

Dawn of Tomorrow

Published weekly in the interests of, and for the advancement of the colored people of Canada.

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Editorial

LONDON'S COLORED CITIZENS

More than 76 per cent. of London's colored families own their own homes. Among us is one citizen who owns 10 pieces of improved property and there are three who own 2 pieces each. Our homes are not in any segregated district or locality, but they are scattered throughout the four corners of the city. Some of our homes are in the city's best residential district. We have also two colored churches, each possessing a parsonage. While our churches are not large yet what is lacking in size is made up in esthetic taste and in beauty. An examination of the records of the city's relief office reveals the fact that in proportion to the population, colored people make fewer demands upon that office than any other race. An examination of the records of the police courts shows that proportionately, colored citizens are in police court less than any other citizens. We also learn from these records that no colored person has ever been charged with murder or with any of the more serious crimes. During the late war ten of our boys saw service overseas, two of whom made the supreme sacrifice. Out of all of Canada, London possesses the only two colored brotherhoods that are connected with the World Brotherhood Federation and out of consideration for the splendid service which we are rendering to the brotherhoods, one of our members has been chosen as Vice President of London Federation. This is a record for which we are not ashamed. This is the record on which we base our claims to all of the rights and privileges which belong to citizens of the highest type. For this record, we believe we deserve the encouragement and the genuine good will of all good citizens.

No long since one of our number was soliciting funds for a certain institution. While interviewing one of Canada's leading financiers the following conversation took place: "Yes, but I give \$100.00 each year to the . . . institution." "But that is an American institution, ours is a British institution. We are loyal Britishers," he was told. His answer was "O, that makes no difference to me, whether it is an American or British institution, your loyalty doesn't count."

But our loyalty does count. It

does mean something. It means something to the peace, happiness and prosperity of all or Canada. Take our own city for instance. Has London ever stopped to think how blessed she is by having such a group of colored citizens as she possesses? Suppose our places were taken by some who use the stilleto and by others who carry their guns, would that add to the peace and happiness of our city. Out of the thousands of colored people who have lived and died here in Canada, not one has ever been a traitor. In speaking to the students of Toronto University last week, Professor Aggrey, the noted African said: "Our psychology is love and work." May I add to this faith. The psychology of the Canadian Negro is love and work and faith. This is the goal toward which we have set our face. Nothing can ever cause us to falter and we believe that some day Canada will realize the worth of her colored citizens.

A THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR

The New Year is like unto the turning of a new white page of life's register, whereon the follower of Christ would record the purest motives, a consecrated life, and the noblest service to humanity.

These words are not unfamiliar to our thoughts. They are scriptural and reasonable, and easily within the grasp of human thought. It will be recalled that when the seventy came back to Jesus to report as to their success in their kingdom, that they were greatly rejoiced that even demons were subject unto them. But lest even His disciples should lose sight of that which is greater, the Master said, "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven," (Luke 10:20.) The name written in heaven; the Divine impress upon the soul; the surety that we are what God would have us to be—this is supreme in the mind of Jesus.

Again we are told of what John saw, as he looked through the future years: "And the books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in those books" (Rev. 20:12). And none can enter the New Jerusalem but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Rev. 21:27)

Perhaps it is because of such passages as these that earnest followers of Jesus can sing with the spirit and with the understanding; also, these beautiful lines.

Yes my name's written there,
On the page white and fair;
In the Book of Thy Kingdom
Yes my name's written there.

The words of another poet inspire my mind as he breaks forth in almost the same strain with these beautiful words:

"Life is a leaf of paper white,
Whereon each one of us may write
His word or two, and then comes
night.

Greatly begin! though thou have
time

But for a line, be that sublime—
Not failure, but low aim, is crime."

We, as Christians, face the New Year conscious of the failures of

the Old Year; the most consecrated, the most faithful, and the most successful painfully realize how far short they have come of what they should have been. How glad, therefore, are we that we can turn a new white leaf, forgetting the things that are behind to press forward to things which are before, that we may be our best for Him who merits our supremest love, our largest selves, and our noblest service.

F. O. STEWART

Letters to the Editor

153 King Street East,
Kitchener, Ont.

To the Editor,
The Dawn of Tomorrow.

Dear Sir:—

You will remember the letter of mine appearing in The Dawn of Tomorrow a few weeks ago re a tract for free distribution. Many hundreds of these have been distributed by mail and by personal delivery to firms and business concerns. Many of these firms have given me their promise that they would do all in their power in future to relieve the situation by employing such colored persons as may be available, provided such persons are qualified to do the work. The head of one firm told me that if he employed a colored person to work for him and other white held would object he would show the latter the door, and fill their places with others. I am shocked at Mr. Edwards' condemnation of this plan however, if he has expressed the mind of all of the colored people in Canada, then that means they do not desire my co-operation or aid in this most important step in bettering the conditions of our people in this country. Yes, let the colored people co-operate in all things helpful to themselves and others. But do not forget that this is a white man's country, and if we would progress he we must in some way appeal to his human good qualities, to help us, and we must do all we can with his aid to help ourselves and we will succeed.

Co-operate a little please, but let us appeal to the strong and ask them to co-operate with us by opening their factories, stores, and offices to such of our boys and girls as are or may be qualified to step in, and at the same time we will make places for these, our boys and girls also. One firm told me that they had never had the chance to employ or refuse to employ a colored person, and would not refuse them. Now then, let us qualify our boys and girls and send them to such firms for employment.

Now, whether this plan appeals to the Negro of to-day or not, it has and is appealing to white people to help the Negro in an industrial way.

Therefore, the tract is going forth, and has gone forth, so far without the financial aid of the colored people, for the good of the course of the Negro in Canada. I regret that Mr. Edwards has publicly condemned our efforts in the name of the Negro of to-day. We are living in the dawn of a new day. The spirit of the new day will move all to appeal to the higher qualities of men and thus get their co-operation, not only for our good, but for theirs as well. There-

fore we quote: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might. Let not the rich man glory in his riches, (wisdom, might and riches here, mean ability to foster selfish schemes, power to bring it to pass and thus accumulating mountains of riches) but let him that glory, glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the Lord who exercises loving kindness, judgment and righteousness on the earth, for in these things I delight, saith the Lord." (Jeremiah 9:23, 24.)

Therefore, they that prosper in this "new day" will do so only in the Lord Jehovah, which in part will mean to appeal to the good and higher qualities in men and seek their co-operation in all good things. No other spirit in co-operation can succeed now.

WALTER V. FRANKLIN



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