

The Dawn of Tomorrow

THE NATIONAL NEGRO WEEKLY.
DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE DARKER RACES

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ALDRIDGE A SUCCESS C.L.A.C.P. HOLDS AS AN ACTOR FINE BANQUET

The recent great success of Richard B. Harrison, a native of London, Ont., in the role of Jehovah in the "Green Pastures" recalls the foreign successes of another American Negro who at one time gained abroad a fame and position which were denied to him in his own country. Ira Aldridge faced European audiences in the most ambitious plays of the drama. He was an actor of Shakespeare principally and on the continent ranked as one of the ablest tragedians of his time. There were no roles apparently in the whole range of the theatre that he considered beyond his power, and in most that he attempted he was rewarded with approval and reputation. He flourished at a time when the descriptive designation was popular and the title which he won for himself was "The African Roscius."

Aldridge died in Poland in a small town where he had stopped while on his way to St. Petersburg. That was in 1867 when he was about fifty years of age. One story of his birth places it in a suburb of Baltimore about 1810 and says that being apprenticed to a shipbuilder he picked up enough German from the sailors he met to constitute a fair knowledge of the language. Another story makes him the son of a colored preacher and places his birth about 1805.

He met Edmund Kean on one of the latter's trips to America and returned with him to England as a servant. Kean discovered his ability and encouraged him to cultivate his gifts. Aldridge appeared first at the Royal Theatre in London as "Othello" and was received with great favor. After playing for some time in England he decided to return to America but on his first appearance, at Baltimore, he was rejected and returned to England to commence a career which was destined to be most successful.

As an interpreter of Shakespearean plays he was particularly well received in England, especially in those parts to which his color was suited. For parts where his black skin would be a handicap he whitened his skin. He did the latter for "King Lear," a play in which he was very highly commended in Europe. When Madge Kendal was in the United States she told of having as a very young act-

The regular meeting of the C.L.A.C.P. met at the home of the President, Mr. Wm. Berry, 5 Front Street. The regular business over it was moved by the Executive Secretary, Mr. W. Myers and seconded that the retiring President, Mrs. Drake, be given a lifetime membership and that also a banquet at a later date be given the retiring and new officers for the coming year.

On Thursday evening, March 17th, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cromwell, William St. a St. Patrick's Banquet was given in honor of Mrs. M. Drake, Mrs. G. Wilson and Mrs. E. De Groat, President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively also the new officers for the coming year.

The table was beautifully decorated with silver candlesticks holding long, lighted, tapering, green candles. The centre-piece green with lovely red roses. The supper was most beautifully served in all St. Patrick's contrast. Each one gave a toast or speech to the retiring President which along with the new President, Mr. W. Berry were guests of honor at the table. After an enjoyable evening of music and games the evening closed.

ress played Desdemona to the Othello of Aldridge.

Aldridge's career on the continent reads now like the contemporary progress of some popular prima donna. He received from monarchs decorations and orders of various kinds and in Russia, Germany and Austria was thus honored. During the years of his success in Europe he never failed to return to America and seek success in his own land. He was content with the position he had made for himself in Europe and it was only shortly before his death that he ever referred to the possibility of playing in America. Before leaving London on the last trip to Russia, during which he died, he told his friends that after his return to England he might once more try his fortunes in his native land. But death prevented this. He was a man of distinctively African traits in his appearance, his most striking peculiarity being the size of his head which measured 23½ inches in circumference.

JOYS AND GRIEFS OF EASTERTIME.

The daily weaving of our lives is strangely done—

Beside some strands of joy are threads of galling grief:

The sombre colours doubtlessly a time prevail,

Then threads of brighter hues bring the designed relief.

One shuttle shoots a cotton fibre o'er the warp.

As if the texture of the making web to spoil;

But, Ah! a swifter sends across its purest silk,

With seeming aim the former's baneful art to foil.

A portion of life's fadeless web is surely wrought

Awhile we journey back, each yearly Eastertime,

Through ages long, to sadly find that pangs of heart

Were ne'er divorced from joys of soul and acts sublime.

Unbidden, there arises up in full survey

The malice, scorn, and hate in minds of men

That swayed them to the doing of those dreadful deeds

Which writers of God's Book were forced to pen.

