

THE BEE.

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W. C. CHASE, Editor and Proprietor. C. C. STEVENS, Business Manager.

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Why cannot Professor Greener be appointed city postmaster?

The New York Sun has the thanks of the BEE for a calendar for 1883.

We have received quite a number of congratulatory letters and letters of condemnation. We accept both with many thanks.

The biggest blunder of Garfield's administration was when Ramsdell of the Republican was appointed Register of Wills. He is no friend to President Arthur's administration, hence he should be removed.

Hon. J. J. Devaux will not consent to the scheme on foot to deprive the District of representation in the next convention. He is of the same opinion we are, that the convention shall decide on the number of delegates and not the committee.

The greatest stumbling block to President Arthur's administration is Folger of the Treasury Department. He was the weakest man the Republicans of New York could have nominated for Governor, and he is the greatest enemy to the negro in President Arthur's Cabinet.

It is just about time that President Arthur should make some important colored appointments and not wait until the end of his term.

The BEE enters into the new year in a prosperous condition. We tender our thanks to those who have supported us and spoke a kind word for the little busy BEE. We have outlived the expectations of the false prophets, and shall, as it is predicted, make the BEE the leading journal controlled by colored men in the country.

COLORED NEWSPAPER MEN.

The Christian Recorder thinks Dr. Blyden is not the right kind of chap. The Bee has taken Dr. C. B. Purvis' head, and is now reaching for T. Thomas Fortune's scalp, and calls him a consummate liar. Mr. Fortune in his paper, the Globe, has a poor opinion of Greener, and expresses it that Holland is decidedly weak.

Dr. Blyden is a fraud, when he attempts to introduce his African theory in America. C. B. Purvis deserved just what the BEE gives him and should be removed immediately by President Arthur. The editor of the Globe proved himself to be a liar by his own inconsistencies. The Globe's opinion of Greener and Holland is of little consequence, since it has shown its incapability to judge judiciously men and things.

RAMSDELL AND THE NEGRO.

"And there are people who can't see that the fifteenth amendment was a premature offspring.

The above is from the Republic, a weekly paper published in this city by Mr. Ramsdell, register of wills. This gentleman, judging from the flings and fires of his paper, aimed at the negro, is full of a hatred of our people that has no substantial reason for its basis. It is a hatred rooted in meanness, littleness of soul, and the narrowest prejudice. He sees no good in the Negro, and feels that slavery is the best condition for the black man. He, however, holds an office to which he was appointed by a President, who without the despised Negro's vote, would never have reached the White House. L. W. Ramsdell, register of wills, is a result of the Fifteenth Amendment in a measure, and it would seem that decency done would prevent sneers from him at the means which aided his elevation.

The above excerpt is the conclusion of a paragraph detailing the proceedings of the Colored Republican Executive Committee of New York county relative to naming a colored man for deputy sheriff. We are informed in this paragraph, that at the first vote, seventeen ballots were cast by the thirteen members of the committee present. After two more balloting,

both tie, fifteen votes were polled, the candidates voting for themselves. In despair at having no chance himself, one member of the committee became vociferous in his demands that the rival candidates cut the proceedings short by dipping up a cent. This is given to the World by Mr. Ramsdell's paper as a proceeding that may be relied upon to give some idea of the methods of the colored voters of our free and enlightened republic. Mr. Ramsdell undoubtedly knows that the alleged proceedings are no more indications of the impolicy of the Fifteenth Amendment than is the use of tissue ballots by his friends in South Carolina an engagement against a Republican form of government.

Of the latter proceedings he has nothing to say out of the former, he is led by a hatred unknown to civilized and enlightened white men of Europe to sneer at a people for whose past degradation and ignorance he and his coadjutors are mainly to blame. The ignorance and degradation of the Negro in this country are the result of causes that are to be found in this land. The civilization and the religion of the United States have stood as a bar to the education and enlightenment of the Negro for more than two centuries. Men, like the editor of the Republic, with their diabolic hatred should bear this in mind when they attempt to vitiate a people that are making every effort to rid themselves of the effects of the treatment accorded to them, until very recently, by American civilization.

PRACTICAL LITERARY EFFORT WANTING.

