

Dawn of Tomorrow

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SATURDAY JANUARY 31ST, 1925.

Editorial

THE FAILURE OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Gilbert H. Jones, president of Wilberforce University addressed a meeting to promote "Racial Co-operation and Understanding." During his discourse he asserted that the utter failure of the Christian Church to Christianize is the cause of discrimination against Negroes. We are inclined to believe that his charges are true. Most certainly the church has not blazed the way nor has she taken the aggressive in such a momentous issue as the race question. She has done little or nothing toward freeing the minds of the misguided belief that the darker races are inherently inferior, although the ministers of merely mediocre intelligence know such a belief unfounded, untrue and contrary to scientific discovery.

Last week one of my very good and pious Christian friends said to me: "Race prejudice is as old as the human race itself. The prejudice against your people is the curse of Ham. I fear you will never outlive it, although I hope so." I failed to follow his line of argument. In the first place race prejudice is a thing acquired and then cultivated. It is unnatural and decidedly against the teachings of Christian Brotherhood. It is perpetuated by teaching our innocent children to hate one another, thereby damning their own souls and the souls of those whom they hate. And herein lays a fine field for our Sunday Schools to work in—to teach little children to love one another. This they do not do. We teach our children to love each other if they be of the same religious belief, to hate children of a different belief and to curse all children black, brown and yellow.

Our churches have failed to stand by their guns and proclaim the message of human Brotherhood and equality that our Master proclaimed and which He expects them to proclaim.

We have the British Methodist Episcopal Churches (colored) which are small and poor. We have the British Methodist Churches (white) which are large and wealthy. Both have the same creed and mode of worship. We have Colored Baptist Association. We have the white Baptist Association, the former small

and poor, the latter big and wealthy. But between these white and colored churches there is absolutely no connection, save for an occasional giving of the crumbs that fall from the tables of one to the other. This is a good method to perpetuate race prejudice but a poor way to symbolize the Master and His teachings.

Some day there will come into existence a movement which will be bigger than the Church, broader in its scope and with a bigger heart, and more human in its aspect, to fight the monster, race prejudice. For indeed it must be fought and fought desperately. To-day it challenges the very foundation of our civilization. The noted philosopher H. G. Wells says: "I am convinced myself that there is no greater evil in the present world than race prejudice—none at all."

"I write deliberately—it is the worst single thing in life now. It justifies and holds together more baseness, cruelty and abomination than any other single error in the world."

Great minds in other fields of endeavour see the situation as Wells sees it. Have we no master minds in our churches with the courage of their convictions? It is the duty of our churches to warn and to fight against all forms of evil. When our churches remain silent upon the great evil of race prejudice they are refusing to do their full duty to the community. The charge is a serious one.

Letters to the Editor

Owen Sound, Jan. 26, 1925.

Dear Mr. Editor:—

In reply to an item written by Miss L. Milburn in the last week's issue of your paper, I have read the same and find one or two statements that are absolutely erroneous and I would like to correct them.

Miss Milburn taught several colored girls music and they turned out fine musicians, but they finished their course with someone else.

We appreciate Rev. Richardson and his musical ability, and it is a known fact that Miss Milburn has learned a lot along the line of music since our pastor has been in charge.

Miss Milburn stated she has told all the good qualities of our people and next time she will tell a few of the bad ones, this is an absolute deviation from the truth. How could any person tell all the good traits of a congregation with whom she is not sufficiently acquainted. She did tell a bad quality which she said she wouldn't do, when she made a direct insinuation that every one of the people come late. I can say without fear of successful contradiction that ninety per cent. of our congregation come on time.

I have lived in Owen Sound practically all my life, and am proud to say that the people of Owen Sound are of an energetic nature and do not depend wholly upon white people for church support, but if assistance is offered it is accepted. Furthermore, I dare say if no white person had ever officiated in our church it would have lived and been just as alive as it is today. It would have been a nice thing if Miss Milburn could have kept a few of the names of our good old saints in mind to publish along with those names of

the white people in last week's issue.

Many of our old men and women have gone on to glory, who had the work just as much at heart and were just as sincere as those mentioned last week.

Thanking you very kindly for your space, I am,

Yours truly,

WILSON WOODBECK.

Los Angeles, Calif., January 14th—
Frederick M. Roberts, the only Negro to ever be elected to the State

Legislature of California, took the oath of office for the fourth time, when the body met here last week.

Mr. Roberts, owner and publisher of the New Age-Dispatch member of the firm of A. J. Roberts and Sons, one of the oldest and largest undertaking firms in the west, member of the Board of Directors, Unity Finance Co., a \$200,000 Race corporation, controls valuable real estate in Los Angeles.

He headed the colored Republicans on the Pacific Coast in the last presidential campaign.

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