The upper room comes vividly into our minds,

The garden, mob, and judgment hall (so-called) we see;

The mocking robes, the reed, the crown of cruel thorns,

And then, at length, the crucified at Calvary.

We see the lifeless form borne from the Roman cross,

Then laid, midst scenes of grief, in Joseph's borrowed tomb;

Ah! yes, though age on age has wandered on its way

We deeply sense the darkness of that day of gloom.

These are the drabber hues that shock the muses mind,

They, and no more, would spell discomfort and despair;

But by their side is triumph o'er both Sin and Death

Inwoven through the warp, with master weaver's care.

Because the sleeper in that rock-hewn, garden tomb

Called back unto Himself His deathless life divine,

The brightest strands that shine in life's immortal web

Are fondly woven there each yearly Eastertime.

Eastertime, 1932. —MACK

RECIPROCITY OF SLAVES BETWEEN MICH. AND U. CAN.

(by the Honourable William Renwick Riddell, LL.D., D.C.L., F.R.H.S., etc.)

One of the most curious conditions in the History of Negro Slavery was that existing in the early part of the last century between the United States and Canada, and especially between Michigan and Upper Canada.

As is well-known, when Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe of Upper Canada, in 1793 persuaded a reluctant Parliament to pass a measure of emancipation, the Statute of 1793, 33 George III, cap. 7 (U.C.), while it freed all coming into the Province, and every child born after the act (when it attained the age of 25) kept the slaves then in the Province in their condition of slavery unless manumitted—and rather discouraged manumission, be it said; see my "The Slave in Canada," Washington, 1920, pp. 55.

Consequently, until the Imperial Act of 1833, 3, 4, William III, cap 73 (Imp.) freed every slave under the British flag, there were always slaves in Upper Canada.

On the other side of the International Line, while the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 provided that there should be no slavery in the territory, later Michigan and much other territory, north of the Ohio River, neither Detroit nor other parts of Michigan found absolute freedom from Negro slavery; no few slaves were held in bondage despite the Northwest Ordinance.

The natural desire for freedom caused the slaves from each side of the International Line to flee to the other—the American slave when he touched Upper Canadian soil became forthwith free by virtue of the Act of 1793; while the Upper Canadian slave became free the instant he crossed the Line to Michigan by virtue of the Ordinance of 1787.

It is a well-established fact that during the War of 1812, there was a company of refugee Negroes from Canada enlisted in the Detroit forces to fight for the country that emancipated them; while at Niagara, there was a similar company of Negroes, enlisted to fight for the country that emancipated them, if it insisted in holding others of their race in bond-

(Continued on Page 6)

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EDITORIAL.

Once again as we look about and hear the birds singing, the little children robed in white as they march up the aisle singing "Up from the grave He arose" and see the beautiful flowers arranged here and there showing and giving forth praise unto Him who bore the cross to Calvary for all the world that through the shedding of His precious blood we might have eternal life.

What a wonderful test it must have been. I wonder how many of us, His followers, or disciples of today are standing the test to its utmost? What a wonderful picture of pity as we see Pilate pleading for Jesus, saying, "Behold I bring him forth to you that ye may know that I find no fault in him." And again when Pilate said unto the Jews: "Ye have a custom that I should release unto you one at the passover. Will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?" Then cried they all again saying: "Not this man but Barabbas." Now Barabbas was a robber. Can you not picture again the look of love and pity on Jesus' face when he said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." And as they placed the crown of thorns upon His head and the largest and heaviest cross he bore to a place called skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. When there they crucified Him and two others with Him on either side and Jesus in the midst. And Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." And when the Chief Priest of the Jews said write not, Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

And again we see the soldiers as they rent his clothes and cast lots for His coat. And Mary, the mother of Jesus as she stood at the cross pleading for her Son and Jesus looking down upon her, His mother and said "Woman, behold thy Son, and again I hear Him say unto a disciple whom He loved, "Behold this mother," and how this disciple put His arm about her and took her to His home. After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, said, "I thirst." The soldiers then filled a sponge full of vinegar and put it to his mouth. And when Jesus received it he said, "It is finished" and gave up the ghost. And then listen to the greatest storm ever witnessed as the trees were rent and the sun was darkened and the thunder and lightning flashed with mighty force. Then were they wont

to say, "Truly this must be the Son of God."

