

Dawn of Tomorrow

Published weekly in the interests of, and for the advancement of the colored people of Canada.

Subscription Rates

One year	\$2.00
Six months	1.25
Three months	.75
Single copy	.05

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Entered in the post office at London, Ont., as second class matter.

The Dawn of Tomorrow Publishing Co.
London, Ont.

Editorial

THE SENTENCE OF WILLIAM McKATHERN.

Not a Negro in Ontario has any sympathy for Wm. McKathern who stands convicted of one of the most brutal crimes ever committed in the annals of our province. He has brought a cancerous blot upon the fair record which we have maintained for the last century. For us he has turned back the clock of progress fifty years. Would to God he had not been born.

But—we take exception to certain remarks made by the presiding judge in passing sentence upon the prisoner. When he congratulated the "good and law abiding citizens of Chatham for not having snatched the prisoner from the strong arm of the law and burned him at the stake," in our opinion both the dignity of the bench and respect for law and order suffered a deadening blow. Why should British justice be congratulated for so being? Why should law-abiding citizens be complimented for not having reverted to barbarism and worse? And again, is not the "strong arm of the law" to which the judge referred sufficient to prevent such a thing, and is not the spirit of the Canadian people and the Canadian law such as to render lynching and burning entirely impossible? Such a compliment to the "good citizens" of Georgia or Tennessee would have been quite proper and in order, but to the law-abiding citizens of any part of our Dominion it is untimely and unnecessary. In the event that a colored man is again accused of a similar crime what effect will this suggestion have upon the citizens, all of whom are not too intelligent? And in view of the fact that such a hint has been thrown out, would it now be surprising if the prisoner were taken out and burned at the stake? Could the same judge then serve on the bench with a clear conscience in the case of the lynchers?

As to the crime of rape, no one has more horror of it than we colored folk. No class of people is more desirous of seeing it stamped out. It is becoming a common crime here in Ontario. But Wm.

McKathern is the first Negro ever accused of such a crime in this province. To say the least, then, it seems unfortunate that the first Negro ever to be accused of such a crime must be the first person to receive the extreme penalty. It might be argued that his crime was among the most inhuman. We admit that it was among the worst, but not the worst. Compare the damage done by this Negro to that done by the old white gentleman here in London not so long ago. The Negro's crime was against a very aged and highly respectable white woman. The white man's crime was against scores of little children ranging from 3 to 10 years in age. His crime was against their young bodies and their little innocent souls. He filled their bodies with disease and their souls with filth. Can we conceive of a more inhuman crime? Others we could mention which parallel this case but no capital punishment was meted out. But it seems that since Simon the Negro bore the cross of Christ his race has ever been chosen to bear the full penalty of the sins of the world.

THE ULTIMATE OBJECT OF CHURCH UNION.

(Rev. F. O. Stewart, Toronto)

The ultimate object of church union is the evangelization of the world. Through Jesus' wonderful prayer for Christian unity as though all His prayers, there can be felt the pulse-beat of His Father's purpose for the world. "That all may be one," so He prays, and then, "That the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me." What a divine commission for a United Church! The world waits for evidence upon which to found its faith. And no greater evidence can be produced in our time than the fact of fellowship that will be realized in a Church United for the salvation of the whole world. Such fellowship inwardly experienced and outwardly expressed is what constitutes a Christian church.

And for just that message of fellowship human and divine, the world awaits today. Only by that experience of fellowship can the problems of the world be solved. For we have learned one great lesson from a very costly experience, that world problems of today are problems of neighborhood. They have to do with relationships among the great racial and color divisions of the human family. The Christian church is the body of Christ. What Jesus would do to relieve and assist humanity were He here in the flesh, the Christian church must undertake throughout the length and breadth of all lands. Divided she cannot hope to cope with a task so unspeakably large.

It has long since been realized by the leaders of the various branches of the Christian church throughout our fair Dominion that our separate resources are miserably inadequate to do full justice to our Master's work. And all are agreed that one church must inevitably be the outcome to successfully meet the demands of our day and generation. We are not prepared to offer at this time any suggestion as to where it must come from or who shall be its leader but we are certain that the time is here when one great church

must supplant the two now existent Methodist bodies in Canada if we are to be of greater service in the extension of our Master's kingdom. The price of His continued presence is progress towards His completed kingdom in the earth. The Good Shepherd has other sheep whom also He must bring. And some of them are lost sheep. Those especially the church must seek, in this and every land. In that search she will find the presence and the power of the living Christ. The religious need of Canada weighs heavily on the heart of our church. It is a situation the like of which has never faced a church before. The Christian church in its ministry of life is put to the severest test. It is called upon to preserve the standard of the highest and at the same time preach the Gospel of Redemption so effectively as to save the worst. Can we accomplish this great task better, divided or united? My own personal opinion of the question is that more can be achieved by the united efforts of the Christian church in giving service to humanity and the result of the work accomplished will be more satisfactory. Let us come together and do bigger and greater things for God.

