

Dawn of Tomorrow

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Editorial

HOPE.

We of the colored race begin the New Year with great hope and expectancy. There have come many potent signs within the past year which cause hope to spring up eternal within our breasts. Discouragements of course have been many and of diverse nature but through the gloom, through the maze of them all, we can see the light of day looming upon the horizon.

David Belasco, the famous producer and playwright, in a contributed article in the Liberty magazine, tells the world that the source of wealth of the Negro dramatist has not been touched and that the future stage must look to that race for its material and development. Negro actors and musicians during the year 1926, held the attention of not only the American stage, but of royalty throughout all Europe.

Recognition by award has recently brought the outstanding work of twelve Negroes before the public. Their nationally significant contributions in the principal fields of endeavor received the William E. Herman Awards for Distinguished Achievements.

In the South, probably the most encouraging development has been the splendid spirit developed by the Inter-racial Commission, an organization aimed at adjusting relations between the races. Prominent citizens of both races compose the commission and it is significant to notice that Will W. Alexander (white), executive director of the Commission, received an award of \$500.00 for meritorious work during last year. His untiring efforts in the interest of a better understanding between the races, it is claimed, have helped to reduce the lynching record and have improved other conditions for the race.

The newspapers of America have also done their share. They are, both North and South, exerting great influence for a better understanding of the Negro. Flaming front page headlines telling of Negro crime, in many of the outstanding papers have been toned down and in many cases such stories have been entirely omitted. This change of attitude represents an ethical

change in the newspaper world. More space is being given to stories of Negro achievement in his several lines of endeavor, stories of Negro heroism have become common in the white daily papers.

One of the most promising signs to be noticed is the growth of inter-racial interest among college groups. Scores of curriculum courses in race relations, voluntary discussion groups, inter-racial student forums in college centres, the message carried by colored speakers into many white institutions, the featuring of race relations in every summer student conference—these and other means are favorably affecting or revolutionizing the attitudes of multitudes of students each year. It is through these young people that the world may expect a real change if ever a change in attitude does come, for preceding a change of attitude, there must be a change of heart. The older generation is too hidebound, too crusted with race prejudice to effect a change of heart.

In the realm of the church we quote the following from an article by Robt. B. Eleazer in the January Opportunity: "One might speak also of the growing interest on the part of religious bodies, many of which are working out and passing down to their organized millions of men and women programs of inter-racial study and activity. In one denomination alone more than two hundred thousand women are studying race relations at regular intervals and thousands of them are beginning to do something about it. Though for the most part, these programs are still on paper only, they are the leaven that are steadily leavening the lump with goodwill and Christian charity. After all, the religious appeal alone is powerful enough and fundamental enough to win this warfare against misunderstanding, prejudice and injustice.

And finally come the rumblings of the "redivivus" of Dr. Kelly Miller's Sanhedran. We have always thought well of Dr. Miller's plan to unite all of the organizations for the race's betterment into one great effort, the work and financing of which must be done by Negroes themselves. We verily believe that before much real constructive work can ever be done, the situation must boil down to this proposition.

Perhaps the most potent omen which has occurred since emancipation has just loomed upon the scene. We have just been informed that a conference of all the darker races of the earth has been called to meet in Brussels, Germany, during the present year. It is needless for us to mention the reason for such a conference. It is also useless for us or for any race to deny the deep significance underlying this conference.

"There is so much bad in the best of us, and so much good in the worst of us that it hardly becomes any of us to talk about the rest of us."

"A law that has no penalty, is no law at all."

"Wherever man may be at any time maybe the whole of God is there."

White America Is Admonished to Think Of Our Best Qualities

(By George Berry)

Pacific Coast News Bureau.

Berkeley, Cal., Jan. 21—"Have you ever thought of the good qualities of the Negro?" was the pertinent question asked the assembled Rotarians at the recent meeting of the Berkeley Rotary Club, by their chairman, Charles Keeler, who is also managing director of the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce.

