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The Dawn of Tomorrow

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AFRICAN GOODWILL AMBASSADOR ARRIVES IN THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. Nellie Hodge, holder of the distinguished Liberian Medal of Honor, "The Order of African Redemption" and President of the "Liberian Women's Progressive Association, Inc." arrived in the United States on the Elder Demster Line last week. Her mission, after a period of 21 years, is to attend the general conference of the African Methodist Church, scheduled to convene shortly in Chicago, Illinois.

The outstanding patriot, Missionary and Goodwill Ambassador, along with six other delegates from the West African Republic, will attend the Church Conference.

Mrs. Hodge, who operates one of the largest hotels in Monrovia, while serving as the chief dietician of the Liberian Hospital, also wants "to see and to speak to her brothers and sisters here." She has a number of curious and Librarian products to display during her tour of the United States and the Canal Zone, Panama, and would like to meet everybody.

The civic-minded writer and humanitarian is known throughout the African world, by her editorial contributions to African Opinion, as the leading light among women. As leader of the Progressive Women's Association, Mrs. Hodge forced the Government to institute more human treatment of prisoners, to give them trades and other training while serving time—with gratifying results.

Despite her busy career, Mrs. Hodge took time off to see to it that newcomers to the country are properly advised and assisted, inasmuch as she has been waging a vigorous campaign to bring in skilled immigrants and business people.

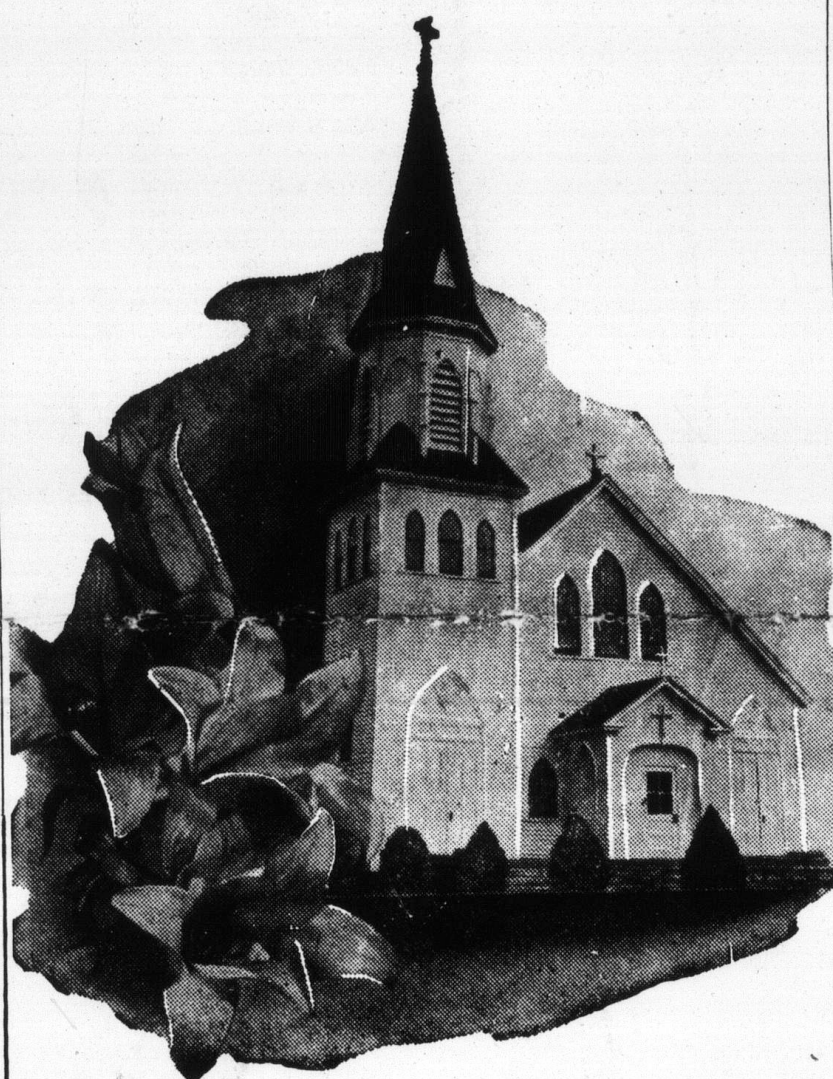
In the re-election campaign of the Whig Party in Liberia, headed by President W. V. S. Tubman, the Women's Progressive Association entered the fray and brought victory to that Party and placed the "African statesman" in the Executive Mansion for a second term. On account of her meritorious and patriotic services, Mrs. Nellie Hodge received the position as Liaison Officer of the Republic of Liberia.

In her endeavor to maintain and to further cultivate the cordial relationship between the Liberians and the Americans, Mrs. Hodge is prepared to speak to any group, particularly of "her brothers and sisters" on this side of the Atlantic.

Any group interested in hearing Mrs. Hodge, may communicate with African Pictures and Information Service, 8 West 117th Street, New York 26, N.Y., Telephone EN. 9-2626.

We were sorry the "Lou Ball Juniors" lost out; however we are proud of Frankie Anderson, who gave his best.

EASTER GREETINGS . . .



Go to Church on Easter Sunday!

