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REV. PLANTVIGNE HAS NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

Popular Catholic Priest Undergoing Treatment At Saint Agnes Hospital.

HE RECENTLY MADE A REMARKABLE ADDRESS

Which Is Regarded as Strongest Uutterance Since Famous Sermon by Father Slattery.

Rev. John J. Plantevigne, assistant pastor of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, is at St. Agnes Hospital undergoing treatment for a nervous breakdown. He rceently delivered a remarkable address before the Catholic University at Washington, in which he made a plea against prejudice in the church, urged the opening of the seminaries to colored Catholics and declared that the moral and intellectual qualities of colored people did not suffer in comparison with those of other races.

Some of the points made in his address are regarded as the strongest utterances in behalf of the colored Catholic that have been made by a priest since Rev. J. J. Slattery delivered his famous address at the ordination of Rev. J. Henry Dorsey, now of Alabama, here in 1902. Father Slattery has since ceased the active work of the priesthood and many of Father Plantevigne's friends are now speculating as to whether his superiors will consider his nervous trouble an impediment to his actve work as a priest. Father Plantevigne is a native of Louisiana, and was educated at the Epiphany Apostolic and St. Joseph's Seminary, this city. He was ordained five years ago. There are four other colored priests in the country.

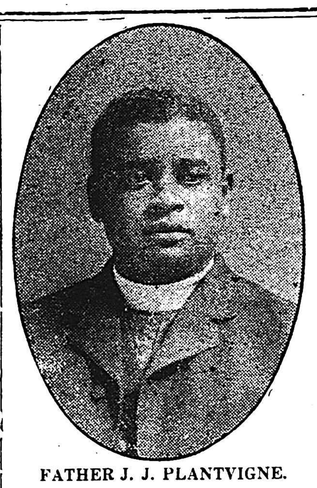
His remarkable Speech.

In his address before the Catholic University, Father Plantevigne is quoted as saying: "To bring the colored people into the church as a race we must bring them in full width (I do not mean a side entrance) and let them feel the influence of the truths of Christ's Church under the same advantages as any other man. The veil of the temple was rent giving equal access to Jews as well as Gentiles; so in the Catholic Church must all barriers be removed for the colored man as well as for any other man.

"Today every inducement is used to draw people to the church; societies are formed, halls and gymnasiums are built with every convenience for the enjoyment and improvement of the young If these are needed for the young of one race, can e imagine that we can induce, win, and hold these of another race by relegating them in so many ways? Then be liberal with the colored man and you will win him

Prejudice in the Way

"Can you do this? As matters stand now we cannot—we must compromise; social circumstances compel us to do so This is not gaining the other for God, since religion is based on charity and charity is not discrimination. The non-Catholics fitted young men in their best schools, such as Oxford, Harvard, and Yale, and ordained them and placed them among the people of their own race, where they are now doing effective work. Is the Catholic Church liberal and has her influence been less efficient so as not to produce young men capable of giving the same result?



FATHER J. J. PLANTVIGNE.

Who will dare say this? Well, then educate and ordain young men and let them help you do the work of evangelizing the race.

Would Open The Seminaries.

"Open the seminaries and the ecclesiastical schools to colored youths and ordain them to the priesthood and let them work among their own people. If the students of the white race did not want them you would be sure that you had the right there and then a good standard to judge that these white students had no true vocation."

He ended by declaring that colored Catholics all over the country want priests of their own race, citing the enthusiasm with which he had been received, and averred that the colored members of the church are not contented with a spirit of jim crowism.

Baltimore And Washington Ministers Fraternize

Methodist Ministers of Baltimore The Guests of Their Brothers In Washington

(Spec. to The Afro-American Ledger.)

Washington, March 14 — The members of the Baltimore M. E. Preachers' Meeting were the guests of the District of Columbia Preachers' Meeting at Asbury M. E. Church. Rev. W. A. C. Hughes was to have read a paper, but he was detained in Baltimore by having to officiate at a funeral. The ministers instead discussed the recently issued book of Rev. D. W. Shaw on "Should the Negroes of the Methodist Episcopal Church Be Set Apart in a Church by Themseles?"

