

The Dawn of Tomorrow

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

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B. M. E. HOLDS LIVELY SESSION

The official staff of the B.M.E. Church held a week-end session at the London B.M.E. Church, Dec. 8-10. The Rev. Novie S. Chaney Jr. was the entertaining pastor. The sessions began Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. by examining two candidates for the ministry. The ministers who sat on the examining committee were the Revs. T. H. Jackson, F. O. Stewart and Ernest Richardson. The candidates were Mr. Benjamin Garrel, of Brantford and a student at the Toronto University School of Religion, and Miss Addie Allstock of Toronto, also a student at the above named school. Upon completing the examination, the committee recommended to the General Supt., Rev. J. T. Dawson, that Mr. Garrel be ordained to the ministry and that Miss Allstock be consecrated a deaconess.

The financial board met on Saturday, holding sessions throughout the day, they considered all financial matters of the denomination and mapped out a financial program for the ensuing year. Meals were served in the Church Sunday School room under the auspices of the Willing Workers' Club.

The ordination service was held Sunday morning with the Rev. L. Thomas Dawson bringing the message. Inspired by the occasion the Rev. Mr. Dawson touched a responsive chord in the hearers by charging the candidates to labor earnestly for the upbuilding of the Master's kingdom. "You must lay yourselves unreservedly upon the altar, so that God can use you," the speaker said in part. The congregation was deeply impressed with the sacredness of the service.

The evening message was delivered by the pastor the Rev. Novie S. Chaney Jr. Using the theme "My cup runneth over", the speaker said in part: "This text is the suggestion of abundance. It is not as in Cana of Galilee when the good man of the house had



"MERRY CHRISTMAS"

the horrible surprise of discovering sin. It was the biggest thing I knew. that they were running short of wine. If I take time and let my mind and almost before the feast had well begun. memory run across my life, my sin He was horrified until all of his troubles were ended by the gracious courtesy and power of the Lord. This is true even of the sins I can remember. But there are countless others, which memory can't recall. And there are all those which an evil nature never recognizes as sin. The sophistries that moved about as decent presences; the things which I labelled as smartness, cleverness and then persuaded myself that the labels made them so; the sins of neglect, indolence, aggression and indifference Mountains of them. But when I bring these mountainous things to the Lord there is a bigger thing than my sin. Sin is out-topped by grace. "There is a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea."

Many Thanks !

The management of this paper takes this opportunity to express its sincere thanks to those who so kindly donated 35 baskets of Christmas Cheer for delivery by the "Dawn" in various parts of the city. Needless to say the recipients were very grateful for such generosity.

On Friday evening, December 22, the Sunday School will present a Christmas program. The affair will be highlighted by a play presented by the youth. Christmas music will be used and gifts will be distributed. Sunday evening, Dec. 24, the young people of the B.M.E. Church will present a Cantata. Christmas Carols will also be sung.

Dawn of Tomorrow

Published in the interests of and for the Advancement of the colored people of Canada.

J. F. JENKINS—

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THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

The spirit of Christmas is the spirit of giving. The thought may be as old as the day itself but it is often forgotten; especially by many young folks whose sole interest is centered on what they are going to receive. The encouragement of the child's joy in the anticipation of receiving, is not a serious wrong. But would it not be better to share more of this blessedness with the youngsters by encouraging them to think of what they might give, instead of devoting all their thought to what they wish to receive?

This would be only the logical following up of the teaching which all children should receive at Christmas time. We strive to make it plain to them that God gave us His best gift on Christmas. It is to be hoped that we do not forget also to impress upon them the privilege of giving our best ourselves, to God in return. But it is to be feared that we often overlook stressing the very practical application of the spirit of Christmas, which is found in giving to others.

