

THE PASSING TRADITION AND AFRICAN CIVILIZATION

By N. WORK MONROE
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(Continued from last issue)

A German writer in a discussion of the origin of African civilizations said some time ago "What bold investigators, great pioneers, still find to tell us in civilizations nearer home proves more and more clearly that we are ignorant of hoary Africa. Somewhat of its present perhaps, we know, but of its past little. Open an illustrated geography and compare the 'Type of African Negro,' the bluish-black fellow of the protuberant lips, the flattened nose, the stupid expression and the short curly hair, with the tall bronze figures from Dark Africa with which we have of late become familiar, their almost fine-cut features, slightly arched nose, long hair, etc., and you have an example of the problems pressing for solution. In other respects, too, the genuine African of the interior bears no resemblance to the accepted Negro type as it figures on drug and cigar store signs, wearing a shabby stove-pipe hat, plaid trousers and a varicolored coat. A stroll through the corridors of the Berlin Museum of Ethnology teaches that the real African need by no means resort to the rags and tatters of bygone European splendor. He has precious ornaments of his own, of ivory and plumes, fine plaited willow ware, weapons of superior workmanship. Justly can it be demanded "What sort of civilization is this? Whence does it come?"

It is pointed out that one of the most important contributions to the civilization of mankind was very probably made by the Negro race. This was the invention of the smelting of iron. The facts brought forward to support this view are: that no iron was smelted in Europe before 900 B.C. that about 3,000 B.C., there began to appear on the Egyptian monuments, pictures of Africans bringing iron from the south of Egypt; that a time considerably later than this iron implements began to appear in Asia; that there is no iron ore in Egypt; and that iron ore is abundant in a-bundant in Negro Africa. In many places it is found on top of the ground and in some places it can be melted by simply placing a piece of ore in the fire very much as you would a potato to be roasted.

Studies in the velds of ancient and medieval history are also showing that in the past there were in Negro Africa civilizations of probable indigenous origin which attained importance enough to be mentioned in the writings of the historians and poets of those periods. The seat of one of the highest of these civilizations was Ethiopia. Here the Negro nation attained the greatest fame. As early as 2,500 years before the birth of Christ the Ethiopians appeared to have had a considerable civilization. It was well known to the writers of the Bible and is referred to therein some forty-nine times. In Genesis we read of Cush, the eldest son of Ham. Cush is the Hebrew word for black and means the same as Ethiopia. One of the most famous sons of Cush was Nimrod, whom the Bible mentions as being a mighty hunter before the Lord; whereof it is said, "like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the Lord." The Bible refers to Ethiopia as being far distant from Palestine. In the book of Isaiah we read "the land of the rustling of wings which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia that sendeth ambassadors by the sea." The rivers of Ethiopia mentioned in Isaiah are the upper tributaries of the Nile, the Atbara, the Blue Nile and the Sobat.

The later capital of Ethiopia was Meroe. Recent excavations have shown Meroe to have been a city larger than Memphis. The Temple of Ammon, where kings were crowned, was one of the largest in the valley of the Nile. The great walls of cut stones were 15 feet thick and 30 feet high. Heaps of iron-slag and

Dr. L. K. Williams Elected to Executive

(By The Associated Negro Press)

Stockholm, Sweden—Rallying to the request of American Negro delegates, Baptists of all races in attendance at the third congress of the Baptist World Alliance here elected the Rev. Dr. L. K. Williams, president of the National Baptist convention and pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, the largest Baptist Church in the world, to the executive committee of the alliance.

The Negro delegates were led by the Rev. C. H. Parrish, of Louisville, Ky., and the Rev. E. Arlington Wilson, of Dallas, Texas. They were appointed by Dr. Williams, as head of the Baptist convention, before they left America.

Other delegates were: T. S. Sandefur, Camden, Ark.; J. H. May, Shreveport, La.; C. S. Brown, Winton, N.C.; J. W. Bailey, Marshall, Tex.; R. A. Adams, Dermott, Ark.; Miss Fannie Givens, Louisville, Ky.; F. W. Williams, Norfolk, Va.; W. H. Ricks, Newark, N.J.; J. P. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark.; J. H. Henderson, Knoxville, Tenn.; Walter H. Brooks, Washington, D.C.; E. R. Carter, Atlanta, Ga.; W. H. Rozier, Los Angeles, Calif.; A. A. Graham, Phoebus, Va.; Mrs. S. W. Layton, Philadelphia, Pa.; S. B. Brown, Reidsville, N.C.; C. H. Parrish, jr., Louisville, Ky.; O. J. Allen, Statesville, N.C.; and D. S. Klugh, Boston, Mass.

Dr. Williams, chosen for the new honor, has had a meteoric career in church work, starting in a small way in Texas and rapidly achieving the sort of things to cause his outstanding and constant advancement. He came to Chicago during the World War and quickly assumed a place of leadership in the city's affairs, being made a member of the Lowden Commission on Race Relations, and re-vivified the work of the great church to which he had been called.

Makes Sure Of Being Re-Elected

(By The Associated Negro Press)

Jackson, Miss., Aug.—If Gov. Lee M. Russell, who is winding up his first term, keeps up his present gait in granting pardons, there will be only Negroes left in the state penal institutions. The governor has set a new record in granting pardons. Since January 1st there have been 298 persons pardoned, while six persons a month have escaped from jails and penitentiaries. A prominent planter remarked to-day, that each pardon meant votes and that the governor probably would not draw the color line if there were any votes getting strength among colored prisoners. He has four opponents in the "white" primary which will be held August 8th.

furnaces for smelting iron were discovered and there were magnificent quays and landing places on the river side, for the export of iron. Excavations have also shown that for 150 years Egypt was a dependency of Ethiopia. The kings of the twenty-third and twenty-fourth Egyptian dynasties were really governors appointed by Ethiopian overlords, while the twenty-fifth dynasty was founded by the Ethiopian king, Sabako, in order to check Assyrian aggression. Palestine was enabled to hold out against Assyria by Ethiopian help. Sennacherib's attempt to capture Jerusalem and carry the Jews into captivity, was frustrated by the army of the Ethiopian king, Taharka. The nation and religion of Judah were thus preserved from being absorbed in heathen lands like the lost Ten Tribes. The Negro soldiers of the Sudan saved the Jewish religion.

(To be continued)

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