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EMPIRE

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The Dawn of Tomorrow

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ONCE KIDNAPPED, DIES IN COLORED CHURCH

St. Catharines, Ont.—On Geneva Street, St. Catharines, stands the BME Church, the corner stone of which was laid more than seventy years ago. It is neat and fresh in appearance, covered with stucco. It succeeded the little wooden church built on the same site and used as a place of worship during ten or more of the preceding years. Many wonderful stories could the present-day building tell of the gatherings there, of the tears and prayers poured forth for brethren in captivity in the South, of the deep devotion of a people who in their most dire need leaned always upon God. To the little church came Mr. and Mrs. Ball, both sweet singers, and among the congregation could be seen frequently "Auntie Butler," formerly Mrs. Stanford, heroine of the kidnapping raid on North Street. She had married a man named Butler after her husband's death.

The death of Auntie Butler took place in the little church. On the Sunday in occurred she had come to church wearing the new gown made for her by Mrs. Ball. Passing by the hot stove she brushed against it and set fire to her dress. The flame was quickly extinguished, but the shock proved too much for the frail aged woman, and sinking back into a seat she died in a few moments.

Although many of the colored people kept a fondness for the South, especially in cases where their relatives remained, they settled down cheerfully to make homes in St. Catharines. North street was at one time their special dwelling place and the neat little homes with flowers at each door, and with the sound of the singing and of banjos gave a pleasant impression of content.

Year by year, on August first, they celebrated the freeing of the West Indian slaves. On these occasions many eloquent colored preachers spoke, among them, the Rev. Robert Gordon, who gave a most notable address on the occasion of the emancipation celebration in St. Paul's, London, Ont., Aug. 1, 1853. "It well becomes them to rejoice," he said, "especially on such a day as this, that here, in this sacred as-

Negroes Are Too Loyal

Speaking before the Everett Political Club last Wednesday evening, Attorney Cyril F. Butler advocated the desirability of colored people keeping themselves aloof from any one political party to the end of selling their support to the highest bidder.

Said Mr. Butler: "The day has come when we must identify ourselves with no particular political party. We must hold ourselves free so that we may lend our support to that man or party in the fruits of whose victory we can share. From the Boston Chronicle

ylum, the ignoble slaveholder and his ferocious bloodhounds cannot penetrate."

"It well becomes them to feel glad that on that ever-to-be-remembered day 800,000 bondmen, by the unanimous voice of England, that great city set on a hill—were, at the cost of twenty million sterling, pronounced unconditionally free, as free as her own pure atmosphere in which no slave can breathe. By that God-like decree she solemnly echoed in the face of the whole civilized world, the self-evident proposition that all men are created equal—that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights—and that among these are 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness'."

Wendell Phillips gave the following in Boston, May 30, 1860, at an anti-slavery convention:

"And the race that has produced such men as have walked our streets—thirty thousand capable of taking their rights in their hands, and seeking them at the risk of every peril—under the protection of the English flag of Canada—the race that has sent us such men as have spoken to you this morning—has never been so degraded, its manhood has never been so trodden out by the white men of thirty states, that when it rises to claim its rights it can be called insurrection."

During the years preceding 1865 hope, growing steadily stronger in the breasts of colored people in the South found an echo among former slaves in Canada. In December of sixty-five, a constitutional amendment was ratified, "abolishing and forever prohibiting" slavery throughout the United States. The joy of freedom had come at last to the (Continued on Page Seven)

ORATORICAL WINNER



Evelyn Rose Jenkins, age 13, winner of first prize in the recent Oratorical Contest at Ealing School. Her subject was: "Canada, the Land of the Rising Sun."

RACE BOY ORATOR WINS FINALS IN NEW YORK CITY

New York, May—Welford Wilson, race boy from Harlem, won the highest honor for oratory for boys and girls on Friday, when he was awarded first prize in New York City junior high schools oratory championship conducted by the New York Times in connection with the National Oratorical Contest on the Constitution in Town Hall.

When Wilson stepped forward to receive his prize, a gold medal and \$100, for which three girls and two boys had competed, his classmates from Mount Morris Junior High School 27 jumped from their seats and made the Town Hall ring with their cheers.

Beaming with smiles and well toward the front of the audience sat the champion's mother and father. The mother, Mrs. Blanche T. Wilson, 43, has been engaged in the real estate business since 1925 when she was graduated from Fordham. She will take the bar examination next fall. The father, Welford R. Wilson, works in the General Post Office.

The New York City Junior High

RACE GIRLS MAKE GOOD AT SMITH COLLEGE

New York City, May—There are only three colored girls in the Smith College in a student body of over two thousand.

One of those colored girls has just been elected as Basket Ball Representative for 1929-30. That is in effect, Chairman of all Basket Ball functions for the year. Basket Ball is the major sport of the Smith College. This colored girl will:

1. Arrange the tournaments for next year.
2. Appoint the timers and scorers and referees for the games.
3. Notify the captains of the dates they play.
4. Arrange the banquets for the teams.
5. Head the Committee to choose the "All-Smith-Team" for the year.
6. Announce the 'All-Smith Team' at the gym demonstration and the championship games.
7. Award the cups to the winners of the championship.
8. Award the cups to the tournament winners.

In short: have general charge of Basket Ball at Smith for the year. This same colored girl made the team in her freshman year, made the "All Smith Teams" in both her Sophomore and her Junior years, and is ranked by students, teams and coaches as the best basketball player in the school. Next year will be her Senior year. She was asked by the President of the Smith College Athletic Association to run for the Basket Ball office, and the girls elected her.

The colored girl is Harriet Ida Pickens, aged twenty years.

School oratorical champion is fourteen years old and an excellent student, Miss C. G. Creighton, one of his teachers said.

"I'll say he is a wonderful boy in all respects. He is modest and he's a good student," he said. "He's going ahead too," one of his other teachers added.

Eight contestants, four representing public schools and one a preparatory school of New York City and three public schools of the suburban district, will participate in the regional finals to be held at Town Hall, Friday, May 17th.

—L.W.D.