Certainly God wants the gift of ourselves. It is the best and, in a very real sense, the only gift which we can give to Him, because all else belongs to Him and is only loaned us here. Giving to one another is the only way, besides giving ourselves, in which we can give to God. Emphasis on this fact will help to make the keeping of Christmas more Christ-like. This is in keeping with the thought, which we often have heard that the only way to serve God is by serving one another. Of course God wants our praise and prayers but these are not service, though they are often so-called. This service of God in serving man is made clear by the example of Jesus who gave and gave Himself, His life, His all for us. We are so accustomed to saying that Jesus gave His human life to God for us, that we often forget the manner of His giving was in the service of man.

The spirit of Christmas must be the Christ spirit, for it is His birthday. And the spirit of Christ is the giving spirit. So there does not seem to be any better way of keeping Christ in Christmas than by acting upon His assurance, that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

—By Novie S. Chaney, Jr.

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Volunteers Relieve Registered Nurses



Making beds, cleaning wards, transporting patients, and assisting doctors, Volunteer Nurses' Aides help relieve the wartime shortage of registered nurses in many hospitals. Miss Florence Grant, Volunteer Nurses' Aide, assists Dr. Granville N. Moore attending a patient in the Emergency Operating Room of Freedmen's Hospital, Washington, D. C. These valuable volunteers always work under the supervision of a graduate nurse or a physician. The Red Cross, in cooperation with the Office of Civilian Defense, is now recruiting 100,000 Nurses' Aides throughout the country.

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AND A

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CHRISTMAS AGAIN !

Christmas 1944 . . .

We shall soon hear again the bells and the carols, the greetings and the laughter.

This is a very happy season.

No other time or occasion has so great an effect upon the discipline and dispositions of men and women. There is something about it that touches human hearts as nothing else can. There is much evident kindness and goodwill. Men become brothers for a season in the name of the Holy Nativity.

The wonder of each Christmastime is, that its essential keynote is not grandeur but simplicity.

Christianity was born on a night so long ago in distant Bethlehem. The religion of the Christ Child has travelled far since then and along many roads. The very simplicities are significant to the wondrous story of the night when Christ was born. are still the unchanged essentials of our holy faith.

That first Christmas found a handful of faithful shepherds gathered at the manger in a lowly stable. With them, adoring, stood the Virgin Mother and Joseph the carpenter.

No crowds . . . No fanfare . . . No proclamation.

In the generations which have followed, men have sought to praise their God by the many wonders of the works which they have wrought. . . Spacious churches of exquisite beauty and designs; mighty organs, blending the ancient harmonies of music masters; magnificent bells, fashioned that their pealing might call the sons of men to worship; all these things bear witness to men's great gladness in the knowledge of their Lord. They help provide the "atmosphere" for the proper keeping of a modern Christmas.

Vested choirs and clergy in their robes of priestly office, with moving dignity and solemn ritual, lead the modern pilgrims along the Christian road that brings them to a new-found Bethlehem.

Bells . . . Music . . . Proclamations.

It would sometimes seem that the old simplicities have been done away with but in very truth this is not so.

The vaulted naves of splendid churches take the place of the crumbling stable; marble Altars form the modern manger but simplicity remains and humility still triumphs amidst the glories which men have made for God. It is not in any of these things that the Presence of Christ is denoted but in the sacramental Bread.

BREAD . . . We are back again at the simplicities of the first Bethlehem. Bread is not only the staple food of man, it is his simple food. It can be found in the cupboard of the poorest home as well as upon the table of the richest man. It meets a universal need. It is thus, in the very simplicities of life that men

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find God. The story of the Birthday of Jesus Christ is again retold, when men receive Him under the simple veil of sacramental Bread.

This thought brings to our mind a little poem.

"A Baby in a box of straw
Was all of God the Shepherds saw;
But they had heard the angels sing.
And so they worshipped Him as
King.

This Christ-Child comes to us instead
Within a little house of Bread
And as the shepherds worshipped, we
Adore Him, in this mystery.

Snowstorms and Bus Transportation

The City of London has gone through two Big Snowstorms in the past two weeks. We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused many of our passengers in the First Big Snowstorm, on Friday, December 1st. Many of our passengers failed to secure their usual bus transportation.

