

Dawn of Tomorrow

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Editorial

CHRISTIANITY OR MOHAMMEDENISM?

We read with much interest the following extract from a speech delivered by Prof. J. E. K. Aggrey, M.A., a native African: "If the Christian world gives it (Africa) light and civilization, it will be loyal in meeting the challenge of Mohammedanism, winning Africa for the Cross and saving it from the crescent." Arnold Toynbee says: "The majority of the black race in Africa is showing itself cold towards the religion of its conquerors and is turning to Islam. Why can the Moslem beat the Christian missionary? Confessedly because the Moslem takes the colored convert to his bosom while the Christian keeps him at arms length and imparts his creed without opening his heart to the new convert. If the result towards which present developments in Africa are tending, does in fact occur, the opinion of unprejudiced observers will be that, at any rate, in this instance, it was in virtue of a moral superiority, a more genuine humanism that Islam has gained the victory." "No doubt," says he, "this will be a hard doctrine for the Anglo-Saxon to swallow. We will believe that mankind is divided into a number of breeds which are unmixed, unmixable and which are poles asunder in spiritual endowments. Personally I believe such theories to be unscientific and I know them to be contrary to historic facts. I am certain that the Anglo-Saxon attitude leads towards catastrophe and Islam to salvation."

There will be some of course who will interpret Mr. Toynbee's meaning wrongly. They will see it as an attempt pure and simple to advocate social equality, what ever that means. Nevertheless, if we will lay aside our prejudices and come out of the shell of our littleness we may see in Mr. Toynbee's article one of the most serious questions which confront the Christian world. Why should we who teach the heathen the religion of Christ not teach it by example rather than by precept? If we tell him that Christ is no respecter of person, that we His children are following in His footsteps he expects us to prove it by living example. If we go to them to carry salvation rather than to carry on exploitation we should be extremely cautious that these things shall be kept separate and unmixed. We cannot convince him

that we are trying to save his soul when at the very same time we are, by force, taking his land. We must teach him, by example, that hand in hand with Christianity go love, charity, forbearance, and the respect for the rights and for the property of others. The present age is seeing a world torn and upset by many and diverse religions and creeds. Christianity must succeed or fail upon its own merits or demerits. If we as Christians fail to represent Christianity in its true light, if we fail to teach it to the heathen by practical examples as well as by precept, the fault is not the heathen's if he refuses to accept Christianity, but it is ours. There is no middle course. Christianity must either become a universal religion with one faith and with one God or else it must plod along in turmoil and in strife with the many other faiths. Whether or not the world shall be won for Christ is left entirely to the Christian nations, to the Christian people of the world. If we teach it as He taught it while He was among men we need not fear as to the ultimate outcome. But if greed, selfishness, prejudice, and injustice are allowed to bedim that sublimely beautiful example of Christian life which He has left with us I fear and tremble for the Christian religion.

If Mr. Toynbee's opinion is correct, that Islam is gaining the ascendancy over Christianity in Africa, the entire Christian world should become alarmed. For whether four millions of people are won or lost to Christianity means much to the peace and happiness of this world as well as it means much to His kingdom on high. Africa, the giant of by-gone days is destined to play as important a part in the affairs of men in the future as she did in the past. It therefore means much to us whether she casts her lot with Islam or with Christianity.

TO THE ADVERTISER

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About 80 young men and women of our race were recent visitors to Toronto; they were Sissle and Blake, and their "Shuffle Along" Company who played the at Princess Theatre last week, and it can be truly said that they were highly credible, both on and off stage, to the group of which we are members. As their theatrical performance is mentioned elsewhere, we are proud to submit this space as a compliment to their off stage life as staged in the homes in which they were accommodated, and on the streets of this exacting city.

We were proud, for we at one time courted the footlights, and must confess that the old Adam rose in us, and we found ourselves becoming home-sick, for in our day things were different.

It may be considered a little far fetched to publicly congratulate a group of race stage folk, whose de-

portment off-stage should be one of the first principles of their training, as an adjunct to the advertising of the production in which they are appearing; but there are still some unpaid board-bills of race professionals who have passed this way, and memories are still fresh of an attempt to wreck a certain hotel that formerly knew no color-line, and was on that occasion rewarded with broken furniture and glassware to the extent that the proprietor has become hard-boiled and established a "lily-white rule". Consequently there should be a line of demarkation between Rats, who constitute the greatest membership committee that the Ku Klux ever had; and young artists of the first water who would elevate themselves and the race to which they belong, by demonstrating good conduct and unquestionable character.

We were privileged to come in contact with many of the "Shuffle Along" girls and boys in Toronto's downtown section as they were shopping, etc. and we saw neither flapper nor sheik; but neatly dressed, well bred, reserved colored boys and girls intelligently transacting business and bargaining, without flash, in modest tones of excellent English, winning the respect and courtesy of those who served them, gaining dead-set advertising for their production, and re-sewing seeds of respect for their race, even on stoney ground, and where erstwhile thorns of certain colored shows that preceded them had a tendency to choke.

We were also privileged to visit some of the homes in which these model members of an erstwhile much-criticized profession were domiciled, and found their host and hostesses loud in their praises of these model boys and girls who had won their hearts, to the extent of being literally adopted, and mother and daddy, son and daughter, were frequent epithets of conversation. One of these homes was literally seized by those homelike sons and daughters and they proceeded to be hosts and hostesses to their host and hostesses; they laughed, sang, swept, dusted, seized ketchens and washed dishes, etc.; and their erstwhile boarding mistresses could not do enough for them.

If any of the parents of members of "Shuffle Along" chance to read this article, let them be assured that their sons and daughters have not forgotten their home training, for despite their capabilities of excellent acting; the homelike atmosphere created by them was too natural for mere bluff.

Early Sunday morning came the parting time, and as these children of adoption proceeded to depart for somewhere in New York State, there were few dry eyes; as 80 children were leaving our homes, but not our hearts.

ROBERT P. EDWARDS

GET THE BIG ONES IS ADVICE OF JUDGE

(By The Associated Negro Press)
New York, N.Y., Jan.—After fining a Negro porter one dollar for selling ten cents worth of beer, Federal Judge Julian Mack, who presided at Marcus Garvey's trial, attacked the police department for arresting only the small violators of the liquor laws, and advised that they go after the big fellows who buy in huge lots and get away with it.

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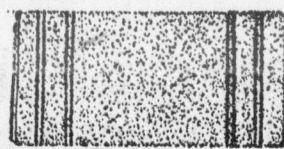
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