

Dawn of Tomorrow

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EDITORIAL

A recent press dispatch carried the curious and interesting news that for the first time since 1853 there is not now a single theatrical company in the United States presenting "Uncle Tom's Cabin." It is doubtful if any play in the history of the drama can approach Mrs. Stowe's story in popularity during the last three quarters of a century. It was first presented in New York in the old Chatham Theatre during the season of 1853-54, though it had previously been presented on the stage in other cities. G. L. Fox played the characters of Marks and Gumption Cute, George C. Howard played St. Clair for a short time but was replaced by J. L. Howe. N. B. Clarke, who in private life was a Mr. Belden, the proprietor of a large boarding house, was the Simon Legree and filled the part with the necessary ferocity. Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Prior were the Geirge and Eliza Harris while Mrs. W. G. Jones was the Cassie. J. W. Lingard was Uncle Tom and that persecuted and despondent old gentleman probably never had a better representative on the stage.

Musical effects had a good deal to do with the success of the drama in the earlier days and J. B. Howe who played the part of St. Clair had a good baritone voice. In the act following that in which Eva dies he sang with considerable pathos, while holding a supposed portrait of the dead child in his hands, a ballad beginning with the words:

"Lonely here and worn with sadness

No loved child's sweet voice I hear, etc."

Eva's song addressed to her father on her death bed had this beginning:

"When your daughter's ta'en away
and your heart is filled with care
When with angels I shall pray for
your peace and comfort there.
Shall poor Uncle Tom be free?
Papa, promise this to me, etc."

This song never failed to bring the whole house into a flood of tears. Then there was Topsy's famous ditty "Oh white folks, I was never born, Aunt Sue raised me on the corn, Sent me errands night and morn, Chin a ring a ring a ricket, etc.

Each verse of this was followed by a plantation breakdown which was never better done than by Mrs. Geo. C. Howard, probably the most natural and best Topsy that the stage has ever seen.

It is interesting to note that there have been stage versions as well as book versions in many other languages, indeed almost the whole civilized world has been able to read the book or see it in dramatic form. In French it is called "La Case de l'oncle Tom," in German "Uncle Tom's Hutte," in Danish "Onkel Tom's," in Dutch "De Negerhut," in Flemish "De Hut von Onkel Tom," in Hungarian "Tama's Batza," in Italian "La Campana della zio Tomasso," in Polish "Chata Wirza Tomaza," in Portuguese "A Cabana du Pai Thomaz," in Spanish "La Cabana del Tio Tomas" and in Swedish "Onkel Tom's Stuga."

Paul Lawrence Dunbar, the Negro poet has paid one of the finest tributes to Mrs. Stowe in his poem addressed to her memory and first published in the Century Magazine for November 1898:

"She told the story, and the whole world wept
At wrongs and cruelties it had not known
But for this fearless woman's voice alone,
She spoke to consciences that long had slept:
Her message, Freedom's clear reveille, swept
From heedless hovel to complacent throne,
Command and prophecy were in the tone.
And from its sheath the sword of justice leapt,
Around two peoples swelled a fiery wave,
But both came forth transfigured from the flame,
Blest be the hand that dared be strong to save
And blest be she who in our weakness came—
Prophet and priestess. At one stroke she gave
A race to freedom and herself to fame."

Dr. Cheatham's Address

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are in the reach of many of the poorest among us.

The facilities for hospitalization, by no means adequate, are marvellously better even in some of our smaller communities than they were just twenty years ago, thus giving to these favored physicians a 75 per cent better opportunity to make a closer check-up and a more thorough study and investigation of their cases and thereby render a more highly efficient service to the people. Dispensary service occasionally connected with these institutions is very necessary and important to both patient and physician.

So you see, fellow co-workers, what is today expected and demanded of us in the light of the ever-increasing opportunities for our scientific development. It behoves us therefore, to take full advantage of these special and modern privileges of study, of hospital affiliation, of a closer affiliation with our local state and national medical societies and not expecting those well organized, most advantageous and beneficial annual clinics at Tuskegee and Hot Springs.

It is for this same purpose of improving ourselves that the physicians of Missouri in the name of the Missouri Pan Medical Society are now assembled here in St. Louis in our annual convention. At these state meetings, which are alternately held in Kansas City and St. Louis we hope

to stimulate interest, individually and cooperatively and also to stimulate a more comprehensive study and exchange of personal ideas and experiences for the mutual benefit of ourselves and the ultimate and final benefit of our patients.

The development of the Negro physician along with the increasing expectation and requirement of the Negro laymen, with due and just consideration, have kept pace, comparatively with the development and rapid progress of the science of medicine, both of which have been almost phenomenal during the past twenty years, with the greatest impetus since the World War.

Pre-requisites or requirements for the study of medicine is today a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent from some recognized college.

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Medical schools both white and colored throughout the country whose curricula were not up to the required standard as prescribed by the rigid laws of most states, Missouri excepted, have been justly and gradually eliminated. Meharry Medical School of Nashville and Howard University Medical School of Washington, D.C. (colored) have more than met these necessary requirements in their A class standing.

States one after another are requiring a year's residence of medical service after graduation in some recognized hospital before an applicant can present himself for license to practice his profession. This last requirement is and will be for some time the hardest of all for our group to meet due wholly and entirely to the economic and social status circumscribing the Negro in this great free and glorious country of ours. Unfortunately these conditions occasion the dangerous and lamentable lack of hospitals of our own and the few whites, yet increasing in number into which we can gain entrance on account of that over which we have no control—our Race.

Kansas City thanks to Jehovah, setting a far-reaching precedent, takes the lead and contributes her bit, in solving what once seemed to be an insurmountable obstacle which threatened our very existence as practicing physicians.

The grand old state of Missouri, and we too, not only a local but a national group, have every reason to fully appreciate and honor that independent energetic and most progressive municipality, Kansas City (having the spirit of Kansas and the location of Missouri) and also equally honor one of its most illustrious citizens, a nationally known democrat, a courageous champion for the rights and privileges of his people—Dr. William J. Thompson.

Both the local democratic party of Kansas City, Missouri and to Dr. Thompson belongs the credit, honor and everlasting praise for having initiated the first city hospital movement for Negroes (where patients were already segregated) and in which our doctors could serve and our interns and nurses could be trained. As a result of the untiring efforts of this gladiator and others and on completion of a new city hospital for whites, the old antiquated quarters originally used by both groups was remodelled and turned over temporarily for the use of the Negro patients exclusively and became

known as Old K. C. General Hospital. Thus the seed was planted.

Recently Kansas City, a Democratic stronghold, a city with a strong civic pride that St. Louis or any other city would do well to emulate, a city where graft, if any, never handicaps its onward progress, became ashamed of the building housing Negro patients. As a result of this spirit, undimmed by race, color or creed, there is now a new six story hospital building ultra-modern in construction and ultra-modern in equipment. It accommodates about two hundred and fifty patients. It has a competent Negro visiting staff, ten resident staff a Negro head nurse, the latter of which seemingly is very difficult for St. Louis to find. Also a training school for Negro nurses.

(To be continued)

Colored people in Canada should become acquainted with "The Journal of Negro History" which is published at Washington, the editor being Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the noted Negro scholar. Ask to see it at your local public library and if they do not subscribe for it suggest that they do so. It is a fine scholarly magazine, equal in every way to the other outstanding historical magazines published on this continent. It is now in its sixteenth volume.

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