

Dawn of Tomorrow

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Editorial

THE CAUSE.

It has recently come to light that the colored churches of the city are in dire circumstances; that their financial condition is such that, one of them at any rate, can neither pay its pastor's salary, meet its other current expenses nor even supply fuel with which to make the church building comfortable for religious worship. The publishing through the papers of the condition of the Colored Churches, gives us occasion to call attention to the condition of the colored people in general throughout Ontario, which conditions are the direct CAUSE, the forerunner of conditions found in nearly all of the colored churches throughout the Province.

Lack of economic and industrial opportunities for colored people in this country renders them impotent, not only to maintain their churches, but makes it impossible for the breadwinners to support and raise families properly or to give their offspring the training necessary to compete with other people in the race of life.

In the City of London, the colored population has fallen from more than 800 to less than 300 within the last thirty years. The cause of this, however, is not that Negroes do not raise large families, nor is it that they are "dying off" more rapidly than other folk. Rather they are moving off to countries in which they and their children can and do find employment. This, of course is true in many cases of other races, but with colored people it is one hundred per cent. true. We are "a tainted wither of the flock, meetest for death. The weakest fruit falls earliest to the ground." Any foreigner from any country (if his skin is not dark) is given the preference over colored people whose ancestors have been Canadian citizens for more than two centuries.

Within the past ten years we have had six colored girls finish commercial and business courses here, one in particular carrying off the highest honor of her class. But after repeated attempts to find work here and after as many failures to find it, they were forced to seek and find employment across the border. Not so long since, a colored youth finished as a draftsman from the Technical School here. A certain firm in the city sent to the

FIDELITY.

I have some dear friends that I always will love,
They form some new interest, away from me rove,
But I think that their hearts remain true to me yet
And with all that attracts them, they will not forget.
The best that heaven gives I invoke for them all
And that heaven may be theirs if heaven should call
Them away from this beautiful earth we all love
It will be a more beautiful home above.
But you must live the life God has chosen for you,
And not follow your own inclinations is true,
But God knows what is best, and He will reveal,
Such love as you no other ever could feel.
Then seek to know Him, His instructions obey,
For true happiness is found in no other way.

S. E. G. ALLEN.

school for the boy who had maintained the best record from his first year to graduation. The colored boy had done this and the principal acted with out prejudice and sent the colored boy. The firm refused to employ him. He tried other firms with no results. He finally went to Detroit where he found work for which he was prepared.

A colored mail carrier with an honorable record of 14 years' service resigned and moved to the States because, as his boys and girls approached manhood and womanhood they found it impossible to find employment here.

The Canadian League for the Advancement of Colored People on more than one occasion has conducted a campaign among the merchants, biscuit and candy factories, knitting and hosiery factories and other places, seeking places for colored folk. In most cases we were put off with vague promises or with the excuse that white girls will not work with colored girls. There are, however, a few hopeful and even illuminating exceptions. We are proud to relate here the attitude of Mr. James Gray of Gray's Limited. He employed a colored girl in his establishment. She worked along beside white girls. There was no strike. She was well liked by employer and employees.

Such are the conditions which confront the Negroes of the city although 74 per cent of the colored families are tax payers, property owners. Similar conditions exist for the colored people throughout the province.

We hear much talk of the citizens coming to the rescue of the colored churches. "This were good" but let us remember that the body must first be hale before the soul can be made pure. If colored people are given industrial opportunities, if they are given proper inducements to remain here in greater numbers they will then be able to support their churches and to give their children a square deal.

Note On Slavery In Old Quebec

By the Honourable Mr. Justice Riddell, Toronto.

In my articles: "The Slave in Canada," The Journal of Negro History, Vol. V., No. 3, (July 1920), I gave some account of Slavery in the old Province of Quebec.

