

RICHMOND THE PLANET

VOLUME XXIV, NO. 19.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH, 1907.

PRICE, FIVE CENTS.

Shall We Go To Africa?

(No. 2.)

Whence and how came we here? is the question for discussion in this paper.

So far as the generation which saw the conclusion of hostilities between the two great sections of this country in 1865 are concerned, it were needless to discuss this phase of the subject. But for the benefit of those born since that time and many whom possibly never heard of the "middle passage," we shall have some what to say.

That the present race of Negroes now living in the United States are descendants of natives of Africa who were kidnapped and otherwise gotten possession of, brought to this country and sold into slavery is a fact too patent to be discussed. Most all Negroes above fifty years of age now living here have some personal knowledge and some of them personal experience of the dreaded middle passage.

As late as 1859, three years before the breaking out of the war between the states, two slave ships laden with native Africans were captured by United States revenue cutters off the coast of South Carolina and brought into Charleston harbor, where for a day or two they were inspected by all who cared to pay the price of an excursion on a steamer or sail boat. The writer saw them often while passing on the steamboat plying between Charleston and Mt. Pleasant. They were finally sent back to the shores of Africa and turned loose possibly to be recaptured and reshipped to the slave markets in the Southern States of this country or South America.

The manner of disposing of these poor creatures on board the slave ship for passage to America was too horrible for description. But history is history and there is no use in mincing matters.

Proned on the bare floors of the lower and upper decks of the ships, without regard to sex and in a nude state, these people were rowed along with barely room enough between for the passage of one to give them a sip of water or a crust of bread. In this cramped and uncomfortable position, without regard to the calls of nature, they were compelled to remain from the embarkation to the disembarkation. The resultant stench and disease were something fearful and hundreds died and were buried at sea. When it is remembered that in those days it took months for the crossing of the ocean, it may be imagined what must have been the suffering of these poor unfortunate beings.

This is what was known as the middle passage. After the arrival in this country came the separation of near and dear relations—the bartering of human flesh and blood for the filthy gain of gold. And let me not fail to note here, that not only was the southern white man engaged in this nefarious traffic but northern white men particularly were engaged in it, together with white men of almost every nationality upon the earth.

It was a ruthless, brutal business and hardened and brutalized to the last extreme all who engaged in it. It is said that the great majority of Africans brought to this country came from the Guinea coast and territory adjacent thereto.

Be that as it may, it is reasonable to suppose that as the bulk of the people brought here were those captured in the various and constant tribal wars and sold by their captors to the white slave ships which were always hovering about the coasts, that the supply was drawn from every part of the continent, and that the present race in America represent not only the warlike Abyssinians and Zulus but even Arabians, Egyptians, Tripolitans, Algerians and Moroccans. Of course these latter in greatly less degree, but they are there all the same.

Prof. J. C. Hazeley, a native African Negro who travelled in the United States in 1878-79 in the interest of the American Colonization Society told the writer that it was a matter of amusement and pastime for him while walking through the streets of Richmond to pick out persons descended from the different tribes of the African races.

O. M. STEWARD.

—Picnics and suppers! That's the talk. Mr. N. Winston takes 'phone orders just as promptly as he does written ones. Call and see him.

WANTED—Young colored woman in automobile works in suburb of Chicago to act as assistant to ladies who operate their own cars; to learn to operate cars, to take charge of cars on shopping tours, etc. Experience unnecessary but must be intelligent, neat, of good address, etc. Transportation furnished. Address, WILLIAM HOLLIDAY, 128 William St., Oak Park, Chicago, Ill.

—You may fall down, but you'll get up again to get a saucer of that pure cream sold by Mr. N. Winston.

Major Penrose Declares Soldiers

NOT GUILTY!

The Evidence Changed Him. Surprising Happenings at the Brownsville Investigation.

TESTIMONY OF TEXANS IMPEACHED—COULD NOT HAVE IDENTIFIED MEN—MORE ABOUT THE BULLET HOLES. WERE NOT MADE BY ARMY RIFLES.

WILL THE PRESIDENT REVOKE HIS ORDER?

[Washington Post, April 4, 1907.]
Testimony of unusual interest was given yesterday in the Brownsville investigation before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, the chief witnesses being Maj. Charles W. Penrose, who commanded the Negro soldiers who are charged with having "shot up" the Texas city, and Lieut. H. G. Leckie, who was sent to Brownsville by Gen. McCaskey, commander of the Department of Texas to investigate the shooting.

actions of the citizens toward them. This applied to officers as well as enlisted men, as Mayor Combe said that the sight of a uniform might inflame the people.