The New York Sun, of the 20th ult., contains an elaborately written article by one Frank Wilkeson, (apparently a man of large observation, a forcible writer tho' an extremely malicious one) in which he severely arraigns the entire negro race of Beaufort, South Carolina—rather St. Helena Island, comprising here, 8,000 souls.

The article in question is nearly two columns in length, and has undoubtedly reached a wide and extensive circulation throughout the country. It bristles throughout with choice invective. I append a few extracts. "I have gathered my information about these people, first, from the negroes; second, from the white men who trade with them—Republicans, these; third from the Bourgeois Democrats; fourth, from the Independents. I have allowed for the prejudices of race and cast, and I have sunk my political belief and studied these people, honestly trying to understand the questions that arose before me. \* \* \* These black people are without religion, and I greatly doubt if they have sufficient capacity to understand the principles that underlie the Christian faith. \* \* \* They have a blind trust in some higher power. \* \* \* He simply shrugs his shoulders and says away. \* \* \* These blacks are thoroughly dishonest, etc. \* \* \* In the off their article disappearing. \* \* \* The ambition of the young black men who are playing at going to school is to become preachers or members of the Legislature, or clerks, or storekeepers. The little education they receive unfit them for field work. \* \* \* To educate a negro is to spoil a plow hand, &c. \* \* \* As house servants they are the most aggravating creatures in existence. They are slow, stupid and thievish, &c. \* \* \* This man goes on to say that in (his) opinion the determining factor in the problem offered for solution by those Sea Island negroes is their morals. This is a delicate subject, but it must be understood so as to comprehend the difficulties that beset the advancement of this people. As I have said they are liars, thieves, cowards, and I now add that almost without an exception, the women of these islands who have negro blood in their veins are prostitutes. \* \* \* The writer proceeds in this stern referring to the filthy condition of these people, in language unfit for publication, and yet one of the most influential metropolitan journals scatter it broadcast.

This wholesale libel hurled against thousands of a race ought not to stand unanswered or unrefuted. Cannot a leading spirit of some one of the many choice negro societies with which this city is infested, the "Monday and Tuesday Night Literary," the "Chattanooga Circle," the "Mind Reading Society," the "Artist, Science and Astronomical Association," the "ex-Lotos Club," the "Mount Nebo Grand Tabernacle of Ancient United Order of Brothers and Sisters, Sons and Daughters of Moses of the United States of America and the World at Large," be voted competent to answer this scurrilous article, and thus repel as far as possible such unchristian attacks upon a harmless and unfortunate people? Here's a chance for the literary man or woman of this race to immortalize himself or herself. Who'll take up the gauge? J.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

Salvini, the Italian tragedian will be at the National next week. Miss Annie Smith is one of the most refined singers in the Asbury choir. The Israel Bethel choir under its new leadership produces good music. Miss Annelia E. Tilghman is highly thought of as a vocal abroad, notwithstanding the prejudices of her traducers.

It is rumored that Messrs. Benjamin and Hall will retire from the stage. They should wait to get there before retiring. Both gentlemen will make their mark. The editor of the BEE is a dramatist, politician and jack of all professions. It is about time for him to make another debut in his celebrated piece "Pizons." Washington Correspondent of the Oakland Times. He has retired (?) from the stage.—Dramatic editor.

In Washington there are private musical clubs, dramatic side shows, Tuesday night literary club, the Saturday night society, and Monday night club. The only one that amounts to anything is the Bethel Literary, it is pro bono publico.

COLORED SCHOOLS OF WASHINGTON AND GEORGETOWN.

XIV.

IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE—THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF THE COLORED SCHOOLS ABLY DISCUSSED AND MAINTAINED.

The BEE gives the correspondence promised to complete its history of the Public Colored Schools for school year 1874-75.