Revitalized Education will give us Keys to Kingdom of Better Living

Browsing among the volumes in my library, not long ago, I came across Archibald Cronin's "Keys to the Kingdom," the moving story of a Scottish priest's quest for the Kingdom of God, and the keys to it, forged of his sacrifice and toil and persecution in a remote Chinese village.

I thought about those keys and the thought brought to my mind other keys—keys to the kingdom of effective, satisfying living—forged first from the vision and sacrifice and singleness of mind of educators like Mark Hopkins, Booker Washington and Horace Mann, and thereafter from the devotion of their students and disciples in the endless crusade against ignorance in all its forms.

I wonder if we educators of today, who are the inheritors of educational philosophies projected by minds far in advance of their generation, are providing the young people of our own generations with keys to full and useful living. There are times when I doubt it.

There are times when I fear that we are making marks and degrees the alpha and omega of educational pursuit, rather than proffering as motivation the love of learning for the power of reasoning it develops, for the beauties it unfolds, and for its service when intelligently used to meet the practical demands of these strenuous times.

Are our "good, gray professors," whatever their age, sex or academic qualifications, really encouraging resourcefulness, building habits of thoroughness—stimulating thought? Are they putting the emphasis where it belongs—on the solid, steady performance that produces men and women of real worth? That produces founders of orderly, cultured homes? Interested workers for the welfare of their communities? Able representatives of their communities in public office?

We speak very freely of sharing activity in world affairs. Quite properly we seek such sharing. But are our schools turning out young people

(Continued on back page)

Mary Lou, Dave Lambert In New Disc Sessions

New York, N.Y.—An innovation in modern music has just been launched by Mary Lou Williams, pianist, arranger and composer with the first of a series of recordings presenting her and an interracial choral group performing strikingly original new compositions. The titles are "Walking," a Williams tune, coupled with a provocative new version of "The Sheik of Araby."

"Walking" features unusual instrumental type singing by Dave Lambert and His Friends.

Lambert, a British-born singer, who has become noted in modern music circles for his contributions to bop vocalizing, was selected by Miss Williams to lead the group of eight "voices who phrase like instruments."

The group was hand-picked by Mary Lou Williams. The rhythm background is provided by Al Walker, drums; Billy Taylor, bass; Skippy Williams, bass clarinet; and Luis Martinez, bongos.

Miss Williams said she had previously attempted to persuade a number of other record companies to record these numbers, but had been refused because the compositions had been termed "too revolutionary for the commercial market."

"I was determined not to abandon these numbers," Miss Williams said, "because I think the American music loving public has a right to hear what modern composers are writing today."

MAGAZINE EXPOSES RACKETEERS IN RELIGION

In a hard-boiled attack upon the most shameful of racketeers, Color magazine has declared that every year millions of hard-earned dollars are being swindled from respectable church groups and private citizens by cruel, scheming racketeers who masquerade as God's men and women.

With startling frankness, the national pictorial advocates a probe into the false church fronts, priests and nuns who are out to "make a fast buck." Hiding behind false church fronts, priest and nun robes, these vicious characters are daily preying upon the religious emotions and fears of unsuspecting givers.

Today when racketeers are worming their way into almost every field of endeavor—government, politics, basketball, etc.—it's no surprise that they are active in religion, the magazine declares.

Busily taking the "name of the Lord in vain," these worst of crim-

Old Easter Observances

Easter is the greatest festival of the Christian Church, because the resurrection of Christ therein commemorated implies the restoration of life to the world which sin has ruined, whilst it is faith in the Resurrection which has converted so much of the world to Christ.

"If Christ be not risen," declares Paul in his First Epistle to the Corinthians, "then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. But Christ is risen from the dead and become the first-fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterwards they that are Christ's at His coming."

The First Easter Day

The date of Easter Day is fixed by what is called the "calendar moon," and it cannot fall earlier than March 22, or later than April 25. It is the opinion of many Biblical authorities that the first Easter Day fell on April 17. If that computation be correct, we are, this year, commemorating the festival somewhere near to the actual date.

From Britain's Early Records

The name Easter, according to "The Venerable Bede," whose historical works cover a wide range and are invaluable in the outline they give of the early records of Britain, is derived from Eostre, a Saxon goddess, whose festival was observed in the spring; but it is quite possible that it originates from the Saxon verb, "oster," which signifies "to rise." Of course, it was comparatively easy for our Christian forefathers to imbue the "Festival of Eostre" with a sacred significance—joy at the awakening of nature from the dead of winter readily lending itself to translation into joy at the Resurrection of our Lord from the tomb.

Seemingly Dead, Yet Alive

One of the most popular observances associated with the festival is the honor paid to the homely egg at Eastertide, as an emblem of the resurrection—"that which is seemingly dead being yet alive."

In olden times eggs were strictly forbidden as food during Lent, but they were invariably brought to the breakfast table on Easter morning, colored red to symbolize the joy at the Resurrection.

In the days before the Reformation they were solemnly blessed in the churches with the following prayer: "Bless, O God, we beseech Thee, this Thy creature of eggs, that it may become a wholesome sustenance to Thy faithful servants, eating it in thankfulness to Thee on account of the resurrection of our Lord."

It is interesting to note in this prayer the use of the word "creature," in its original and literal sense.

als pose as heads of "religious charities," divine healers, nuns, priests, evangelists and as prophets who have returned to earth to save lost souls. Along with these are also cited race-haters who sell their racial propaganda behind a mask of Christianity.