Maj. Penrose said he replied that he would allow none of his men to enter the town and neither would he allow a citizen to enter the garrison. He made an exception of the mayor and any other citizen bearing letters from the mayor.

SHELLS CHANGED HIS MIND.

According to the testimony of Maj. Penrose, he did not believe his men had done the shooting until the following morning, when Capt. Macklin found the clips and shells outside the garrison wall, at the mouth of what



J. A. LANKFORD, M. S. ARCHITECT.

glect of duty, while the same court-martial found that the men of the Twenty-fifth Infantry were guilty. Notwithstanding this finding Maj. Penrose asserted his confidence now in the innocence of the men, although at first he thought them guilty. In reply to a question by Senator Foraker he said the Negro soldiers had not been represented by counsel at the court. Neither Maj. Penrose nor Lieut. Leckie have been cross-examined.

MAJ. PENROSE WAS AWAKE.

Maj. Penrose testified that he was awake when the firing began, on the night of August 13, and immediately dressed upon hearing two pistol shots from the road, he thought, in the vicinity of the guard house. His story as to the shooting, the call to arms and for formation and disposition of the companies during the succeeding hours tallied with that told by other officers.

He testified to sending Capt. Lyon with Company D to patrol the town and of his return, accompanied by Mayor Combe and his brother, Joe Combe, and of their statement that soldiers had done the shooting. After a general discussion between the Combes and officers of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, Maj. Penrose said that the mayor asked to speak to him privately.

In this talk the witness said that Mayor Combe told him that none of the men of the Twenty-fifth should be permitted to enter the town, as he could not be responsible for the

is known as the Cowan Alley. His feeling that the men were guilty was strengthened by not finding any marks of bullets in the barracks walls on the sides next to the town. The witness detailed his meeting with a citizens' committee on the morning of August 14, when a demand was made for the surrender of the perpetrators of the attack to civil authorities. He told the committee that as soon as the guilty men could be discovered he would surrender them, and that in the meantime he was taking every precaution to prevent a recurrence of the firing. The latter statement was in response to questions as to what steps had been taken to insure against Negro soldiers making another attack.

The direct examination of Maj. Penrose had not been concluded when the committee adjourned for the day. Prior to the examination of Maj. Penrose, testimony was given by Maj. Joseph P. O'Neil, of the Thirtieth Infantry, concerning tests at Fort McIntosh, to determine whether it is possible to distinguish between white and Negro soldiers and Mexicans wearing khaki uniforms at night, at a distance of fifty feet or more. The evidence was largely technical.

SHOTS NOT FROM BARRACKS.

Lieut. Leckie traced for the committee the course taken by bullets which struck houses, and from the examination he made said that the

Richmond, Va.

Southern Aid Society's New Home Office Building,
Richmond, Virginia.

A. D. Price, Pres. Thos. M. Crump, Sec'y. B. L. Jordan, Assistant Sec'y.

John A. Lankford, M. S. and Bro. the noted Negro Architects and Builders of Washington, D. C. Design Another Large Building for Richmond, Va.

Mr. John A. Lankford, the noted architect was in the city this week. He came to present to the Southern Aid Insurance Company (Inc.) the plans and specifications for their new headquarters building, which will be located on North Second Street on the present site of their headquarters now.

The plans and specifications were unanimously accepted. It is a beautiful building of classical design of the Roman class, trimmed with granite and marble, one hundred feet long and three stories high with basement. The basement will be used for the steam heating plant and storage. The building is entered through a large Roman arch colonnade supported with two large Roman columns, resting on and a-

throughout with tiled floors and ainscoting.

J. A. Lankford and Bro. are the Architects. They are young men of great ability and national reputation, they have also designed in Richmond Dr. D. Webster Davis' residence, the famous lecturer. Dr. W. L. Taylor's three flats and a residence which are now under construction and got out the entire scheme and plans for cottages, schools and churches to be erected at Jonesboro at Old Fort Lee. Their Main Office is 317 6th St. N. W., Washington, D. C.

—Mr. Robert W. Carter of Brookline, Mass. is in the city. He has been a welcome visitor in this community. He has met many of his old friends during his stay here.

Salaried Positions.

Are offered men and women with small means to represent us in all the principal cities. Experience unnecessary. For information, enclose stamp. Consolidated Order of Friendship, Roanoke, Virginia. 2mos.

—You'll want ice-cream and confectioneries, that's why we are reminding you that Mr. N. Winston will fill your order. See announcement.

—Mrs. Anna Brooks who underwent a successful operation at the Virginia Hospital has returned to her home, No. 10 W. Baker Street. She is yet confined to her room.