Rev. M. W. Clair, pastor of Asbury Church, and his fellow members of the District of Columbia Preachers' Meeting were the hosts at a dinner to the visiting ministers.

The visiting ministers included: Revs. D. W. Shaw, L. L. Thomas, J. H. Goodrich, C. G. Cumimngs, N. M. Carroll, L. A. Carter, D. D. Turpeau, William Brown, A. L. Jenkins, and W. N. Holt.

Mr. William S. Pannell, who is employed at the White House, has returned from South Carolina, where he was looking after the interests of the Taft campaign.

Nearly $360.000 Left to Charitable Institutions

Mineola, N Y., Mar. 15—By the will of Mrs. Alice A. Hicks nearly $360,000 is left to charitable and educational institutions. The New York Colored Orphans' Asylum is left $10,000.

Must Not Visit Clubs

Pittsburgh, Mar. 14—According to a rule adopted by the Baptist Ministers' Alliance, ministers who go into clubs will be placed on the black list. This even includes ministers who belong to the Elks and other fraternal bodies and who frequent the headquarters of the same.

WILL HOLD MONSTER MASS MEETING

Under auspices of The Association For The Advancement of Colored People

DuBOIS AND OTHER PROMINENT MEN TO SPEAK.

Congressional Hearing On Proposed Change In Present School System.

(Special to The Afro-American Ledger.)

Washington, Mar. 14—A monster mass meeting is being arranged for next Tuesday night at the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church to acquaint the public with the work which the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People is doing in behalf of equality, justice and liberty. Well-known speakers from New York are expected to be present, among them Dr. W. E. B. Duois, Prof. J. E. Spingarn, president of the New York City Branch; James F. Morton, an attorney; Miss Martha Gruening, secretary to Editor Oswald Garrison Villard, of the New York Evening Post. Justice Wendell Phillips Stafford has been asked to preside. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the Bethel Literary and Historical Association, of which Mr. A. D. Washington is president, and Miss Mary Curtis is secretary. The committee on arrangements is composed of Mesdames Marcy Church Terrell, Carrie W. Clifford, Kelly Miller, L. B. Moore, John Hurst, L. M. Hershaw, W. L. Houston, N. B. Marshall, J. Milton Waldron, and Miss Jessie Fauset.

A local branch of the association for the Advancement of Colored People has been organiized here, with the following temporary officers: president, L M. Hershaw; secretary, Mrs. Carrie W. Clifford; treasurer, Prof. W. H. Richards. It is hoped to largely increase the membership through the mass meeting Tuesday night. A list of 200 patrons is rapidly being filled up.

W. L. Houston's "hat is in the ring" for Grand Secretary of the G. U. O. of O. F.

Hugh E. Macbeth, editor of the Baltimore Times, has been in the city this week. He visited Roosevelt's headquarters.

Dr. John Hurst is in Mississippi.

Dr. W. T. Vernon, supervisor of Indian Schools, came in from the field last week and is off again for the South on an important Mission. He had "something to say" on politics while here.

Dr. J. E. Moorland is in Chicago, looking after Y. M. C. A. interests.

Mr. U. Sumpter Richards, of Syracuse, N. Y., described by Mme E. Azala Hackley as the finest basso she has ever heard, assisted J. H. Douglass and the Howard University Orchestra last Thursday at Andrew Rankin Chapel. Mr. Richards will appear at the Shepard educational meeting at Metropolitan A. M. E. Church on the 26th.

President Taft has promised to speak for the Howard Alumni Association at a mass meeting to be held at Metropolitan A. M. E. Church April 9 under the auspices of the association. The Alumni is pledged to raise $1,000 toward a gymnasium to be erected upon the University campus.