It is a fact, however, that our buses carried 42,856 paid and transfer passengers that day. This is approximately one-half the passengers being carried daily at this season of the year.

To ensure a reliable service on Saturday, December 2nd, our buses were called in at 8 p.m. Friday Night for much needed attention and repairs. Due to continued snowfall, bus routes had become virtually impassable by this hour. Co-operating with the City Works Department, routes were cleared to the extent that on Saturday we carried a total of 85,659 passengers, fully justifying action taken in curtailing service Friday Night.

The Second Big Snowstorm struck the City on Monday, December 11th. While there were serious delays in the service, records show our buses carried 80,809 passengers, compared with 81,494 on the previous Monday.

Every effort was made by our Operating Staff and Employees to maintain the best possible service during these storms and we feel our Employees did a particularly good job in carrying such a large number of passengers under extremely difficult operating conditions. Many of our Garage Employees worked two consecutive shifts without rest, to repair disabled equipment and to maintain a 24-hour service of ploughing and sanding of bus routes.

The Situation During Xmas Week Will Undoubtedly Become Serious

New records for bus riding have been established this year, with a new all-time record of 100,226 paid and transfer passengers being carried on Monday, December 11th.

If you leave your shopping until the last minute you will undoubtedly find buses to be badly crowded and you may be unable to secure the transportation you desire. We urgently request shoppers to do their shopping between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Arrange to leave for home before 4.30 p.m. if at all possible, or be prepared to wait until after the 5 to 6 p.m. rush is over.

Every effort will be made by our Employees to meet the heavy Christmas Traffic, but we need your co-operation and assistance... You can assist us by

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GOOD-WILL TOWARDS MEN

Another Christmas has come and the year 1944 hurries swiftly to its close. We would that a happy world might shout in exultation Peace on Earth, but we dare not. For war clouds darken the skies in far off Manchuria, and while the statesmen of the world fervently cry Peace, Peace, the nations fashion dreadful engines of war. And hat good will which was proclaimed on the first Christmas morn nineteen hundred and more years ago is still largely of the stuff that dreams are made of, save when the hand of misfortune strikes and catastrophe levels the barriers of race and class and creed. Such a time is the present. Perhaps in no period in the history of the nation has there been a greater need for good will than now.

The pity of it is that only a major catastrophe seems to be able to arouse us to consideration of the plight of our fellowmen or to stir us to a contemplation of the conditions under which they exist. Today saddened millions face a future full of uncertainty and doubt, and for them Christmas merely serves to emphasize misfortune. They are honest. They have committed no crime. They are anxious to work. An economic cataclysm has engulfed them and swept away everything they possess except the hope of change.

Who is responsible? What are the causes?

There are a thousand answers; one as good as another. But somehow the thought persists that at least one of the fundamental reasons has been the disregard of a declaration and an injunction:

Peace on Earth, Good Will
Towards Men.

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PAPER A MERRY CHRISTMAS

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This Christmas, it's sound judgment to buy even the "trifles" you plan to give at the store where quality and wearability are buy-words of long standing. A few years ago, jostling crowds and last-minute rushes were part of the fun of holiday shopping, but times have changed since then, and today people are planning their shopping well in advance. Although, we can't promise you'll find every single item on your shopping list, we do know that you will be delighted with our extensive selection of lovely Christmas gifts throughout the whole store . . . and at prices consistent with your wartime budget. We have gifts you'll want to give as well as receive and we're ready to help you with any suggestions for the "difficult" people on your list. Shop in Christmas City, today. . . .



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during this year, which has
been difficult for both of us.*

*May the New Year bring
Victory and Peace on Earth
once more.*



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LONDON NOTES

We are sorry to hear of the illness of Miss Jean Fountain. We wish her a speedy recovery.

The Sunday School and Young People's association are to hold their Christmas Concert on Friday, Dec. 22 at the B.M.E. Church.