—There will be a Spanish-American Contest Drill, at True Reformers Hall, Tuesday, April 16, 1907, for benefit of 3rd St. A. M. E. and St. Phillips P. E. Churches. Admission 25cts.

—Mr. James N. Vandervall of E. Orange, N. J. called on us, he is here visiting relatives and friends and looking over the scenes of his childhood.

GAINS—TAYLOR.

The marriage of Miss Sarah Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ezekiel Taylor, Ellersboro, Va. to Mr. Richard Gaines took place April 4, 1907. The bride and groom left for Coatsville, Pa. their future home.

Farmer's Conference.

A Farmer's Conference will be held at the John A. Dix Industrial School, Dinwiddie, Va. Wednesday, 10:30 A. M. April 24th, the program is as follows: Economic Farming, Mr. A. E. Bishop of the Agricultural Department, Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute. Hog Raising, Mr. F. D. Busbee in charge of the Agricultural Department John A. Dix Industrial School. Progress and Needs of the Negro Race, Dr. T. Jesse Jones, Assistant Chaplain, Hampton N. and A. Institute.

The Students Ideal of a Man for the President of Virginia Theological Seminary and College.

The following article appeared in the Christian Organizer but it did not appear in full.

Looking over the past record of our school we see that it has risen under an able leadership from an insignificant school to a college of recognition and owing to the racial conditions in the Southland, the Virginia Theological Seminary and College must pilot the way, and keep the door of higher education open to the Negro youth.

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God to take from us our beloved President, a man of great intellectual attainment; an honored son of Oberlin, whose profound scholarship and invincible oratory were a stimulus to the race. As a President and teacher he proved himself able to meet all emergency. As a President he was able to settle all differences satisfactory to all. As a teacher he stood second to none.

Having lost such a man, we conclude that to replace him by a man less qualified would be a reflection upon our dead chief, and a mark of degeneracy of the work in general. We, the students, desiring to perpetuate the principles of the school do hereby make known to the public our conception of the man for the position. We believe that the man must be thoroughly qualified.

1. We deem it absolutely necessary that the president should be of unquestionable moral standing, as pure atmosphere is indispensable to moral growth and as the immortal Caesar declared that he did not only want a wife who was not guilty of wrong, but one who was beyond suspicion. Just so we, the students of the Virginia Theological Seminary and College want a man who is beyond suspicion.

2. We believe that the head of the school should be a profound scholar comparing favorably with the leading educators of to-day. Since the school demanded such a man in its incipency, we feel that at this stage, for the future development of the work a man no less qualified is demanded.

Since the curriculum of this school has made substantial advancement in the last few years, and there are favorable conditions for future advancement, it is absolutely necessary that the president should be beyond the curriculum. We believe that the choice of a president should be made by unbiased minds and that the affiliations of friendship and personal interest should be entirely eliminated because where these are present the eyes are blinded to the best interest of the institution.

The time is fast approaching when the vacant chair must be filled and as it is in the power of the Trustee Board to elect a president, we hope that it will be in their judgment to elect a man not wanting in any of these qualities. We stand ready to support a man having the above named qualifications.

Yours for the perpetuation of the work,
THE STUDENT BODY.
Done by the unanimous vote of the student body.

Ralph W. Tyler Made Auditor For Navy Department.

Ralph W. Tyler, the Columbus, Ohio Negro, whom the President for a time had in mind to appoint to some Federal office in Ohio, yesterday was appointed auditor for the Navy Department at a salary of \$4,000 a year.

Tyler was recommended for an Ohio office by Booker T. Washington, the well-known Negro educator, and the President originally intended to make him surveyor of the port of Cincinnati. Serious objection was raised to this by the people of Cincinnati and the politicians, and the President reconsidered his contemplated action.

It is a matter of history that when it was announced that the President had Tyler in mind for the Cincinnati office, to succeed Surveyor Smith, prominent Republicans in that city notified Congressman Longworth, the President's son-in-law, that the appointment would be a mistake and would be received generally with disfavor. It was reported at the time that such an appointment might prove embarrassing to the political interests of the party.

Springtime calls for the most progressive men and women in every family to look about for a place near some good town on which to build a home. This opportunity has been offered to PLANET readers for the past three years in Woodville, the colored people's suburb, just outside the capital city of Richmond, and again this year the chance is laid before you through the advertising columns of this issue on another page. The opportunity to secure choice lots on reasonable terms does not come your way often and by laying by a little money every month you can soon pay for at least one of these lots. Read every line of this advertisement and then write at once.

CONTINUED ON EIGHTH PAGE.