Dr. W. P. Thirkield, president of Howard University, has been attending religious and educational conferences in St. Louis.

Attorney R. L. Waring, author of "As We See It," was recently married to Miss Emma Belle Parks, of Chicago, who has been serving as a clerk in the Census Bureau. Mr. and Mrs. Waring are spending their honeymoon in Pittsburg and Chicago.

A hearing is being held today at the Capitol on the bill introduced by Representative Bingham, of Pennsylvania, to change the public school system of the District. The hearing was asked for by Daniel Murray, assistant Librarian of Congress. The proposed measure abolishes the present Board of Education of nine, creates a new Board of seven, and vests full supervision of the schools in the District Commissioners.

Provision is made for a Director of Education at $6.000 per annum with six assistant directors at $3,000. Teachers are recommended for appointment by the Director and confirmeed by the Board. The belief is general that the proposed change will not be made.

WOULD MAKE PYTHIANS CHANGE THEIR NAME

Decision of Supreme Court Being Awaited With Interest By Fraternal Orders

Washington, March 14—An echo of the Georgia law preventing colored fraternal orders from using the name, ritual and signs of white orders of the same name was heard in the United States Supreme Court yeterday when a printed argument was submitted by members of the white Knights of Georiga against colored Pythians using their name. The petition argues that white knights have exclusive use of that title.

"They may call themselves," suggested John P. Ross of Macon and Hamilton Douglas, of Atlanta, attorneys in the case, 'Knights of Jonathan,' or 'Knights of Ham and obtain their charter and continue in their good works.'"

The Georgia legislature passed the law several years ago. Pending a legal test of the right to pass the law it has not been enforced. The colored Pythians have a similar case before the Supreme Court. Former Judge Alton B. Parker, of New York, represents the colored Pythians. The decision of the Supreme Court is being awaited with interest as the rights of the Independent Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and other race orders are affected.

Colored Organizations Given Notice to Vacate

(Special to the Afro-American Ledger.)

New York, Mar. 15—The Harlem A. M. E. Zion Church was dedicated here Sunday. Bishop Alexander Walters and Rev. Dr. F. M. Jacobs were among those who participated. Rev. H. S. McMullen is pastor of the church.

Dr. Booker T. Washington will be one of the principal speakers at the Christian Conservation Congress of the Men and Religion Forward Movement, which will be held here next month.

The various lodges that have been ocupying the old colored Odd Fellows Hall, in West Twenty-ninth street, have been ordered to vacate. The hall was at one time owned by the colored Odd Fellows, but slipped into the hands of the whites some years ago. There is no hall owned by the colored people of this city.

The colored barbers of this city held a meeting Sunday to agree on earlier closing hours on Sunday.

J. Frank Wheaton, ex-grand exalted ruler of the Elks, has recovered from a brief illness.

COL. MIDNIGHT ON A TRIP THRU OKLAHOMA

Colored People Are Doing Well There Notwithstanding The Many Proscriptions

BOLEY IS A FLOURISHING LITTLE TOWN

A Town Where Everything Is Owned By Members of The Race.

Topeka, Kans.—Well, here I am today, but you can put it down that I have been a few places since I wrote to you the last time and it will take me a long time to tell you all I have seen and what I have been doing. I was in Fort Worth, Texas, when I wrote to you the last time, and I told you about that.

From Fort Worth, the old man found his way to Gainesville, Texas, and there I found Rev. B. J. Brown awaiting my arrival at the stable. He is pastor of a large Bapitst church and was at one time in Arkansas. Well, I enjoyed that very much and turned my attention to another part of the world. I find that I will not have time to tell you all I desire to tell you about this place. I then went out of the state of Texas into Oklahoma. Now the white man has tried hard to coward down our people in Oklahoma, but I have visited your race there, and I am glad to report to you that it is doing well, and hope when these few lines come to hand they may find you the same. I am real well myself.

