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BALTIMORE, APRIL 6, 1912

TAFT'S SOUTHERN POLICY

It is difficult to follow out the ramifications of President Taft's wicked Southern policy. It is a noteworthy fact, that when a Northern white man "falls from grace" and adopts the Southern Bourbon contention against the colored race, he usually sets out to "out-Herod Herod." He can always be depended upon and in most cases does go the Southern man one better in his exhibition of race prejudice. This has been conspicuously true of President Taft. The few weeks he spent at Augusta just prior to his inauguration were apparently successfully used by his Southern hosts to inoculate him with their peculiar political virus. And it took! President Taft came to Washington prepared not only to exhibit the grossest ingratitude to the colored men of the South who had really nominated him, but he was actually prepared to betray the whole race whose votes elected him; and he was further fully determined to violate openly, want only, the party pledges made in the platform of 1908, upon which he was elected and to which he was most solemnly pledged. He threw the colored Southern delegates to Chicago down with a callousness that has not been equaled since Hayes surrendered the colored people of the South to the Klu Klux clan. He destroyed the last lingering semblance of a possession of political existence enjoyed by the colored Republicans of the South with as little compunction and with no more ceremony than a cat destroys a mouse. President Taft not only recognized no claims upon him, acknowledged no debt to the black delegates who nominated him, but he sought from among the unreconstructed Democrats of the South the material, in many cases, from which to fill the offices in the Southern States. And then as if "to rub it in" when the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States died instead of promoting the logical candidate to that office in the person of that great defender of human rights—the late John M. Harlan—who, it is whispered, died of a broken heart on account of having been rejected for the well-merited and well-earned promotion to the Chief Justiceship which would have fittingly rounded out his long and honorable career on the Supreme bench—he elevated to this high position a Democrat and ex-Confederate, apparently not satisfied with his former record of unfriendliness to the colored people, shown in the appointment of two Southern Democrats as Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, thus assuring for many years to come a court whose predilections would be against us upon any Southern issue. There can be no hope of favorable action from the Supreme Court as at present constituted upon any of the great questions affecting our civil and political rights.

One of the most uncalled for and unnecessary features of President Taft's Southern Policy was shown in his instructions with regard to the taking of the census. The equivocal position of the Southern people in their every day dealing with us would be ludicrous if they did not work such hardships upon us. They insist upon segregation and jim-crow laws and yet many of the most zealous advocates of these most vicious doctrines are head of colored families. The Southern white man will travel in the same seat of the car with his colored employee, but will insist upon the ejection of the very same colored person if he happens to be otherwise independent of him. He will accept his mail from his colored butler, but should the same butler afterward become a mail carrier, he will refuse to accept his mail from him. He will eat what a colored cook prepares but will not eat with him. This list to ridiculous contradictions might be elaborated indefinitely. President Taft during his sojourn in the South discovered these beautiful traits of Southern character and in a consuming desire to win the favor of the South which has seemed to dominate him ever since that visit, when the time came to arrange for the enumeration for the census he proceeded to "out-Herod Herod" by giving the here-to-fore unheard of instruction that colored enumerators should count only colored people! This is the worst blow that has ever struck us. By this policy the President has set the seal of presidential approval upon its Southern contention for segregation—a most unjust, un-American and unholy theory—and he has done this notwithstanding the fact that he was elected pledged to give "exact justice to all men without regard to race or color."

For years since the war the census has been taken by colored and white enumerators and no one ever thought of suggesting such a separation for this work. Even if it has been suggested the utter wantonness of such a course has not allowed any former President—not even Hayes—to adopt it as a policy. If he felt the obligation which his party placed upon him to see that "exact justice without regard to race or color" was done to all men and particularly to those men without whose votes he could never have been the President, President Taft would not have done this unholy thing.

If the theory of our government is right and if the Republican party plank means what it says, there could have been no more reason for the appointment of colored enumerators to count the colored people only than for the appointment of German enumerators to count only the Germans, or Jewish enumerators to count Jews only.