Mr. Brooks reported as follows: WASHINGTON, D. C., July 27, 1875. To the Board of Trustees of Public Schools in and for the District of Columbia:

GENTLEMEN: Your Special Committee to whom was referred the enclosed preamble and resolution: "Whereas there is not sufficient and proper school accommodation in the Second School District of Washington City for colored children, and the rental of buildings being totally unfit for further use for school purposes; and whereas, by act of Congress, the board of trustees are given the control of all the funds for the support of schools for colored children; therefore,

"Resolved, That a committee be appointed, to consist of two members of this board, and the Superintendent of colored schools of Washington and Georgetown, to consult with the honorable commissioners and make all necessary arrangements for the securing of a site and suitable plans for a school building to be erected in said Second district, and report to this board at its next meeting"—has to report that they submitted the same with a written communication to the honorable commissioners of the District of Columbia, and that the papers were by them handed to Hon. E. L. Stanton, the attorney of the District of Columbia, with the "inquiry as to whether they (the commissioners of the District of Columbia) have the authority to buy sites for colored schools." That officer replies that "in my [Stanton's] opinion the power to purchase real estate in the District of Columbia is not vested in the commissioners in respect to school sites." Your committee agree fully with Mr. Stanton that the commissioners have not the authority to buy real estate in the name of the District of Columbia for schools for colored children in the cities of Washington and Georgetown.

Mr. Stanton, in his opinion, also says: "The suggestion was made that the trustees of public schools have authority to purchase real estate as sites for colored schools," and quotes section 279, consolidated statutes of the District of Columbia, as "referring to sites outside of and not within Washington and Georgetown. It is a question how far the power to purchase sites in the country has been exhausted. Nowhere, however, is the power specifically given to the board of trustees to purchase sites for schools in Washington and Georgetown. In my [his] judgment the trustees do not possess that authority." The section quoted (279) of the consolidated statutes of the District of Columbia has no bearing, in the opinion of your committee, on this question; it refers entirely to the public cities. Your committee differs from Mr. Stanton's conclusion that the power is nowhere specifically given the trustees to purchase sites for schools in Washington and Georgetown. As the legal successors to the late board of trustees of colored schools of Washington and Georgetown this board has the right to purchase sites for these schools with the funds placed by law to their credit and under their sole control. Section 200, consolidated statutes of the District of Columbia, states: "The board of trustees of schools for colored children shall have sole control of the fund arising under the provisions of section 306, as well as from contributions by persons disposed to aid in the education of the colored race, or from any other source," and section 310 says "it is made the duty of the trustees to provide suitable rooms and teachers for such a number of schools in Washington and Georgetown as in their opinion will best accommodate the colored children in the various portions of said cities." Section 311 says: "The board of trustees of schools for colored children shall possess all the powers, exercise the same functions, and have the same supervision over the schools provided for in this chapter for the education of colored children in Washington and Georgetown as are exercised over the public schools in said cities, by the trustees thereof, by virtue of the laws and ordinances in force in said cities respectively." Congress by the act of July 28, 1866, fully recognizes the power of the board to hold real estate by directing the commissioner of public buildings "to grant and convey to the trustees of colored schools for the cities of Washington and Georgetown, for the sole use of schools for colored children in said District of Columbia, all right, title and interest of the United States in and to lots numbered 1, 2 and 18, in square No. 985, in said city of Washington."

No land or buildings were ever conveyed by the United States to the trustees of the public (white) schools, but always to the authorities of the two cities for the use of the schools. The whole legislation of Congress from 1862 to 1873, relative to the colored schools in the cities of Washington and Georgetown, shows plainly that the leading purpose of that body was to render the trustees independent of local interference; so they were given different and greater powers than either of the two other boards of trustees of public schools in the two cities; and this board, to-day, (as the legal successor to the late board of trustees of public schools for colored children in the cities of Washington and Georgetown,) has greater and very different powers by law than it has now or ever had over and in the interest of the public (white) schools within the limits of the two cities. To the local corporate authorities alone was there given the power to establish the number and grade of schools, pay of teachers, the purchase of sites, erection of buildings, and the control of the school fund. These corporate powers were given the board of trustees for schools for colored children in the cities of Washington and Georgetown, and the attention of the board is respectfully called to the provisions of the act of Congress of July 23, 1866, which was passed at the solicitation of the board of trustees, the two cities having so construed the act of July 25, 1864, as

