League held a crowded meeting in conjunction with the aldermanic committee, second ward. A consensus of opinion as to how to remedy vice conditions in the second ward was to elect F. L. Barnett alderman of the second ward.

SLAVES FREED UNDER BRITISH FLAG.

Most people have not realized that slavery existed anywhere under the British flag to-day, so it is a surprise to hear that an ordinance declaring the abolition of the legal status of slavery in Nigeria (Africa) has been promulgated.—Review of the World.

CHIPS

Sam Langford, the popular champion middle-weight prize fighter, it is reported will become part owner of the Keystone Hotel, 3032 S. State street.

"Lovie Joe," J. H. Whiston, part owner of the Elite No. 1, 3030 S. State street, will pull out for California on a vacation trip shortly after the middle of February.

Arthur F. Codozoo, 5259 S. Wabash avenue, one of the owners of the Elite Cafe No. 1, 3030 S. State street, was the first part of this week confined to his house with illness, but he is now improving under the medical care of Dr. George C. Hall.

Dr. Lucas, of Meridian, Miss., the able secretary of the Epworth League of the M. E. church, spent the greater part of last week in the city as the honored and distinguished guest of Mr. Charles B. Travis, the successful real estate broker, and before leaving the city Dr. Lucas purchased two pieces of good income property through Mr. Travis, the property being located at 4221 S. Wabash avenue and 3764 Rhodes avenue.