This thought is the Southern race propoganda. The Southerners are assiduous and untiring in its dissemination. Taft was among them at the psychological moment and became infected. The pestilential disease developed in him so rapidly and so effectively that he forgot the black friends who made him a presidential possibility; forgot the black citizens whose votes elevated him to his high office; forgot the principles of the great Republican party—the party of freedom, justice, and fair play—forgot the republican platform upon which he was elected and especially the plank guaranteeing "exact justice to all men without regard to race or color;" forgot everything except his feverish desire to please his Southern hosts even though it meant being ungrateful and unfaithful to us and recreant to the sacred trust imposed upon him by our party.

GRAND LARCENY OF CIVIC RIGHTS

Now that the Legislature has adjournd, and the great agony is a thng of the past, let us thank Providence that is is no worse than it is it us

We would like to have a serious word with the thinking and decent men of both of the political parties, but especially do we invite the attention of the Governor of Maryland. According to the constitution of our country, Negroes are included in "the sovereign people." They are a part of the State. The theory of the supreme law of the state is "the people," neither white nor black, but simply the people. Yet. it is a FACT, and not a theory, that colored citizens irrespective of virtue or other qualifications, are systematically treated as though they were outside of "the people' of the state. And, all this by high-minded and intelligent men of the "superior" race claiming enlightenment in their consciences. It matters not if we take service on jury, on the police force, the fire department, and the various offices whether municipal or state, without any warrant of law, except it be that "might makes right,' we are absolutely left out and ignored as though we had no existence. This is bad enough, but does not stop here. One might reasonably imagine that being left out of count in all of the above items, that for the sake of decency alone, there would be some disposition, upon the part of the ruling classes, to at least make generous provision for our education and charitable needs. But, even here we are but the "poor Lazarus lying at the gate of the rich man, desiring to be fed with the crumbs" from the table.

Out of over a half million dollars of the public money voted to chatable and educational institutons of the state, the pitful sum of about twenty thousand dollars goes for the help of the entire Negro race in the state. The educational advantages offered the race in the several counties are perfectly shameful. And, yet, white Republicans are elected to the state Legislature by Negro votes, and they are ashamed to rise in their seats and plead for a "square deal" on behalf of their black constituents. What are we going to do about it? Well, if we are to have genuine "primaries" something can be done. Under the "boss" system almost nothing can be done. We have been too timid. We have been more disposed to help secure victories for the Republican party, than to secure the election of fair-minded men who are disposed to assist in the amelioration of the unjust condition into which we are forced. If a colored man has character, intelligence, and is ready to submit his case of qualifications to any fair-minded set of men, why should he esteem himself as unfit to serve his city or state in civil affairs, solely because of the color of his skin? There ought to be in this city a sufficent number of self-respecting colored men who will persistently and consistently refuse to vote for any man, Republican or Democrat, who will not grant the Negro a "square deal."

We do not claim to be better than white men, but the claim is made that our citizenship rests upon the very same basis upon whch theirs rests. Why should we not be treated by the same measurement as applied to them?

Colored men have to pay the same rates as white men pay. During the next two years, every Negro in the state of Maryland who is a tax-payer will pay each year a certain amount for the new Johns Hopkins Technical School and the new State Normal School, designed, contrary to law for the exclusive use of persons of one race only. The money of the whole people of the State is appropriated for the use of institutions which do not render a service to the whole state. Negroes are forced to pay money for such institutions, when it is well know that the only possible connection which they may sustain towards them is that of janitors or charwomen. It would not be polite to term it highway robery but the fact remains that we are unjustly deprived of our rights of citizenship by a public sentiment which claims to have behind it the influence of the followers of the Man above all others who made no distinction of race or class but who unhesitatingly threw the weight of his influence on the side of the suffering and despised ones. If we make no effort to cover what is our own, then, possibly, we give the best evidence that we are not men in the same sense as those whose leader cried out "Give me Liberty or give me Death."

A is a white man and B is a colored man. Both are citizens of Maryland. The State has erected a State Normal School. A and B both must pay the stipulated sum towards its support prescribed by the supreme authority in the State. But A may send his daughter to that institution; and yet, B is forbidden to send his daughter, although he is as much a citizen as A and pays the same tax. This is even handed, "justice." B's daughter needs the benefits provided by the State as much as does the daughter of A and yet, because the daughter of B is black she can not receive those benefits, although her father must pay the tax towards a State institution. Let some of our white republican spell-binders elucidate the "justice" of the matter; or else, let them feel ashamed to talk about equality of rights when they know they do not believe one word they say. There was a good deal of truth in what the old colored brother said when he prayed: "The wind may blow, and the acorns may fall, but the white man's hog will get them all."