to deny them a proportion of the amounts expended for the purchase of sites and the erections of buildings. Section 306 of the consolidated statutes of the District of Columbia, which is the codification of the 18th section of the act of July 25, 1864, and act of July 23, 1866, says: "It shall be the duty of the proper authorities of the District to set apart each year from the whole fund received from all sources by such authorities applicable to purposes of public education in the cities of Washington and Georgetown, such a proportionate parts of all moneys received or expended for school or education purpose in said cities, including the cost of sites, buildings, improvements, furniture and books, and all other expenditures on account of schools, as the colored children between the ages of six and seventeen years, in the respective cities, bear to the whole number of children white and colored, between the same ages, for the purpose of establishing and sustaining public schools in said cities for the education of colored children."

In his opinion, Mr. Stanton says: "The powers of the one board of trustees of public schools are the same as respects both the schools for colored children and other public schools, and it seems to be admitted that the trustees do not possess the power to purchase sites for the latter in Washington and Georgetown."

Your committee disagree in toto in this conclusion of Mr. Stanton, and unless the order of the commissioners consolidating the boards wiped from the statute-book all laws enacted in reference to the public schools for colored children in the cities of Washington and Georgetown, there is a marked difference in the powers of this board over white and colored schools of said cities. If Mr. Stanton is correct, then the order of consolidation greatly increases the powers over the public (white) school, or it greatly lessens those over the schools for colored children; for certainly prior to the order the powers of the two boards were widely differ'd, and your committee would respectfully call your board's attention to sections 308, 314, 315 and 316, and in fact from sections 294 to 319 of the consolidated statutes of the District of Columbia, to show beyond a doubt the powers of this board in the before-mentioned cities. The plain letter of the law shows it; contemporaneous construction by all of the departments of the local government and the numerous official decisions of his predecessors in office show the powers of the two former boards widely differ'd. And your committee cannot but look upon this declaration of the law officer as fraught with great danger to the further lawful exercise of the powers vested in the trustees by Congress for the protection of the educational interests of the colored children.

Your committee do not agree with Mr. Stanton in his conclusion, and so far as the "intent and meaning of the laws" are concerned can personally testify that the "power to purchase sites and erect buildings" was supposed by both Congress and the trustees to have been given, or remedial legislation. Your committee regret that the law is so decided a difference of opinion as exists between the law officer and itself; but his official declarations in the opinion herewith submitted strikes at the very existence of the schools for colored children. If, as he says, the board has no greater power under the laws while acting as trustees of schools for colored children than it has for other public schools, then it has not the sole control of the funds for the support of the former, and the funds cannot be placed to its credit and in the hands of the Comptroller, acting as the treasurer of the public colored schools. The board cannot establish and sustain as many schools as in its opinion will best accommodate the colored children in the various portions of the two cities. Won by a hard struggle, through many trials and tribulation, it is certainly painful to those for whose protection they were enacted to see these just laws so interpreted as to virtually repeal them, and a dangerous line of precedents established, which in the hands of less friendly authorities, must succeed in breaking them up. Your committee in concluding this report, respectfully submits:

1. That under the laws of Congress there is ample authority for the board of trustees to buy land and build school houses for the colored children in the cities of Washington and Georgetown, with the funds set apart by law for establishing and maintaining schools for colored children in said cities.

2. No other body has the power to expend this fund, or in any way control it, and it is the duty of the authorities to pay over to the treasury of this Board all amounts due to this fund, and it is unlawful to retain it in the treasury of the District of Columbia credited to this fund and under the control of others not given the power of control by law.

The order of the Commissioners abolishing the office of treasurer of the Board of Trustees of Colored Schools, and transferring the duties to the Comptroller of the District of Columbia, in no manner repeals the laws defining the duties of such treasurer, and it is his duty to request payment in behalf of the Board and in obedience to law of all amounts due this fund from the District of Columbia.

4. That while we have every confidence in the friendly disposition of the present authorities, it is clearly to the interest of the colored schools and people here, while separate schools are maintained and based upon color, to urge a strict compliance with the present laws of Congress on that subject. Neither equity nor justice will avail a weak minority when the necessities of the majority would seem to demand a sacrifice on the part of the minority, and past experience teaches that the best protection the colored schools can have is the provision of positive law.

