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The Dawn of Tomorrow

THE NATIONAL NEGRO WEEKLY

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE DARKER RACES

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THE JOHN BROWN RAID

(By Fred. Landon)

(Continued from former issue)

Briefly he proposed to gather about him a small band of trusty followers, occupy some remote fastness in the Virginia Mountains, and from there make raids upon slavery areas, seizing the slaves and adding them to his band. He was convinced that within a short time he would make slaveholding so precarious and unprofitable that he would have the South on its knees. He expected aid both from the free Negroes in the Northern States and from the refugees in Canada who, at that time, numbered about 40,000. So confident was he of success that already there had matured in his mind a plan of provisional government for the forces he would command and for the territory he would occupy. The eastern friends to whom he communicated his plan were astounded and appear to have made effort to dissuade him from carrying it out, but Brown was determined to go ahead. Feeling that they must not desert him a fund of \$1000 was raised and the understanding was that Brown would act as soon as possible in order to lessen the chances of the authorities hearing of it. Accordingly Brown proceeded to Canada and to Chatham there came in the second week of May, at Brown's quiet invitation, a company of 46 men, of whom but twelve were white. For two days they deliberated over the plans, the full import of which probably few other than Brown himself really appreciated. The constitution for the provisional government was considered and adopted, officers were elected, and then the party scattered. Chatham had been chosen as the place of meeting because of the fact that it was one of the most important Negro centers in Canada; indeed, a majority of the 40,000 or more Negroes in Canada at the time were located within a radius of fifty miles. Among the refugees were many men of intelligence, education and daring, some of them already experienced in slave-raiding, and Brown was justified in expecting their active assistance. There were also secret organizations among the refugees which had as their object to assist fugitives and resist their masters.

(Continued on page 6)

Questions And Answers Column

(By the Associated Negro Press)

It seems to me that I have read somewhere that Helen of Troy was a brown skinned woman. Can you tell me if she has been described anywhere as such and if it is true?

—L. M. S., Los Angeles

As far as I know the ancients have left us no description of Helen. A modern writer, Letitia Barbauld, has described her as brown in her work entitled "Two Royal Mistresses." However, she was undoubtedly brown skinned. She was born at Argos in Greece, a city founded by Africans and ruled by Negro dynasties. Various mural decorations recovered show the Argives to have been brown skinned.

I have read a great deal about King Tut's tomb, but have never read anything as to his color. What was it?

E. B. Marion, Ohio.

No description of King Tut was ever printed because the English government prohibited it. The two panels with Tut's portraits which were recovered show him to have been the color of soft coal.

Please tell me who Antar was? I have not been able to find out much about him.

—G. D., Chicago

Antar was the hero of the greatest epic of Arabia. In this great poem he is described as "Black and swarthy as an elephant." You may find an account of Antar in The Universal Anthology at your public library.

Where was the city of Cecrops, the Ethiopian builder?—E. A., Kansas C.

Among the ancients the city of Athens in Greece was known as the City of Cecrops. It's citadel was said to have been built by Cecrops, an Ethiopian.

Did any Negroes ever rule Rome?

—B. R., Denver, Col.

The early Romans were Hamites or Negroes, or as Reinisch has called them, "Mulattoes." Perhaps your question applies to more recent times and during the empire and, if so, I reply by saying that Rome had two Negro emperors, Septimus Severus and his son, Caracalla, the builder of the famous baths. The father was an African by birth and very dark.



C. ANDREW JOHNSON, Baritone—Gold Medallist and winner of the \$75 Scholarship at the Musical Competition C.N.E., 1924.

PRINCE IS A SWELL TIPPER

New York City, Oct.—(By The Associated Negro Press)—If the Prince of Wales is to be taken as any sort of example, the English know something about the practice of tipping. When he got ready to leave the Burden estate on Long Island recently, he shook hands with two colored servants, Alonzo and Robert Hall and left \$100 in the hand of one and \$40 in the hand of the other. Robert drove the Prince on many of his trips from the Long Island estate. Alonzo just happened to be visiting around the place.

Toronto Lady Dies

The death angel called on Sunday at 12.30 o'clock, and very suddenly indeed: for on Friday the late Mrs. Puller was about as usual until mid-day, when she became ill and was removed to St. Michael's Hospital, where all that human aid could do was done for her but without avail. She was born in Toronto on Sept. 23rd, 1901. She was the fourth daughter of the late Mr. Steven Shanks and Mrs. Shanks. Besides her husband and two day old daughter she leaves her mother, one sister and five brothers, and a host of friends who will mourn for her sunny disposition and the smile that we shall see no more.

AMERICANS TOLD TO KEEP RACIAL TRAITS

Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones, who is chairman of the East Africa Education Commission of the Phelps-Stokes Fund of America, in addressing the native students of the South African Native College, and at Lovedale, told them that the advantages they enjoyed in these great institutes "only increased the obligations they owed to the great masses of uneducated people in Africa."

Using the late Dr. Booker T. Washington's famous simile, Dr. Jones declared that, in some respects, the white and black were as one as the palm of the hand, but in other respects as different as the fingers. For developing Africa, declared Dr. Jones, co-operation was needed of the four chief factors—the missionaries, the economic group (settlers and traders), the Government, and the native people themselves.

Dr. Jones speaks in the highest terms with regards to the commercial classes he has seen in West Africa, and paid a high tribute to the Christian character of a number of the Government officials whom he had met. The natives were told by Dr. Jones that they should take pride in the fact that they were native Africans and should not be eager to sacrifice their racial identity. "Civilization," said Dr. Jones, "is the sum of the achievements of many peoples, and it is certain the African peoples had contributions to make, but history showed that no people had become great without the help of other peoples."

It is inevitable that South Africa is to be a great determinant in the history of the Continent, and in the affairs of the world, and the present anxiety regarding the relationships between the races was intelligible, because no satisfactory basis for adjustment had been formed. Entire separation or entire amalgamation is impossible, "But," continued Dr. Jones, "there are elements of difference and of identity which could be usefully followed up. Differences should be based on mutual respect. All that was good in native life and character should be encouraged."

The students of the Native College were congratulated upon the development of their educational institutions, pressing on them the claims of their less favored brethren in other places.