THE INDEPENDENT AND BR'ER DAVIS

Angered by the criticism made by the Afro-American Ledger and the New York Age on an alleged utterance made by Hon. Henry Lincoln Johnson before the recent Georgia State Convention, the Atlanta Independent proceeds to let the world know how the criticism is abhorred by it.

The alleged utterance that the Afro-American Ledger criticised, was first published in the Atlanta Constitution, and since Mr. Johnson has himself contradicted it, we cheerfully accept his version.

Mr. Johnson charges that the Atlanta Constitution always misrepresents him, and as the friend of Mr. Johnson, the editor of the Atlanta Independent should have been the first man to brand the report that appeared in the Constitution as essentially false. Instead he allows the country to think that the Constitution's report was correct, and when race papers, miles away, proceed to criticise the alleged utterance, Editor Ben Davis begins to rave. He does not criticise the Constitution, as its publisher, Clark Howell, is a white man.

We have been watching the so-called constructive policies, likewise the destructive ones of the Atlanta Independent for many moons and find that the Independent has more grouches than the Boston Guardian. With this difference, however: Editor Trotter is fighting for what he believes will deliver the race from unequal and unfair condition, while Ben Davis in effect condones the wrong treatment of race, when it does not affect the interests of the editor of the Atlanta Independent.

We remember that just a fortnight ago, the Independent applauded the sentencing of Editor White to the chain gang because the Georgia Broadaxe published a story that had been clipped from a Chicago paper. Ben Davis would have all colored papers throttled in speaking against race conditions, except the Independent, of course, but he would permit the white press of Georgia to say all manner of mean things about the race, and many of which do not contain the truth, for which Editor White has been imprisoned.

The Afro-American Ledger believes in constructive leadership, and is not much concerned as to who leads, just so the work is done creditably. It has no hostility to Henry Lincoln Johnson, but, on the contrary, wishes him every success, and when Mr. Johnson does a nything to help the race it stands ready to chronicle that fact.

We remember that it was Mr. Johnson who saved Editor White from being lynched when Editor Davis did not bestire himself and recommend to the editor of the Atlanta Independent that in taking up the cudgels for the Recorder of Deeds he should at least be ready to have the broad sympathies and a manly toleration for others that hundreds of Mr. Johnson's friends claim are among his strong points.

EASTER

Sentiment and feeling both combine to make this one of the most joyous of Christian festivals. Easter season brings us to the conquering climax of the earth pilgrimage of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of men.

With the wise men we traveled from the East with weary feet, and with the shepherds, we heard the angel song over Bethlehem as they sang their universal song of peace and good will; then in the manger knelt and worshipped the young King. Then through weary years, we followed Him o'er hill and plain, until He came to Calvary's brow and there gave up His life to redeem the world.

Today, the cross on which the Master hung and cried, "Eli Eli lama sabachthani," is gone. More than that, Joseph's tomb, where loving hands laid Him, and Roman sentinels stood guard, is empty. All the world is astir today on account of the gladness heralded by Mary, as she carried the angelic message: "He is not here, He is risen as He said."

Like the foot travelers on the day to Emmans, Christian men and women have walked by faith with the risen Lord, and their hearts have burned as they talked with Him by the way. The hurrying feet of the women, who left the empty tomb that they might bear the news to the desciples, are still going through the earth and the glad joy of Easter fills all lands today. With this conquering truth of Easter, the disciples of Jesus have filled the earth, until from "Africa's sunny fountains and Judia's coral strand," the heralds of the cross are singing:

"All hail the power of Jesus' name,
Let angels prostrate fall."

Until Jesus arose and flashed a new light on the finals of life, men stood before death hopeless. The dead man as a shattered pillar; a ship gone to pieces; a race lost; a harp with broken strings, with all its music lost; a flower bud crushed with all its fragrance in it. Such were the utterances of the grief of men as they stood face to face with death. Not until Jesus came, yea, not until with conquering triumph, He walked out of Joseph's tomb did man begin to see that death is the gateway to life. So Easter joys are dashing the earth with light and the long night is radiant, and hope is streaming everywhere.