Respectfully, JOHN H. BROOKS, HENRY JOHNSON, GEO. F. T. COOK, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, July 20, 1875. To the Commissioners of the District of Columbia: SIR: I return herewith the papers relating to the inquiry recently made of me by you, as to whether the Commissioners of the District have the au-

thority to buy sites for colored schools.

Where particular officers of a municipal corporation have the power to buy real estate for the uses of the municipality, it must be by virtue of special authority for that purpose.

In my opinion, the power to purchase real estate, in the name of the District of Columbia, is not vested in the Commissioners in respect to school sites. In the papers which are referred to me, the suggestion was made that the Trustees of Public Schools have the authority to purchase real estate as sites for colored schools. Section 279, consolidated statutes of the District, refers to the purchase of sites for school-houses outside of, and not within, Washington and Georgetown.

It is a question how far the power to purchase sites in the country has been exhausted. Nowhere, however, is the power specifically given to the Board of Trustees to purchase sites for schools in Washington and Georgetown. In my judgment the trustees do not possess that authority. By law a certain proportion of all moneys received or expended for school or educational purposes in Washington and Georgetown is set apart for the purpose of establishing and sustaining public schools for the education of colored children. This fund for the maintenance of colored schools cannot be diverted. But the power to dispose of a fund of money for certain purposes does not necessarily imply the power to purchase real estate. The power of the one board of trustees of public schools which now exist is the same as respects both these schools for colored children and other public schools, and it seems to be admitted that the trustees do not possess the power to purchase sites for the latter in Washington and Georgetown.

The special grant of power which only can authorize any officer of the District to bind the District by a contract for the purchase of real estate for school sites in Washington and Georgetown is not conferred by law upon either the commissioners of the District or the trustees of public schools. Very respectfully, EDWIN L. STANTON, Attorney, D. C.

OUR PHILADELPHIA LETTER.

MEETING OF THE GRAND LODGE—LITERARY GATHERINGS, SOCIALS, NEWS, ETC.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 6, 1883.

We extend to the editor of the BEE and to its readers a happy new year, and we trust that this year may be an eventful one of success, that its usefulness may be extended, that its circulation may be increased, that it may be one of the principal organs of our race at the National Capitol, that it may always have its hive full of honey for its friends, and that its sting may ever remain terrible to its foes, is the wish of your correspondent.

To the readers of the BEE we say that the BEE is a potent agent in the journalistic world, and that we intend to remain. The editor (being too modest to speak for himself) belongs to the progressive minds of the age, and will surround himself with a class of editorial writers that will make the BEE the friendly rival of the Globe, but unlike the Globe it will be Republican to the core, fighting the battles of the race within the ranks of the party.

The past week has been an eventful one. The union of the two grand Masonic bodies call forth more than a passing notice. These bodies have been separated more than a quarter of a century, but to-day the cement of brotherly love has been spread amid the joy and happiness of both old and young Masons in and out of the State. There were present at the convention 250 delegates, representing 69 lodges. Among this number could be seen the venerable bishop of the M. E. Church, Rt. Rev. J. B. Campbell, Jonathan Miller, J. D. Kelly, Charles Edward Barlasqui, Harry Gilbert, Sr., Charles D. Brown, Moses Wheeler, George Roper and James Robinson. Hans should be unexpectedly called away. W. H. Miller was made president, with J. D. Kelley as secretary. The report of the committee from both grand lodges was accepted, and the constitution for the new Grand Lodge adopted. The following officers were elected: W. H. Miller, Grand Master; Jonathan Miller, Deputy Grand Master; J. D. Allen, S. G. W.; Thomas P. Weaver, J. G. W.; T. F. Young, Grand Treasurer; W. S. Mower, Grand Secretary.

The M. W. Grand Lodge of New Jersey, visited the convention during its session. Brief addresses were made by Grand Master A. L. Merritt, Deputy Grand Master C. J. Stevens, and by the Grand Secretary, C. N. Robinson, complimenting them upon their good work, notwithstanding the efforts made by Grand Master James L. Freedman and F. Wood to prevent the same.