Then on the third day as Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb and found the stone rolled away and the linen clothing lying within the sepulchre, and when those who came to see what had happened had gone again unto their own homes, Mary stood without weeping and when she stooped down and looked in she saw two angels in white, and they said unto her, "Woman, why weepest thou?" She said unto them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him." And when she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus even when He said, "Woman why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou?" She, thinking Him a gardener, said, "If you have taken Him away tell me where, and I will take Him away."

And then Jesus said unto her, Mary. Then she turned herself to him and said Master. Jesus said unto her, "Touch me not, for I am not yet ascended to my Father. But go and tell my brethren I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God, and your God." And we see Mary as she goes rejoicing telling the news that she has seen the Master and what he said unto her. Then at evening we find the disciples assembled with doors shut for fear of the Jews. Then comes Jesus and stands in the midst saying, Peace be unto you. We see him showing them the nail prints in his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad for they knew he was the Lord. Then Jesus said unto them "Peace be unto you, as my Father has sent me, even so send I you." Then He breathed on them saying, receive ye the Holy Ghost whosoever sins ye remit they are remitted unto them and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained." But belonging to this group there was among us Thomas because he was not present at these sayings could not believe. So we see Jesus appearing again in their midst saying "Peace be unto you" and to Thomas, "reach hither thy finger and behold my hand, and reach hither thy hand thrust it into my side, and be not faithless, but believing."

And he said unto them. It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come unto you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

And when he had spoken these things while they beheld, he was taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight. And as they looked toward heaven as he went up to men in white stood by them, which also said, Why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go.

So, kind friends, we expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that we can do or any kindness that we can show to any fellow creature, let us do it now. Let us not defer or neglect it for we shall not pass this way again.

Appreciation

Dear "Dawn of Tomorrow" once more you are here,
Sometimes you are absent so long that I fear
You are gone to the place from which no return
May ever be looked for, and then I will learn,
You were merely taking a nice holiday,
And are back home again I hope long to stay.
For I have learned to love the dear little sheet,
Receiving each number is surely a treat,
And I'm free to confess it would fill me with sorrow,
To bid final good-bye to dear "Dawn of Tomorrow."

S. E. G. ALLEN

WOODTOCK NEWS.

Mrs. Tressa Blair who has been quite poorly is improving nicely.

Mr. Lavern Marshall spent a few hours with his friend Mr. Stanley Drake of London.

Mr. Lred Smith sang a baritone solo, "Softly and Tendely Jesus is Calling" at Oxford St. Baptist Church

Mrs. Horace Marshall spent a few days with her sister, Mrs. Lucas of Brantford.

Mr. I. James was entertained at tea at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Marshall who have been ill with colds, are doing nicely at the present.

Mr. Fred Smith spent a few days with friends and relatives in Toronto

We are very sorry to know that Mrs. Bob Blair's son has been very ill, but he is doing nicely now.

Miss Mildred Smith spent a few hours with her sister, Miss Leta Smith and also friends in London.

Mrs. Tressa Blair's daughter has been very ill.

Mr. Fred Smith spent a few hours with friends in Brantford.

Mrs. Laura Blair was entertained at tea at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith.

Mrs. John Lucas and Rev. Johnston of Brantford attended Marshall Anderson's funeral.

Miss Leta Smith and her friend, Miss Evelyn Jenkins were entertained at a dainty tea at her home with her parents and all Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith.

Mrs. Annie Morton is seriously ill in the hospital.

Mrs. Horace Marshall was entertained at tea at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith.

Funeral of M. Anderson

Many friends and relatives, representatives of the city council, the police commission and fire department and business men of the city were in attendance at the funeral of Marshall Anderson, held in the McLevin funeral parlor yesterday afternoon. The service was conducted by Rev. J. W. Magwood, pastor of Central United Church, Mrs. A. Bottoms contributing a solo, "Some Day We'll Understand." during the progress of the service. The accompanist was Miss Marie Thomson. Interment was made in the Hillview Cemetery, the bearers being constables Ernest Newell, Sid Hemmings and W. J. Ennis; R. H. Reid, W. Holmes and M. Reid. Among those in attendance from out of the city were Mr. and Mrs. Will Tisdale, Toronto; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Addison and L. D. Hussey, Otterville and Miss Leota Lynn of Chatham.