"In the past we have been capitalizing their worst qualities. Why would it not be better to capitalize their best points?" asked Mr. Keeler. "There is need for a greater understanding between the white and dark races. It is only misunderstanding which causes any feeling other than friendliness. Kipling was wrong when he said 'East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet.' The differences between races are differences of custom only; there is no fundamental difference of heart between the white and colored man."

Brotherhood of Man

"The advancement of understanding, good will and international peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the Rotary ideal of service," the sixth object of the Rotary Clubs, Mr. Keeler explained and told his audience of Rotarians from San Francisco, Oakland, Portland and other points, and that their object boiled down meant the "Brotherhood of Man."

Negroes Here to Stay

Referring to the idea of some people that the race problem could be settled by having the Negroes in the United States colonize in Liberia Mr. Keeler said, "There are some eleven or twelve million Negroes in the United States and if they were to leave at the rate of a steamer load of 1,154 each week, only the increase would be leaving. This shows the impracticability of the plan. They were brought here as slaves and they are here to stay."

"Moreover the Negroes are coming from the South into the North," Mr. Keeler continued. "They want more freedom and a better life which they find in the North. So the South is now becoming worried, the attitude of the southerner is changing and he is treating the Negro better because he does not want to lose the working population of his section."

Eulogizes Berkeley Negroes

Mr. Keeler gave many interesting facts about the colored people in Berkeley as developed by a Chamber of Commerce survey recently made. This showed that there are 700 Negroes in Berkeley and the same number of Japanese. Chinese number 279 and there is a sprinkling of other oriental nationalities.

"The Negroes coming to Berkeley are the finest of the race," declared Mr. Keeler. "They come here because Berkeley is a superior city, one in which they find the most advantages for culture. Sixty-one per cent own their own homes here, and fifty per cent have books and buy good periodicals. They have good

homes, good gardens and are good citizens. Very few Negroes made any trouble. In Berkeley their children receive nine months of schooling as against three in the South.

Capitalize Best Qualities

"It is Berkeley's problem to establish just and satisfactory relations between the white and Negro population. So far only the covenant plan has been proposed. But this is a selfish and non-constructive policy. Have you ever thought of the good qualities of the Negroes? They are genial, good-natured, fond of music, and they make the best and gentlest of nurses. Why would it not be better to capitalize their best points? Take for instance their natural love for music, and develop it. The right man could form a choral society of Negroes in Berkeley that would be a source of pleasure and benefit to the community."

Suggests Distinctive Architecture

"Under the proper leadership it might be possible to develop a distinctive architecture in the section which they occupy. For instance, the architecture of Algiers in which the Negroes' love of color was emphasized would be a step in which Berkeley might set an example to the whole world."

"We have in Berkeley a cultured Negro lady who is making a research into Negro lore. There are many college graduates among them here, and the only reason some of them do not stand out in a cultural way to a greater extent is that no one will give them anything but common labor to do."

"In the same way we might capitalize the finer things in Japanese life." Mr. Keeler read a poem in closing which emphasized the essential equality of, and the good that is in all men everywhere.

Law Against Intermarriage

New York, Jan. 21.—Promptly upon receipt of news that a law prohibiting intermarriage between Negroes and white people had been introduced in the legislature of the State of Connecticut, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People communicated with its Hartford and other Connecticut Branches, urging that a vigorous opposition to the proposed law be organized.

The proposed law would impose a fine of from \$1,000 to \$5,000 on persons marrying or performing a marriage in violation of its provisions, or imprisonment for from one to two years.

Introduction of the bill is attributed to influence of the Ku Klux Klan. The N.A.A.C.P. is opposing this measure as it opposes all such anti-marriage legislation on the ground that it not only places the legal stamp of inferiority upon persons of colored descent, but also deprives colored women of legal protection and legal redress. A number of such bills have been defeated by N.A.A.C.P. opposition in state legislatures during recent years, such bills having been dropped during 1926 in Ohio, Iowa and Michigan.

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