The Grand Lodge of New Jersey held its communication on Tuesday and Wednesday, electing the following officers for the ensuing Masonic year: Paul Hammond, M. W. G. M.; Freeman Gould, D. G. M.; George Bailey, G. S. W.; A. C. Brown, G. J. W.; J. F. Derickson, G. T.; C. N. Robinson, G. S. The following appointments were then made: J. Sutton, Grand Secretary; F. Farnham, deputy first district; F. Chapman, deputy second district; Clark Layton, deputy third district.

The Amphion's concert on Wednesday evening was the finest musical treat that Philadelphia has had for many years. The singers were all in fine voice, and each strived to excel themselves. When all did so well it is hard to particularize. J. H. Clifton rendered in a very pleasing manner, "To Be Near Thee," Miss A. G. Smith sang with bird-like sweetness, "Untho' Yoco Poco." The Misses Cassey and Gilbert showed great artistic skill in their rendition of piano solos; Mr. F. Jones rendered a very difficult violin solo, for which he was encored. This association comprises the elite of our musical society. I have not the space to name all. C. S. Alder, L. N. Bedford, W. C. Bolivar, A. T. and J. E. Hill, W. F. Brooks, E. A. Bonehet, J. T. Seth, E. C. Howard, J. M. D. W. Still and J. S. and J. H. Williams. The Quaker City Social met on Saturday evening, and each lady was presented with a Christmas card by each gentleman present. The Young People's Musical and Lit-

erary Society, an adjunct of the Amphion, gave a musical and literary entertainment on Tuesday Evening at Musical Fund Hall, which was a financial success. C. A. Adger, director; Miss M. C. Verning, pianist, assisted by the following: E. A. Brown, Madam Lucy Adger, E. W. Lecompte, L. Robinson, C. L. Moore, Miss Inez Cassey, Maria Lindsey, J. E. Warrick.

The Home for Destitute Colored Children was made happy Christmas Day by the managers providing them with a turkey dinner and gifts from a large Christmas tree. The inmates of the Colored Home were provided with a similar repast, minus the tree. Rev. H. L. Phillips was presented on Christmas with a beautifully executed portrait of himself, the work of our girl school artist, A. B. Stedum.

H. O. Tanner, another of our artists, has a finely-executed picture on exhibition in the window of H. Robbins, Chestnut street. Harry Gilbert and Mrs. V. Prior left the city on the 29th for Jamaica to institute the Order of Good Samaritans. J. W. Page, C. H. Edwards, G. Beardsly, A. F. Stevens, S. Coleman and W. Warrick leave Tuesday to attend a reception of the Ugly Club at Newport. OBSERVER.

THE COLORED LINE.

PROFESSOR J. M. GREGORY'S SPEECH DELIVERED AT THE DOUGLASS BANQUET.

In responding to the sentiment, "The Color Line," I do so, the mere willingly because I stand in the presence of him, our honored guest, a man who has done more by his pen, on the rostrum, by his character, by his whole eventful life, to eradicate this selfish evil, than any one of whom our history speaks.

Tacitus in his Agricola uses this characteristic expression, "Properum humani ingenia est odisse quæ læceris"—it is a principle of human nature to hate those whom we have injured. The trouble of this sentiment is strikingly illustrated in the history of slavery. And, indeed, wherever among a people we find a dominant class and a subject class, we will always find caste and prejudice, the off-springs of slavery.

The color line was drawn when the negro was made a slave in this country. But prejudice exists against him, not on account of color, but by reason of previous condition; his color serving to indicate his identity with a race held as bondsmen, whose emancipation dates of which we speak is purely American. Colored men travelling in other countries have not found color a mark of degradation. If they are reminded of their color, at all, it is by Americans they meet who are not magnanimous enough to treat the negro courteously, even on foreign soil where race prejudice is not tolerated.

If we understand the nature of slavery, it was natural, we say, for the master, after emancipation, to hate the Freedman whom he had so grievously wronged, and to seek to retard his progress in every possible way. The deprivations and sufferings of the emancipated in the South have not been and possibly can never be fully ascribed. And although twenty years have elapsed since emancipation of colored men in some States, North as well as South, are even now subjected to the grossest indignities. Public inns refuse them accommodation. Often on railroads they are compelled to ride in smoking cars. Separate apartments are provided for them on steamboats. They are refused admission to theatres and other places of amusement, unless they take seats in the corner designated for them. Colored children are the only ones of our composite nationality against whom discrimination is made in the public schools; for separate schools cannot properly be called public schools.