In a most delightful and interesting volume just published by the Historic Commission of the Province of Quebec: L'Isle D'Orleans, Quebec, 1928, appear the following note concerning the slaves on the Island of Orleans (near Quebec) in 1784. This, it will be seen, was after the Quebec Act of 1774 had formed as well as extended the (Province of Quebec, taking the place of the original "Government" of Quebec formed by Royal Order in 1763; and some years before the division of Canada into two provinces of Upper and Lower Canada in 1791.

The note reads as follows—I give it as supplementing the information in my former articles and as interesting in itself, to everyone who takes an interest in early Canada or in Slavery.

"One will notice that in 1784 there were a certain number of slaves on the Island of Orleans: 6 at Saint-Pierre, 5 at Sainte-Famille, 7 at Saint-Francois, 6 at Saint Laurent and 3 at Saint-Jean. Actually, there were, at that time in the whole of Canada, 304 slaves. Slavery was only abolished in this country in 1833. Let us hasten to add, however, that here the slaves were always well treated. The church insisted upon their being baptized and properly married. Our country people looked upon them more as members of their families. The greater part of these slaves were Indians."

I may add that there are extant in the files of notaries of our Sister Province, literally hundreds of official documents, proving that the slave, Negro or Pan, was as regularly baptized and married as his master: the Church insisted that the Slaves were human beings and not mere property, whatever the law might say.

Osgoode Hall, Toronto, January 8, 1928, William Renwick Riddell.

MY BIRTHDAY.

Nov. 2, 1928.

—By A Mother.—

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.

November second was the day That I was brought from heaven here But that seems now long time away, For 1840 was the year.

And now its nineteen twenty-eight And still I need such discipline Were I to knock at heaven's gate I fear they would not let me in.

Sometime my Lord will come for me For all God's promises are sure What blessedness it is to see I have a home in heaven secure.

LONDON NOTES.

After a lengthy illness Mr. Frank Budd passed away on the 7th of the present month at Victoria Hospital. Funeral services were held at his late residence, Clarence Street. The service was conducted by Rev. Mr. Dyer of the Hill Street Baptist Church, of which Mr. Budd was a member, Rev. Richardson assisting.

Mr. Budd is survived by his widow, Mrs. Ann Budd, four step children, two brothers, one niece and three nephews. The many floral offerings covering the bier showed the great esteem in which he was held. Interment was made at Mt. Pleasant cemetery.

Word has reached us that Mrs. Mary Drake and her daughter Alice are ill in nAn Arbor, Mich. While Mrs. Drake is now much improved, Miss Alice is still very ill.

Mr. C. H. Brown who has been confined to the hospital for several weeks is now convalescent at his home on Horton St.

Mrs. Elaine Draper os home again after being released from St. Joseph's Hospital

Miss Alice Marshall Groat entertained on the ninth of the present month in her new home, Horton St. in honor of the bride and groom, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Baldwin.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Coursey of Glenwood Ave. recently entertained at their home in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Baldwin.

Mrs. Eliza Groat of Trafalgar St. held a Christmas tree party at her home in honor of her children, grand children and great grand children on the 27th of December. Mrs. Groat played the part of Santa to her guests big and small alike receiving presents. It was a very enjoyable affair.

Mr. Cecil Miller recently spent the week end with his cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cromwell. Mr. Miller has a position in St. Thomas.

Mrs. Chas. Poindexter spent the week end with friends in Detroit and Windsor.

Her condition is much improved.

Mr. Walter Cromwell, who has been ill is much improved. Improvement has been reported in the condition of Mrs. (Rev.) A. E. Richardson and her daughter Lillian, Mr. L. Washington and Mr. J. Thompson.

Two weeks ago friends of Mrs. Wm. Myers of Simcoe Stree were agreeably surprised as they gathered at her home in her supposed absence to cheer Mr. Myers in his supposed lonesomeness. As the crowd had all gathered and were sympathizing with him, Mrs. Myers was ushered in to the great surprise an djoy of all. As a retribution, the guests requested that rs. Myers give them a talk on Cuba, its customs, etc., which she did in a most interesting manner. The evening was pleasantly spent.