

THE PASSING TRADITION AND AFRICAN CIVILIZATION

By N. WORK MONROE
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(Continued from last issue)

The old Greek writers were well acquainted with Ethiopia. According to them in the most ancient times there existed to the south of Egypt a nation and a land designated as Ethiopia. This was the land where the people with the sunburned faces dwelt. The Greek poet, Homer, mentions the Ethiopians as dwelling at the uttermost limits of the earth, where they enjoyed personal intercourse with the gods. In one place Homer said that Neptune, the god of the sea, "had gone to feast with the Ethiopian's, who dwell afar off, the Ethiopians who are divided into two parts, the most distant of men, some at the setting of the Sun, some at the rising." Herodotus, the Greek historian, described the Ethiopians as long lived and their country as extending to the Southern Sea.

The great fame of the Ethiopians is thus sketched by the eminent historians. Heeren, who in his historical researches says: "In the earliest traditions of nearly all the more civilized nations of antiquity, the name of this distant people is found. The annals of the Egyptian priests were full of them; the nations of inner Asia, on the Euphrates and Tigris, have interwoven the fictions of the Ethiopians with their own traditions of the conquests and wars of their heroes; and, at a period equally remote, they glimmer in Greek mythology. When the Greeks scarcely knew Italy and Sicily by name, the Ethiopians were celebrated in the verses of their poets, they spoke of them as the 'remotest nation,' the 'most of just men,' the 'favorites of the gods.' The lofty inhabitants of Olympus journey to them and take part in their feasts; their sacrifices are the most agreeable of all that mortals can offer them. And when the faint gleam of tradition and fables gives way to the clear light of history, the luster of the Ethiopians is not diminished. They still continue the object of curiosity and admiration; and the pens of the cautious, clear-sighted historians often place them in the highest rank of knowledge of civilization."

Of these facts modern historians know but little and Negroes in general almost nothing. For example, how many have heard of Al-Bekri, the Arab writer, who in the eleventh century wrote a description of the Western Sudan of such importance that it gained him the title of "The Historian of Negro Land"? How much, by means of research might be learned of the town of Ghana, situated on the banks of the Niger, which the historian, Al-Bekri, described as a meeting place for commercial caravans from all parts of the world? This town, he said, contained schools and centers of learning. It was the resort of the rich, and the pious of all nations. Likewise, most of us have never heard of another Arab writer, Ibn Khaldun, who in writing about the middle of the fourteenth century, of Melle, another of the kingdoms of the Sudan, reported that caravans from Egypt consisting of twelve thousand laden camels passed every year through one town on the eastern border of the empire on their way to the capital of the nation. The load of a camel was three hundred pounds. 12,000 camel loads amounted, therefore, to something like 1,600 tons of merchandise. At this time we are told that there was probably not a ship in any of the merchant navies of the world which could carry one hundred tons. 250 years later the average tonnage of the vessels of Spain was 300 tons and that of the English much less. The largest ship which Queen Elizabeth had in her navy, the "Great Mary", had a capacity of a thousand tons; but it was considered an exception and the marvel of the age.

(To be concluded)

The Only Possible World Peace Plan

Great men having to deal with the difficult problems of state, are perplexed at the complications that have been multiplying for the past six years, and the end of complications is not yet. There must be some more heart rendering experiences for the proud of mankind in order to bring them to the plane of true humility, where they will be glad to seek Divine aid in the Divine way.

As long as men seek to work out their own destiny independent of the Higher Power; as long as they continue to adopt such policies as give extreme advantages to the few, there can be no lasting peace among men.

The only possible peace plan for this old world is summed up in the following: 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and thy neighbor as thyself.' As soon as mankind everywhere takes Jehovah to be his God, and learns to love Him supremely and his neighbor as himself, regardless of race, color or creed, then, and then only will the Dove of Peace come from the Mount of God, to Earth, to bind up the broken hearted of the human family.

As long as men endeavour to exploit one another, and disregard the golden rule, there shall be trouble. As long as the teachings of Jesus Christ remain in the minds of men as a matter to be considered only a few moments before death, there can be no foundation for real peace.

For 2520 years the gentile nations have had sufficient time to prove whether they could rule themselves satisfactorily without following strictly the Divine Rule. They have proved a failure, hence there is no use giving them any extension of time. They are uselessly endeavouring to re-establish the world on the basis of the old order, which started to pass out in October, 1914. Therefore everything they may undertake to do without consulting the Mighty Councilor and Prince of Peace is doomed to absolute failure. Why? Because they have taken council, but not of the Lord, Jehovah.

Many of these mighty ones on earth know they are not following Divine instructions, and for this they shall, as such, be removed. Hear what the prophet, David, said about these: "for yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be; yea thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. The wicked ploteth against the just and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The Lord shall laugh at him for He seeth that his day is coming." (Psa. 37:10-13). The time of trouble just ahead of us is going to clean the earth of the systems that are out of harmony with the principles of righteousness. The big financial concerns, operating, but not in the interests of the entire human family will soon vanish from the earth through a world wide revolution and anarchy, unless all Christendom, like the Ninivites of old, repent and turn whole-heartedly to the Lord.

After this mighty clean up the Lord will give to the remainder of the human race a 'pax pax pax' message of truth that they all may call upon the Name of the Lord with one voice, and serve him with one mind. "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

W. V. Franklin.

FIVE MILLION STRONG

(By the Associated Negro Press)
Racine, Wis., Aug.—"The Klan is 5,000,000 strong," according to the statement of Col. William G. Simmons the founder and head of the order in a recent speech delivered in this city. "Three years ago we had a membership of 5,000 members. Then they started a campaign to drive us out of existence. We met their fight on us by growing stronger and stronger. The Klan is now 5,000,000 strong."

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