To guard against these very evils the amendments were made to the Constitution and the civil rights bill was passed. The voice of the Supreme Court of the United States has been heard upon some of these questions, and in several well-defined cases has declared in no ambiguous language that the design of the amendments is to place colored men in the enjoyment of all the rights, political and civil, enjoyed by white men, that the law for the blacks is the same as the law for the whites, and that it prohibits any discrimination based on color or previous condition.

The Judges of the Supreme Court now have under consideration four cases, a decision of which will no doubt settle for all time several disputed questions. These cases are especially important, as they will in effect decide the constitutionality of the civil rights bill. The first case is that of the United States against Stanley, of Kansas, for refusing to admit a colored man into an inn, the second against Nichols, of Western Missouri, for a similar cause; the third against Ryan, of California, for refusing to admit a colored man to the parquette of a theatre, and the last against Hamilton, of middle Tennessee, for excluding a colored person from the first-class cars of a railroad train.

Solicitor General Phillips presented these cases, contending that the civil rights bill being in harmony with the spirit and purpose of the amendments, is constitutional in the features submitted to the Court; that if it were declared unconstitutional, it would be a matter of surprise and regret inasmuch as the statute has been framed and passed upon by some of the ablest constitutional lawyers that ever sat in Congress. The colored people are under a lasting debt of gratitude to Mr. Phillips for the able and earnest manner in which he presented our cause. Too often men in high position have not found it convenient, and it may be have not thought it politic to trouble themselves about the rights of colored men. The decision of the cases in question will certainly have important bearing upon a kindred matter in which we are all alike interested. I refer to the color line in the public schools. Doubtless you are all aware that there is now pending before the courts of the district the case of Gregory against the school board for the exclusion of his son from a so-called white school on account of color. If we meet with an adverse decision in the lower courts the case will be carried to the Supreme Court of the United States. If the school authorities shall force us before this tribunal from whose decision there

is no appeal, except to the people, we shall regard it as providential for a decision that will set at rest this question for all time and for every part of our common country will be best in the end.

Gentlemen, I think I make no mistake in reading the signs of the times, when I say the color line—that line which so long has separated us from the enjoyment of the full benefits of American privilege and citizenship—is disappearing. In some states it scarcely perceptible. Eventually it must entirely disappear. Otherwise it must keep arrayed all other classes of citizens against one class, a practice which is manifestly unfair and antagonistic to the principle of equality of which we boast, a class who, having been for years deprived of the right guaranteed to them by the constitution, and having been made to feel the cruel injustice of a blind prejudice are now determined, however timid or dilatory they may have been in the past to appeal to the courts and to be satisfied with nothing short of exact equality before the law.

PRESS SIFTINGS.

Something in the Bed.

Judge Pitman has a habit of slipping his watch under his pillow when he goes to bed. One night somehow it slipped down, and as the Judge was restless it worked its way down toward the foot of the bed. After a bit, while he was lying awake, his foot touched it; it felt very cold. He was surprised, scared, and jumping from the bed he said:

"My gracious, Maria, there's a foul or something under the covers. I touched it with my foot."

Mrs. Pitman gave a loud scream and was on the floor in an instant.

"Now don't go hollerik and waking up the neighbors," said the Judge. "You get a broom or something and we'll fix the thing mighty quick."

Mrs. Pitman got the broom and gave it to the Judge with the remark that she felt as though snakes were creeping up and down her legs and back.

"Oh nonsense, Maria! Now, turn down the covers slowly while I hold the broom and bang it. Put a bucket of water alongside of the bed so that we can shove it in and drown it."

Mrs. Pitman fixed the bucket, and gently removed the covers. The Judge held the broom aloft, and as the black ribbon of the sifter watch was revealed he cracked away at it three or four times with the broom, then he pushed the thing off into the back but a few feet.

