## Dawn of Tomorrow

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## Editorial

#### LINCOLN AND EMANCIPATION

We get some very interesting sidelights upon Abraham Lincoln and his attitude towards emancipation from an article of Rene Bach in the Kitchener Daily Record. The writer doubts Lincoln's motive for freeing the slaves from a humanitarian standpoint. "Abraham Lincoln's father would doubtless not have owned slaves even if he had been fairly well-off," states the writer. Further he quotes Lincoln as saying: "Falks like us, who had no slaves were called 'Scrubs.'"

Whether Lincolnor his father would have owned slaves had they not been "Scrubs" we know not. Neither can we say that because he had a special mission for Lincoln to fulful that the Creator saw to it that Abe should be poor and should be one of the "poor white trash". But we do know from recorded history that from the first sight of the institution of slavery he hated it with a perfect hatered and that he resolved if ever he got the opportunity, "To hit that institution a hell of a blow." More than this, we know from the tone of his campaign speeches before the election to the presidency, from his private correspondence, and from his conversation that Lincoln's ultimate object was to free the slaves. "This country can not erist helf free and half slaves." Again we know he was too loveable, too human and yet too near the divine not to yearn for and work for the deliverance of the oppressed.

In his article Bach states: "Nobody nowadays indorses slavery or denies that it was wrong. But, for even the devil deserves his due, the system did undeniably have its advantages for the Negroes. They were cared for and protected. As a race they are not able to care for themselves satisfactorilly to civilization. Tuberculosis and other diseases rage among them, particularly among the children, is it frghtful."

Evidently, Rene Bach. from whom we have just quoted, is a disciple of Vardeman, Tillman and such friends of the colored race. Such statements are contradictory to facts which are known to even the average American school boy. When slavery ended there were not five million Negroes in the United States. Today there are nearly fifteen million. Such figures do not support the state-

for the dreaded diseases nor that the honor of organizing the first southern death rate among them is too much colored regiment. He could not get out of proportion with their birth white recruits and was surrounded by rate. The statement that the race a multitude of able-bodied Negroes is not able to take care of itself is who were idle, but anxious to serve as really too riduculous to be seen in soldiers. In advance of public opinprnt. Either the writer is very union he organized a regiment and was informed or he is biased to such an called to account for it by the Secreextent that he wishes to distort and tary of War. He replied that he had to misrepresent facts. Fifty years instructions to employ all loyal perago more than four million Negroes sons in defense of the Union and the heads. Today they own nearly half was beyond question. the wealth of five Southern States. In the acquisition of wealth and of education, in the building of businesses, large and small, in the acquisition of homes, we challenge Rene Bach to show us a race that has done in a century what we have done in half that time.

# What-Not Column

Who was Jonathan Walker?

Captain Jonathan Walker contracted to build a railroad in Florida, and for this purpose enmployed a number of Negroes. Captain Walker procured a boat and attempted to smuggle the Negroes to freedom but was taken violently ill; he was captured, tried and sentenced to be branded with a double S (Slave Stealer) and to pay as many fines as there were slaves. His friends succeeded in raising money to pay his fines and he was released in 1845. The poet Whittier immortalized the double S as

Who was William Still?

meaning Self-Sacrifice.

One of the most active workers in freeing slaves was William Still. He was chairman and secretary of the eastern branch of the Underground Railway. His many ingenious schemes such as placing the fugitives in boxes and cases, disguising men in female attire, secreting in odd corners in steamers, teaching them to ape white-folks actions, etc., proved of exceptional value in aiding the slaves to freedom. Mr. Still in after years wrote a book "The Underground Rail-

Times make in regard to enlisting colored soldiers for service in 1863?

The New York Times of February 16th, 1863 in an editorial summed up 6, will hold a bazaar in their hall on the objections to enlisting Colored sol- the sixth, seventh and eighth of diers as follows: "First, that the Ne- March. No expense will be spared to groes will not fight. Second, that the make it a success. Supper will be whites will not fight with them, and served each evening. prejudice will be so strong that we shall lose two white soldiers for one black one that we gain. Third, in the free states very few Negroes will volunteer, and in the slave states we can get few because the rebels will push them southward as fast as we can advance upon them. Fourth, the use of Negroes will exasperate the South. We presume it will", coments the Times gut so will any other scheme we may adopt which is warlike and effective in its character and results; and th ebest thing we can do is to possess ourselves in patience while th eexperiment is being tried."

Who organized the first Southern Colored Regiment during the Civil War?

To General David Hunter, command-

ment that they become an easy prey ing the army in the south, is given the were turned into the world without suppression of the rebellion; and dea shelter to cover their defenseless clared that the loyalty of the Negro

#### ST. CATHARINES NOTES

Rev. Logan preached at both morning and evening services.

Our prayer meetings are doing splendidly. We have had as many as forty present.

Brother Ellis, travelling lecturer of the Eastern New York State, Masonic Fraternity, visited this city and St. Luke's Lodge. He gave a wonderful address on "What it means to be a Mason."

The Stewardess Board are deciding on giving a sleigh riding party in the first week of March.

Mr. Geo. Bell preached a very instructive sermon to the Brotherhood on Sunday at their morning service.

Master M. Nicholson is on the sick list. We wish him a speedy recov-

On Thursday evening a very enjoyable time was spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Bell at which time a number of invited guests partook generously of a beautiful supper, after which several hours were very happily passed in games and other amusements.

Mr. McBride of Buffalo was the guest of Miss Erma Smith on Thurs-

Mr. John Grant of Jamestown, N. N., a member of Mt. Senai Lodge, No. 1. F. and A. M. was a delegate to the Masonic Convention at Buf-What objections did the New York falo on Saturday. He spent Sunday in St. Catharines visiting relatives and frends

The Rebecca Chapter, O.E.S. No.

The St. Luke's Lodge, No. 21, F. and A.M. are expecting a big time on Tuesday night when members from Tyre Lodge, Buffalo, and Electric City Lodge. Niagara Falls, N.Y. will pay Fraternal visit.

Miss Susan Wesley is still sick in the General Marine Hospital.

Mr. Arthur Dorsay paid a flying visit calling on his father and mother and friends in the city.

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