

RECEIVED

THE DAWN OF TOMORROW

IT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE

"Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone. Scrooge, a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, clutching, covetous old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel ever stuck out a generous fire."

It was Christmas Eve in Dickens' time, the snow fell thick and fast; The candles shed their flickering light against the bitter blast, The people hurried to and fro, a poor but happy throng, And in the distance carol singers were chanting a Christmas song. In the counting-house old Scrooge sat figuring his gain of the year, The mean little fire on the hearth died out and the room was devoid of cheer.

"Merry Christmas to you, Uncle, and may God bless this day." But Scrooge barked a harsh "Humbug" and went his weary way. He felt no Christmas spirit—no thoughts of home or love. He didn't hear the chiming bells, or see the star above; But up in his lonely garret on the knocker of his door He saw the face of Marley whose days on earth were o'er. All night long spirits haunted him—first the Spirit of Christmas Day— Then the Spirit of Christmas to come and the Christmas passed away. He lived in the past and future, the present seemed sad and forlorn 'Till he awoke at last in his own bedroom to a sunny Christmas morn. He didn't spend the day up there reading his bank book o'er— He spent it instead with Tiny Tim 'midst festivities galore. He forgot about "Bah" and "Humbug" and joined with them to say: "God rest you merry gentlemen," and praised the Christmas Day. It is Christmas Eve in the world again—a bitter wartorn night, But God's still with us, despite the blood and strife. So if any of you have Scrooge's spirit and scoff at Christmas Day, Remember old Jacob Marley's ghost, and open your hearts and pray. KATHLEEN McMULLEN.

A NOTE OF HUMILITY

By ARNA BONTEMPS

When all our hopes are sown on stony ground, And we have yielded up the thought of gain, Long after our last songs have lost their sound, We may come back, we may come back again.

When thorns have choked the last green thing we loved, And we have said all that there is to say, When love that moved us once leaves us unmoved, Then men like us may come to have a day.

For it will be with us as with the bee, The meagre ant, the sea-gull and the loon; We may come back to triumph mournfully An hour or two, but it will not be soon.

NAACP FIGHTS IN OHIO TO UP- HOLD CIVIL RIGHTS LAW

New York, Dec. 5th—The NAACP on November 30, 1946, filed a brief in the Supreme Court of Ohio counter-attacking the efforts of reactionary forces in Ohio to hold unconstitutional the Civil Rights Law of Ohio which requires that a retail store sell to Negroes without discrimination, in the case of Claude Wright vs. Thomas M. Garbet. Wright is a Negro who went into Garbet's grocery store in Cleveland to buy a bottle of milk and was refused. He brought suit and, in the lower court, secured a judgment against Garbet. Garbet then appealed to the Ohio Supreme Court stating that the civil rights law is unconstitutional as applied to a purely private business. In its brief, the NAACP stated: "During the past two decades, there has been a growing awareness of the damage to society which is caused by uncontrolled use of purely private property. . . . With this change, there has been increasing restriction of the freedom of contract and freedom to use one's private property, each step in this restriction being predicated upon the responsibility of the Government to protect citizens who are helpless to protect themselves. "The attempt of appellant herein to place his desire to discriminate against Negroes beyond the pale of the state's police power by resort to 'liberty of contract' under the Fourteenth Amendment, must be rejected since the Fourteenth Amendment is not intended to act as a protection against the valid exercise of the states' power to protect Negroes from discrimination." Stating that the Ohio Legislature acted reasonably in protecting the right of Negroes to purchase freely in retail stores, the NAACP said: " . . . Obviously, however, in a competitive economy they must re-

ceive fairer prices, better quality and a greater share of available goods if the stores which cater to the Negro people have to compete for their trade with stores in other areas.

SANTA'S NEW IDEA

Said Santa one winter's night: "I really thing it's only right That gifts should have a little say 'Bout where they'll be on Christmas Day."

So, then and there, he called the toys Intended for good girls and boys, And when they settled down to hear He made his plans for them quite clear.

These were his words: "Soon now," said he, "You'll all be speeding off with me To take the Christmas joy and cheer To little ones both far and near.

Now, here's my thought—it seems but fair That you should each one have a share In choosing homes where you will stay On and After Christmas Day.

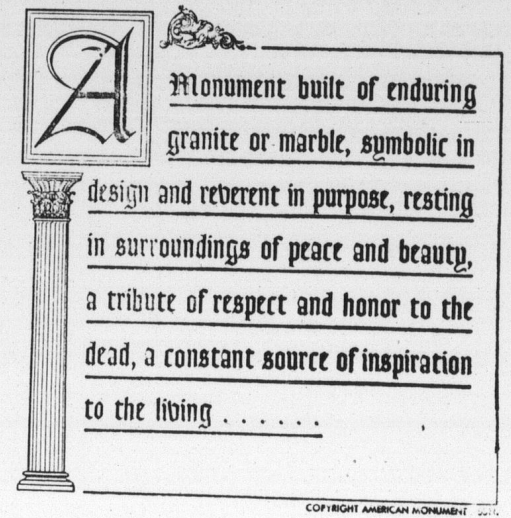
In the next few weeks before we go Over the miles of glistening snow, Please choose the tots that you like best And think much nicer than the rest."

The toys all shrieked "Hurrah! Hurrah. What fun to live and always play With folks we choose—they'll surely be Selected very carefully."

So, children dear, when next you see Your toys in socks or on the tree, You'll know, in all the world, 'twas you They wanted to be given to.

—Florence Steiner, In Toy Balloons

The Memorial Ideal



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