Today, we stand by the graves of our dead, not as of old, but with a new hope. We shall see them again is the old, old message that still runs on from the grave of Lazarus, where Jesus gave him back to the loving embrace of friends. So from the tomb, to all the living will come some day, all the dead of the past, "for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised." "Then we which are alive and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

A Pretty Wedding

Danville, Va., April 4 — Miss Mary H. Lawson, a teacher in the public schools, and Rev. S. S. Morris, pastor of the Third Street A. M. E. Church, Richmond, Va., were the principals in a fashionable wedding here today. The ceremony was performed by Bishop Levi J. Coppin, assisted by Revs. W. E. Spratley and A. A. Gavin.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Madison Lawson, and was educated in the local public schools and the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute. The groom is a native of the Tidewater section of the State, and was educated at Morris Brown College and Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Ga. He is a trustee of Kittrell College, and is one of the delegates from the Virginia Conference to the A. M. E. General Conference.

Thanksgiving Sermon To The Knights Of Pythias

Atlanta, Ga., Mar. 28—The annual thanksgiving sermon to the Knights of Pythias was preached here Sunday by Rev. W. A. Fountain, president of Morris Brown College. Over 3,000 members of the order and friends heard the sermon.

Dr. and Mrs. I. Garland Penn gave a birthday party recently in honor of their daughter, Miss Georgia, who is a senior at Clark University. The reception was largely attended.

Salisbury, Md., April 6—Ministers and laymen from the northern part of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, and a part of Pennsylvania are here attending the Delaware M. E. Conference.

A number of those holding prominent offices in the church have delivered addesses. The election of clerical and lay delegates to the M. E. General Conference took place today. Miss Ida R. Cummings, of Baltimore, will be one of the speakers at the annual meeting of the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society tomorrow. The ordination of deacons and elders will take place Monday night.

Tendered A Surprise

Mt. Friendship, Del., April 3—Rev. M. E. Hazzard Barrett, wife of Mr. Clarence Barrett, and her brother are visiting relatives in Richmond, Va. A surprise social was tendered them by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Briscoe a few evenings ago.

A successful rally has just closed at Bethel A. M. E. Church.

Delaware Conference In Session

Crisfield, April 2—The company of ladies and gentlemen, known as the Somerset Wanderers, gave a musical concert at Pocomoke City for the benefit of Rev. J. S. Collins' church on March 25. They realized $40.00. The concert was highly appreciated and largely attended.

A company of ladies gave an entertainment at the Odd Fellows Hall Monday night and it was largely attended.

Mr. Geo. Baily preached at Hopewell for Rev. Adams Sunday evening.

Mrs. Rose Collins an aged lady died here at the home of her son, Chas. Collins, on S. 4th street, and was taken to her former home, in Fairmount, Md., for burial.

George H. White A Candidate

Philadelphia, April 4 Hon. George H. White, who was a Congressman from North Carolina from 1896 to 1900, has announced his candidacy as a successor to the late Congressman H. H. Bingham. He was active in North Caolina politics for years, and was the last man of the race to serve in Congress. He has been practicing law in this city for the last ten years, and is president of the People's Bank, located at 1508 Lombard street.

I SAW her once—repentant Magdalene—
As Titian's art portrayed her to the gaze,
Her face so beautiful, uplit by sheen
Of golden tintings from the sun's first rays.

She knelt before the risen Christ, her face,
Rapt, pure and passionless, to his upturned
In love and worship, which removed all trace
Of what she suffered when He was inurned.

He stood before her, with His brow thorn-scarred,
And smiled upon her as she humbly knelt,
But with restraining words and gesture barred
The full expression of the joy she felt.

To her alone the privilege was given
To see Him first, the joyous tidings bring
To His grieved brethren that He had arisen,
Which changed their dolor to the songs of spring.

Through all the years since that first Easter morn
A brighter hope has cheered the human soul,
And death no longer marks our farthest bourn
Since Christ arose and passed from its control.