The first stop in Oklahoma was Ardmore, and when I got off the carriage there I found the Rev. P. R. Neil and one doctor waiting for me. Rev. Neil toted me over to his home and made me feel at home. I enjoyed myself very much looking around to see what was going on there. Ardmore has suffered under the doctrine of the Democrats, and the schools for our children had been closed, but I am proud to say that my people are now carrying on a school out of their own pockets while the white children are being trained out of the general money. I feel like saying "cuss" words when I see this condtion, but I suppose that I must not say them and will not do so.

I spent some time in Ardmore, leaving there at midnight for Oklahoma City. I was to be the guest of Rev. W. H. Jernagin, one of the most sucessful pastors in this country and a man of worth and ability. He is one of the men who has made good in this world and I am sure that he will make good in the world to come. He is a native of Mississippi where he got hold of his training at public shools Meridian Academy, Jackson College, and Alcorn A. & M. College. With this training he launched out to do the work which the Lord had called him to do,—and this young minister of the gospel has made good. He has furnished the world with some good girls, and is devoted to the Baptist Church of which he is a member and a minister.

Dr. Jernagin is president of the State Constitutional League, and as such he has been very anxious to make it go. He is made up from the right kind of stuff and is foremost in defending the rights of his people in the new State. He is a spiritual preacher and a business man. It is a good thing when you can find these two things combined in one preacher. I am impressed with his ability as a pastor, and I do not know a man in the whole

Continued on page 6, column 3

Wendell Phillips School Presented Portrait

Boston, Mar. 15 — The Wendell Phillips school has been presented a handsome portrait of the man for whom the school was named. The painting was the work of Cloyd L. Boykin, who came to this city with the hope of getting an art education. He is a native of Virginia and a graduate of Hampton Institute.

Cornelius McKane, clergyman, linguist, physician, orator, and scholar, is dead here after a year's illness. He was born in British Guiana and was educated at the College of the City of New York, the medical school of the University of Vermont and other institutions. He served as assistant secretary of the Treasury.

William L. Reed, messenger to Goernor Foss, bore a message from his chief to the legislature a few days ago. It was the first time a colored man has ever carried a Governor's message in this State.

URGED TO STAND BY ROOSEVELT

Bishops and Ministers Sign Petition Denouncing Taft's Policy Toward The Negro

Washington, Mar. 14—Declaring that Taft's Southern policy unfair and urging the colored voters to stand by Colonel Roosevelt was the burden of a petition signed by five bishops and about 25 ministers of all denominations, which was made public at the local Roosevelt headquarters yesterday.

The petition describes Taft's Southern policy as the "most cruel and degrading blow ever delivered against the Negro by any President. It was cruel because the Negro helped to elect him, and it was degrading because it struck down the Negro leaders all over the South and left them without power.

"The man who made William Howard Taft" says the petition, "is now a receptive candidate for the Presidency and it should now be the bounden duty of very Negro voter to lift his voice in behalf of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt."

Speaking of the petition, Senator Dixon, who is in charge of the Roosevelt heaqduarters, said:

"If these bishops and ministers are correct in their signed statement that 'the colored voters will not support Mr. Taft if he is nominated,' it means the certain loss of the 15 electoral votes in Indiana, 29 in Illinios, 18 in Missouri, 3 in Deleware, 8 in West Virignia, 24 in Ohio, 10 in Kansas, and 8 in Maryland. With the elimination of these 115 electoral votes, the nomination of Taft would mean political suicide."

The bishops who signed the document were: Bishops George W. Clinton, A. J. Warner, J. S. Caldwell, G. L. Blackwell, all of the A. M. E. Zion Church, and Evans Tyree, of the A. M. E. Church.

Split In The Republican Machine

New Orleans, Mar. 15—The entrance of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt in the presidential race has split the Republican machine. National Committeeman Parlee Wright is among those who have declared for Taft, while Walter L. Cohen, who rceently lost his job as head of the Land Office, is out for Roosevelt along with others. Rev. Charles M Melden has been installed as president of New Orleans University.