Mr. Mallott, daughter Anne and his son John of Brantford spent a few days in our city.

We are happy to hear that Mrs. Geo. Anderson has recovered from her illness and is able to return home from the St. Joseph's Hospital.

Mr. Clifford Miller of Brantford, visited friends in London for a few days.

Miss Mildred Smith and brother Fred of Woodstock worshipped at the B.M.E.

Mrs. A. Hill is able to resume her activities after an illness.

Young People's meeting will be postponed until after Christmas because of all-out effort to help support the Christmas season.

BE KIND TO THY BROTHER

Be kind to thy brother, don't treat him so coldly,
He knows he is weak, but unstained with crime;
Don't leave him to perish, but raise him up kindly,
Nor wait opportunity—now is the time.

He always is human, therefore he is erring,
And the sport of his passions, weak child of a day.
He's a prodigal son, yet show you are caring
For the poor, hapless wretch that has drifted away.

Speak to him kindly, go try and restore him;
Temptations are strong, and men are so weak.
In charity's name for fear you may wrong him;
Let your voices be dumb or in sympathy speak.

O lift him up gently, tenderly judge him;
As you hope for a blessing, do not leave him alone.
Like a friend in affliction, with kindness approach him,
For he still has a heart just as warm as thy own.

We see but his failings, we know not his feelings;
How much we may rue or his weakness deplore;
How much we may strive, still forever is falling
As helpless and hopeless, and weak as before.

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His heart may be noble, well he may love thee;
He would suffer and die supporting your cause,
Maintaining thy name and defending thy honor,
He would give all he has, nor think of applause.

There's none of us perfect, all have sins that's besetting;
It is human to err, but divine to forgive.
We all are so brave when not called on to suffer;
To be good is so easy, while unttempted we live.

Don't leave him to perish because you are safe,

And your name is inscribed in the book of the Lamb,
In conspicuous form, thus attesting your glory.
As a sample of heaven to degenerate man.

Don't scorn the poor fellow, ah no, he won't soil thee;
He is not in your set, so you leave him alone;
His face has the mark, and his hand looks like tolling;
He don't worship with you, let him look to his own.

We call him a brother if he's Lord of a mansion;
We despise him if poor, for that is a crime.

All people are brothers, they but differ in madness,
Which death and eternity levels in time.

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IF HE SHOULD COME

If Jesus should tramp the streets
tonight,
Storm-beaten and hungry for bread,
Seeking a room and candle light
And a clean though humble bed,
Who would welcome the Workman
in,
Though He came with panting breath
His hands all bruised and his garments
thin—
This Workman from Nazareth?

Would rich folk hurry to bind His
bruise
And shelter His stricken form?
Would they take God in with His
muddy shoes
Out of the pitiless storm?
Are they not too busy wreathing their
flowers
Or heaping their golden store—
Too busy chasing the bubble hours
For the poor man's God at the door?

And of He should come where church-
men bow,
Forgetting the greater sin.
Would He pause with a light on His
wounded brow
Would He turn and enter in?
And what would He think of their
creeds so dim,
Of their weak, uplifted hands,
Of their selfish prayers going up to
Him
Out of a thousand lands?

—Edwin Markham

A wise son maketh a glad father,
but a foolish son is the heaviness of
his mother.

TO A STAR

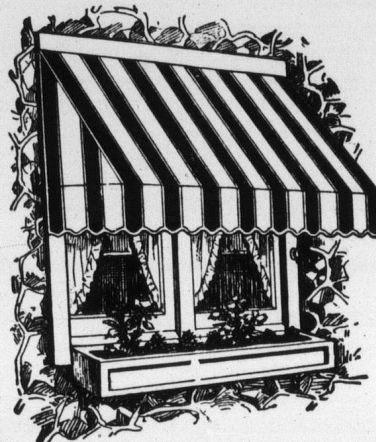
Lo; thou comest at even
From the dark depths of Heaven,
In silence alone through the twi-
light afar;
Like a fountain of lucid light.
That fillest the dome of night,
All peerless in brightness—
Thou beautiful star.