The prejudice of which we speak is purely American. Colored men travelling in other countries have not found color a mark of degradation. If they are reminded of their color, at all, it is by Americans they meet who are not magnanimous enough to treat the negro courteously, even on foreign soil where race prejudice is not tolerated.

If we understand the nature of slavery, it was natural, we say, for the master, after emancipation, to hate the Freedman whom he had so grievously wronged, and to seek to retard his progress in every possible way. The deprivations and sufferings of the emancipated in the South have not been and possibly can never be fully ascribed. And although twenty years have elapsed since emancipation of colored men in some States, North as well as South, are even now subjected to the grossest indignities. Public inns refuse them accommodation. Often on railroads they are compelled to ride in smoking cars. Separate apartments are provided for them on steamboats. They are refused admission to theatres and other places of amusement, unless they take seats in the corner designated for them. Colored children are the only ones of our composite nationality against whom discrimination is made in the public schools; for separate schools cannot properly be called public schools.

To guard against these very evils the amendments were made to the Constitution and the civil rights bill was passed. The voice of the Supreme Court of the United States has been heard upon some of these questions, and in several well-defined cases has declared in no ambiguous language that the design of the amendments is to place colored men in the enjoyment of all the rights, political and civil, enjoyed by white men, that the law for the blacks is the same as the law for the whites, and that it prohibits any discrimination based on color or previous condition.

The Judges of the Supreme Court now have under consideration four cases, a decision of which will no doubt settle for all time several disputed questions. These cases are especially important, as they will in effect decide the constitutionality of the civil rights bill. The first case is that of the United States against Stanley, of Kansas, for refusing to admit a colored man into an inn, the second against Nichols, of Western Missouri, for a similar cause; the third against Ryan, of California, for refusing to admit a colored man to the parquette of a theatre, and the last against Hamilton, of middle Tennessee, for excluding a colored person from the first-class cars of a railroad train.

Solicitor General Phillips presented these cases, contending that the civil rights bill being in harmony with the spirit and purpose of the amendments, is constitutional in the features submitted to the Court; that if it were declared unconstitutional, it would be a matter of surprise and regret inasmuch as the statute has been framed and passed upon by some of the ablest constitutional lawyers that ever sat in Congress. The colored people are under a lasting debt of gratitude to Mr. Phillips for the able and earnest manner in which he presented our cause. Too often men in high position have not found it convenient, and it may be have not thought it politic to trouble themselves about the rights of colored men. The decision of the cases in question will certainly have important bearing upon a kindred matter in which we are all alike interested. I refer to the color line in the public schools. Doubtless you are all aware that there is now pending before the courts of the district the case of Gregory against the school board for the exclusion of his son from a so-called white school on account of color. If we meet with an adverse decision in the lower courts the case will be carried to the Supreme Court of the United States. If the school authorities shall force us before this tribunal from whose decision there

is no appeal, except to the people, we shall regard it as providential for a decision that will set at rest this question for all time and for every part of our common country will be best in the end.

Gentlemen, I think I make no mistake in reading the signs of the times, when I say the color line—that line which so long has separated us from the enjoyment of the full benefits of American privilege and citizenship—is disappearing. In some states it scarcely perceptible. Eventually it must entirely disappear. Otherwise it must keep arrayed all other classes of citizens against one class, a practice which is manifestly unfair and antagonistic to the principle of equality of which we boast, a class who, having been for years deprived of the right guaranteed to them by the constitution, and having been made to feel the cruel injustice of a blind prejudice are now determined, however timid or dilatory they may have been in the past to appeal to the courts and to be satisfied with nothing short of exact equality before the law.

"Yes, sah, dat was me."

"De ole man Climax soon drapped in, an' it wasn't five minits befo' you had a hot dispute 'bout de aige of de airth."

"He don't know nuffin' sah."

"You called him a fool."

"An' he called me a liar."

"You said he was a bigot."

"An he said I was a knumbag."

"I heard it all Brudder Johnson, and now I want to talk to you a little. In the first place, what do you know 'bout de aige of de world?"

"I—I—well, sah, what does de ole man Climax know 'bout it?"

"Dat's it—what do either of you know 'bout it