THE CASE OF AMILLIO KING

Toronto, Ont.—Amilio King, a Canadian born Negro boy, is certainly being persecuted by the public school system of Toronto. Here is a boy, born in Canada, at the age of eleven years, ousted and rejected by both Catholic and Protestant school teachers who are backed up by the principals of the schools and must also be backed up by the superintendent and board of education, as his mother has been to the teacher of the Catholic school and to the teacher of the protestant school and each time the buck has been passed and she has been sent to first one and then the other for about six weeks, and the boy out of school all this time at eleven years of age just because in the last public school he attended he played truant two days.

Now when asked why he stayed from school two days, the boy said he, with two other boys, were caught in some mischief of which each was equally to blame, but the teacher only whipped him, and feeling that he had been unjustly whipped alone, he did not go back. When his mother discovered he was out of school she took him back to the teacher, who said it was out of his hands. Then the superintendent was consulted who passed it up. Then the juvenile court officials were consulted who passed it to the Catholics and he was told he had to go there until the end of this year, when the tax would be changed. On entering the Catholic school, Monday, February 14th, he was told he could not come there. Now the question naturally arises, who are the schools for, if not for the children? How can the adults drive the children into the streets to idleness and crime and expect or hope for future good citizens?

Mrs. King, being a Catholic, tried to get Amilio into a Catholic boys' school and here is the totally absurd position they handed her. He is too

young for one school and too old for another. The boy is only eleven, yet they left her under the impression that there was no school under their jurisdiction for a boy eleven years old.

They took him from the Catholic schools and tried to get him in the boys' home at Bowmanville but it was full and we have the sad spectacle of this boy being in the street, his mother unable to protect him and unable to get him in any kind of school. Please tell us what is wrong; who is pushing this prejudice button with so much vengeance. We know it is prejudice and nothing else, because if you expelled ten and eleven year old boys for playing truant, you would hardly be able to conduct a school and furthermore if you expel truant boys you would have no need for all these truant officers we see on the street stopping and chasing children during school hours.

We don't mean to say Amilio is an angel but we do say and know he is a child and subject to any misdemeanors any other child is subject to. We say further that he does not give impudence or does not fight back; when he is corrected he takes his punishment if he feels it is just and leaves school if he feels it is unjust, for which we cannot blame him much, as we were all children once. The C. L. A. C. P. must get behind the case. It is the most unjust and the most prejudiced case of its kind we have ever seen anywhere and something must be done and done immediately or into the streets all will go. You cannot afford to overlook such flagrant injustice.

MY BIRTHDAY.

This is my birthday and my life—As human life is—has been long. It has been one of constant strife, To choose the right, avoid the wrong.

Old Father Time seems to forget. The years roll by; he leaves me here. My future is unknown, and yet Of what may come I have no fear.

With God I claim the right to plead, If I but of His presence sure. I care not where my path may lead So I His leadership secure.
S. E. G. ALLEN.

CHATHAM

Miss Arlene Freeman the young daughter of Mrs. G. Freeman, underwent an operation for appendicitis on Friday. She is reported to be doing nicely.

Mrs. Richard Henderson has returned home from the Public General Hospital after a very serious illness.

Mrs. Allan Vandusen is in the Public General Hospital, recovering from a serious illness.

Jackie Robinson, the daughter of Mrs. Ann Robinson, who was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital due to a serious accident, is getting better.

A Valentine concert was held in the St. John Masonic hall Monday night. It was attended largely and enjoyed by all. A bazaar was held afterwards.

A bazaar was held for three nights, starting from Monday night.

A social will be held at the home of Mrs. Anne Rodgers, Princess street, on Monday night.

During of sermon pastor of 1 the subject Will Not I Must I do "How can old?" Feb ointment s pence and 27th, "Wh Jesus whicl public will services.

The idea ces of the cl Church on was in ever. The membe to thank all to purchase

A campai on in the B. jective: \$1, and Shove. an envelope needed.

A great Grant A. M. afternoon, F. when Mrs. 1 Apostolic A forceful mess "Rememberir ing will not s large audienc

We are ve Mrs. K. P. W sick while spe days with Mr. Buffalo, is apartment, 29

The Bucilla annual dance March 7th. first one was, this one a grai

The Eureka ing a social tea Mrs. O. Beech Ave., to which vited. You ca it as you know ing, how long i and the good cl so many desj price of the tea served from 6 1 ruary 17th.

We regret to recently of Mr has been an em for about 15 y was a familiar of Toronto and had made many monstated at hi was shipped to for burial.

Recent dem part of the larger smaller nations s the smaller nati to the will and larger nations. that the last wor duce that result.

Whether the shadow or not, I but of late the w both pro and cor