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TORONTO NOTES

Two years ago eight young people met and formed what is known as the Young People's Literary Society of the B.M.E. Church. To-day, that same society has fifty-eight young men and women, listed as members feeling that their spiritual, moral, intellectual and numerical progress should be celebrated, the Literary Society presented an interesting program at Community Hall, 355 College St. on Sunday evening, February 7th, at 9 p.m.

The guest speakers were Lawyer B. J. Spencer Pitt, President of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, who so kindly loaned the hall and Rev. T. H. Jackson, Pastor of the B.M.E. Church. A vocal solo was rendered by Miss Mary Berry, violin selections, Messrs Frank Mays and Desmond Davis, vocal trio Misses Grace Price, Audrey Dawson and Beulah Richardson; reading, Miss Mary Aylestock; papers Misses Thelma Richards and Viola Berry; vocal solo with guitar accompaniment, Mr. Geo. Woodbeck; spirituals were sung by the Society.

The highlight of the evening was Miss Viola Berry's paper, for it promoted trouble for Miss Berry and the young ladies of the Literary Society. It inspired Lawyer Pitt to challenge the female section of the Society to a debate "Resolved if Japan conquers China, Japan will herself become Chinese."

It is to be hoped that Miss Berry and her supporters will accept this challenge. The writer can see no better way for the enterprising body of young people to expand their intellectual abilities, than putting their wits against those of Canada's best known Negro lawyer.

The inaugural public meeting of the Dunbar Literary Association was held at Community Hall, 355 College St., Toronto on February 3rd. last, under very happy auspices. It was an event of outstanding importance and the activities of this body bid fair to be a marked success in the cultural life of our group.

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STRATFORD NOTES

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Baldwin, a daughter, on Jan. 22nd.

Mrs. H. Jones of Latonia, Ohio, spent a month with her aunt, Mrs. Harrison.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Alexander of Salem, Ohio spent some time with her mother, Mrs. Harrison.

Mrs. Harrison and daughter June attended the Hairdressers Convention at Toronto.

Rev. Crawford will have charge of services at the B.M.E. Church on Sunday.

Ira Vassell of Kingsville spent a week with her sister Gladys.

After four weeks illness Mrs. J. D. Hall is able to be around again.

CHATHAM NOTES.

We are pleased to announce formation of the Silvertown Quartette by Miss Casson a few days ago. Mrs. Inez Boggers, leader; Miss Dorothy Jackson, Miss Annabelle Williams, Miss Janice Anderson and Miss Mildred Wright, pianist. These young ladies paid a visit to London B.M.E. Church rendering many beautiful numbers which were received with great applause from the audience later attending a midnight lunch at the home of Mrs. Christine Jenkins. The girls are looking forward to an early return to London.

Many of the friends from our various Churches paid a visit to Dresden last Sunday.

Miss Dorothy Bingy is indisposed suffering with a severe attack of flu at the home of Mrs. Ben Smith, Dresden.

LONDON NOTES

Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith of Woodstock and family, were the guests of Mrs. Jenkins at ten Sunday evening.

Mrs. Hattie Butler of Lucan spent a few days in the city visiting with friends.

The Hotel Bell Boys Orchestra entertained at a dance held in Buxton on Wednesday evening, March 23rd.

Mrs. Beaver of Niagara Falls is the guest of Mrs. Groat, Trafalgar St.

The revival meetings carried on by Miss Margery Carson in the B.M.E. were a great success. 18 converts and 12 for prayer. Miss Casson is indeed a wonderful speaker. During each service her audience was held in a spell at the wonderful illustrations and visions brought to their eyes. Her messages were ones you could see delivered from her very soul.

Miss Casson's home is in Chicago and she is one of the youngest Evangelists preaching on the continent. She began at the age of 9 and has been in the service for ten years. To really realize this young lady's talent you would have to hear her but once, and then you would want to sit and feast on each word spoken, each song

sung which was of joy and happiness and comfort to starving souls for God's gospel as it should be told.