And oft as I ponder.
Amazement and wonder
Fills all my being to know what
you are.
Is thy realm all blessedness,
And unclouded happiness,
Or a land of forgetfulness—
Beautiful star.

Is that glory of thine
The Creator's design;
Where spirits shall rest and dreams
never mar.
With no tears and no agonies,
No sorrow, nor bitter sighs;
No hopeless nor breaking hearts—
Beautiful star.

Ah! we love to contemplate
A glorious and happy state,
When the sun goeth down at the
close of life's war.
And we sleep through the silent night
To awake in the morning light,
When thou setest forever—
O, beautiful star.

A. J. CARTER



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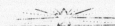
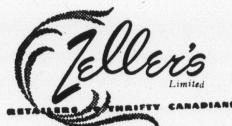


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Fair. 148

WHAT THE NEGRO REALLY ASKS

In recent years, particularly since the advent of the war, great strides have been made in the direction of incorporating the Negro more fully into the economic, social and political structure of the nation. This has been due in no small measure to the increased awareness of the Negro himself that he must consolidate his forces and demand and fight for what he considers his birthright. The Negro of today is no longer the subdued long-suffering and patient individual the nation has considered him in the past. He is cognizant of the fact that only by closing his ranks and organizing his forces is he able to achieve his proper place in society. He has been fortunate in having the support of many enlightened members of the white race who before, and since the inception of this World War, which is being fought for the democratic ideals based on the four freedoms, have realized that these very principles for which they are fighting abroad must of necessity be first achieved at home in order to accomplish a full and complete victory. We have, for example, the F.E.P.C. instituted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to help prevent discrimination against any individual because of race, color, creed or national origin. This committee has done much to alleviate the injustices which have been practiced against the Negro.



The heroism and devotion to duty of the Negro in the several theatres of this international conflict are rendered almost pointless by the stubbornly unintelligent treatment visited upon him and his kin at home. He is in very truth fighting a war on two fronts, for the local practitioners of white supremacy are no less his enemies than Nazi exponents of Aryanism and Japanese proponents of "Asia for the Asiatics."



The logical conclusion would therefore be that it is to the advantage of America as a Democracy to incorporate, with full status of citizenship, all minorities who make up this vast nation. There are two sayings which come to mind that seem apropos regarding this problem. The first one is Abraham's Lincoln's most famous statement: "A house divided against itself cannot stand" and the second is: "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link." The sooner it is realized that when the Negro is allowed to assume full citizenship, which actually is all he asks, the sooner will America take her place as a world power and as the leading proponent of Democracy in the world.

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THE DAWN OF TO-MORROW

MISSIVE FROM SOUTH PACIFIC

DEAR MOTHER:

Life here in the South Pacific isn't exactly my idea of Paradise. But I'm not quite sure I'd relish a transfer there. You see, this war has convinced me that Democracy isn't just "the government of the people, by the people and for the people." Democracy isn't the Four Freedoms, neither are the Four Freedoms Democracy. Democracy is merely equal opportunity—iving everybody a break to show what he's got, a break to contribute his "grain of sand" to humanity.

I know that this kind of letter coming from me is going to catch you with your guards down. I was always the guy whose chief interest was football. But something happened. Ma, something that has changed the whole course of my life.

There was a waiter on our ship. A black named John Spencer. He was ignorant and docile, as most black people are. He seemed pretty contented serving us and being kicked around. He never forgot to say "suh" when he addressed us. But one evening at dinner we found out that he wasn't innately docile. He was that only for convenience. Somebody bounced his arm and he spilled some soup on Seymour Pringle, a yeoman and pal of mine. Well, the black boy tried his best to apologize and dab up the soup with his napkin. But then the boys began to laugh and razz Pringle unmercifully. He looked so comical with soup running down his face and a black boy wiping it off apologetically with a napkin that I couldn't help laughing myself.