Miss Casson is carrying on her services in Dresden and meeting there with great success. Her candle-light service and illustration portrayed under a searchlight is one of the finest and most touching services given.

Miss Bingy of Chatham is acting as Miss Casson's secretary while in this vicinity.

Rev. E. A. Richardson is still confined to his bed at home and shows very little improvement. We wish and pray for him a speedy recovery. Our hearts go out also to his wife who is carrying on wonderfully under the strain.

Mrs. Bertha Moxley is home and able to be about again after an illness of 3 months in the hospital.

Mr. Charlie Poindexter is improving nicely at this writing.

Mrs. Wm. Berry is still convalescent at her home.

Mr. Willis Hackett is visiting his mother, Mrs. F. Harris.

Mr. Allen Anderson is home from work suffering with a chill received while driving to Dresden.

Mrs. George Anderson is home again from the hospital and improved in health somewhat.

Mr. Lewis Groat carried on the service in the B.M.E. Church on Sunday.

Rev. Johnson and Willoughby Hackett of Brantford paid a visit to the city for a few days visiting friends

Mr. Jimmie Moxley is in the hospital suffering with a broken arm.

Mr. Urban Duncan gave a recital over the Free Press Broadcasting station.

Ross and Tiny Jenkins are home from school for a few days with bad colds.

Baby Anderson is improving nicely in the Children's Hospital.

Mr. Ottis Wood of Battle Creek, Mich. is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Poindexter during his holidays.

An entertainment for young boys was given by Miss Evelyn Jenkins on March 3rd in honor of her brother James' 18th birthday. Everyone reported a pleasant evening.

Miss Freda Anderson was called to Buxton to attend the funeral of her foster father, Mr. W. R. Toyer.

Miss Letta Duncan is visiting with her aunt, Mrs. Brooks, Hill St.

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*A Fine City in which to live, es-
tablis a Business or spend
a Vacation*

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Continued from page 1

age.

The Western District of Upper Canada, which stretched from Long Point westward, and so was next to Michigan, suffered most from this flight of Negro slaves; and there is in the Archives at Ottawa, a document which indicates the annoyance and loss felt by prominent slave-holders in that district. It reads as follows:

New York, May 26, 1807.

Sir:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ult. enclosing a memorial presented to you by the proprietors of slaves in the Western District of the Province of Upper Canada.

I regret equally with yourself the inconveniences which His Majesty's subjects in Upper Canada experience from the desertion of their slaves into the territory of the United States and of persons bound to them for a term of years, as also of His Majesty's soldiers and sailors but I fear no representations to the Government of the United States will at present avail in checking the evils complained of, as I have frequently, of late, had occasion to apply to them for the surrender of various deserters under different circumstances and always without success.

The answer that has been usually given has been "That the treaty between Great Britain and the United States which alone gave them the power to surrender deserters having expired, it was impossible for them to exercise such an authority without the sanction of the laws."

I will, however, forward to His Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, the memorial above mentioned in the hope that some arrangements may be entered into to obviate in future the great losses which are therein described.

With great respect, I have the honor to be Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,
D. M. Erskine.

Endorsed May 26th, 1807

From Honorable D. W. Erskine

Relative to Runaway

Slaves and Deserters.

Copy sent to Wm. Elliott Esq.,

11th Nov., 1807.

Copy sent to Matthew Elliott, Esq.,

22nd Dec., 1807.

Addressed to Honorable F. Gore, etc.

Erskine was the British representative in the United States; Francis Gore was Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada from 1806 to 1817, but having leave of absence during the War of 1812-14; Matthew and Wm. Elliott were prominent personages in the Western District, both being justices of the peace.

This letter illustrates a situation between the two sides of the International Line, not unlike that bitterly complained of by the Slave-holding States as to the disposition of the Free States to decline to assist in sending back to their masters, the Negro slaves fleeing from the South; this complaint, it will be remembered, led to the passing of an Act compelling their return—an Act, which,

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perhaps had something to do with the
ultimate destruction of the horror.

—William Renwick Hiddell.
Osgoode Hall, Toronto,
February 12th, 1932.

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