All of a sudden Pringle, his face red as a tomato, gets up and slaps Spencer.

"But wuzn' ma fault, suh," the boy tried to explain.

"I don't give a damn whose fault it was. That will teach you to be more careful when dealing with white men. Now start wiping your own face for a change." With that he ups and spits right in Spencer's face.

The boy stood transfixed for a fraction of a second. Then his right hand moved up and he let Pringle have it right on the chin. Pringle started fighting back, but the colored boy was holding his own. He sure could box. After a while when we saw that he had Pringle licked, four of us jumped on the boy and licked the daylight out of him. He tried to fight back but we were too many. Pringle even threw in a kick for good measure. It all died down, though, because Pringle didn't want it known that the boy had whipped him. As for Spencer, he never served us any more.

Life went on in the usual way until one day we ran into a swarm of Zeros. Or maybe they ran into us, I don't know. But they caught us by surprise and started to machine-gun those of us who were on deck. Pringle was among us; he was tired of sitting, he said, and wanted to stretch

his legs. Well, when those Japs started to machine-gun the deck, we all started to race for cover. Luckily I got to my post and we got into action.

"Hey! Where's Pringle?" someone yelled.

"There he is! Out there!"

About fifty feet away lay Pringle, apparently wounded or dead. But we were too busy to bother with casualties then and he was right in the Jap line of fire.

When we get into a scrap, the mess crew sticks around—just in case; but they rarely ever get into action.

Suddenly out of the group of messmen, a figure dashed out, disregarding the machine-gun bullets whizzing dangerously by. The crazy fool was going to try to save Pringle. He was temerarily risking his life to save a man who was probably already dead. Somehow he reached Pringle safely, placed a limp arm around his neck and started back for safety. Just then a Zero dived. Rat-tat-tat went the machine guns. The black figure stumbled, went down with his burden and was up again. Inch by inch, he dragged the inert body toward us. Ten feet away, another bullet hit him. Again he went down, raised himself, advanced five feet and fell lifeless. Two sailors rushed out and hauled both bodies to cover. Pringle's heart was still beating. But the black mess man was dead. The dead hero was John Spencer, Mother. . . . The John Spencer we had beaten up. The same John Spencer whom Pringle had kicked when he couldn't fight back.

They sent a medal to his mother in Harlem, Ma, but what is a medal when a man forgets personal feeling? What was he fighting for, Ma? What did he have to give his life for? It wasn't supposed to be his war. He belonged to the minority, the hated minority; nonetheless, he gave his most precious possession. He wasn't black then, nor was Pringle white; they were only two Americans fighting side by side for a better world.

So while we are here fighting to preserve Democracy—even if some of us don't know it—don't let us down at home by stirring up racial hatred. On the contrary, help us by making sure there's equality of opportunity for all.

Your loving son,
BILL.

P.S.: Let those folks back there know that we out here don't want them to blab-blab about Democracy, we want them to practice it.

My eyes are open now, Ma. I've learned more about people. And, you know, I've been thinking, maybe if we tried to know each other better, if we tried seeing things from the other guy's viewpoint, there wouldn't be so much bickering and so many scraps.

I may never be a hero, Ma, but I'm proud that I have known one, although I never really knew his hopes, his aspirations, or his peculiarities. Wish to God I had. Wish to God I'd known how to appreciate a man without considering the color of his skin.



Opening their booth for the Sixth War Loan drive, the Berkeley, California Unit of the Women's Ambulance and Defense Corps of America makes its first sale to Mrs. Irene Sims of Oakland, treasurer of the Golden State Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. The purchase was \$1,400 in bonds. In the picture seated l. to r. are Mrs. Sims, Cpl. Mayme Le Piotti; standing l. to r. Major Vivian Osborne-Marsh, Cpl. Berrie B. Osborne, Cpl. Emily Ford, Pfc. Ethel Terrell, and Cpl. Dora Palmer.

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