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BALTIMORE, APRIL 20, 1912

A VERY SAD AFFAIR WITH AN IMPORTANT LESSON.

The Almighty owns the ocean as well as the earth. He is not interested in the increase of millionaires, so much as He is in the increase of righteousness and the well being of the poor of the earth, equally the objects of His love as are the "rich." In the going down of that great big ship we see both the littleness and greatness of man. All that man has been able to accomplish in art, in wonderful construction, and in the laying up of treasure upon earth, of itself proves that way behind all of this is a powerful God supreme in authority. And, yet, with all of man's greatness, behold his littleness as he sinks in mid-ocean with all of his stuff unable to protect or save himself. The ways of the Almighty are past finding out. We must bow in submission to Him, willingly or unwillingly. One clear and unmistakable lesson from the sad tragedy is to turn the thoughts of man Godward more than earthward. The work of all work to be wrought upon the earth is Righteousness, the lifting up of those who are down, and the magnifying of God upon the earth. The Almighty is not mocked, and e'en though it be a "cross" that raises us, yet the eternal decree is "Nearer My God to Thee." Nothing but profound sorrow should energise the breasts of mankind the world over in view of the awful calamity. At the same time, all should be quick to draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to them.

"THEODORE"—THE GIFT OF GOD

Yes, there is something in a name. Theodore means gift of God and while all human beings, are, in a general sense, gifts of God, yes there are those who in special sense evidence the fact that they have been raised up for some specific mission. In a study of the life and character of Theodore Roosevelt long with a study of the times in which he lives, the conclusion seems irressistible that he in a peculiar sense is a gift of the Almigty to render a special and most helpfull service to the American people. In the light of present conditions, with the increase and abuse of wealth, and the hard industrial conditions which operate so disadvantageously towards the great mass of human beings, the one great need, in State, is a strong, powerful, and determinate personality, dominated with one supreme desire of yielding the higest and most efficient service to the whole country by laying down, and enforcing, the fundamental principles of honesty and square dealing in the administration of public affairs. The late popular uprisings in Illinois and Pennsylvania tell the story how that Theodore Roosevelt has endeared himself to the people of this country, and how anxious they are should become their chief magistrate, and administer the things which concern them and all the people of the country. They have seen him, in all the walks of life, with his splendid abilities, a simple, earnest Christian man believing in God with his whole heart, and by His help determined to freely and faithfully serve the interests of all the people of the land. Roosevelt is an extraordinary gift of God for extraordinary conditions, and the American people seem to recognize the guiding of Providence in this matter.

THE BALTIMORE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The annual session of the Baltimore Conference of the African Methodist Church is being held in this city in Bethel Church This body sustains a most peculiar relation to the colored people of this State. And, in this respect, it is without a rival. It is the only ecclesiastical body of colored people of this State, of any appreciable size or importance, which directly touches and influences the life of the masses of our people. Of course, we are talking about organized bodies made up wholly of the race.

There are colored Raptist Conventions, doubtless, in this State, but their annual meeting has no analogy to that of the Baltimore Annual Conference. The one beautiful thing the African Methodist Episcopal Church has taught the race in this country is the fact, as well as the advantage of a real organization of oneness of administration. There are plenty of criticisms to be made, but no criticism can destroy or impair this pregnant fact. However undevelloped a Methodist parson may be, of this connection, with respect to intellectual affairs, there is one thing which seems indellibly stamped upon his inner consciousness, and that is, the African Methodist Church is ONE thing. The various amounts, small as they may be, for the various interests of the Church, brought to Conference by the several ministers, most beautifully interprets the effectiveness of this oneness. And all this constitutes one of the most important and far reaching contributions made to the general welfare of the entire race. Admitting for the sake of arguments, that many methods are crude, cumbersome, and infelicitous, the fact shines out much the more brilliantly, that in spite of such possible defects, the people of the race are being systematically taught, year by year, that they are ONE body, scattered all over the country, and that each individual little unit must do its part for the good of the whole. A part from a strictly ecclessiastical vewpoint, without doubt, the African Methodist Episcopal Church is the greatest, most powerful, and most hopeful organized body of Negroes in the world. We have not the least doubt but that the Rev. Dr. John Hurst will be elected one of the Bishops at the coming General Conference of the church. In the elevation of such men as Dr. Hurst and Bishop John Albert Johnson to the Episcopate, in view of the exigencies which environ the church, in these times, is to be seen most clearly the hand of Divine Providence. The fact that it is possible to find such men for elevation, which we have mentioned, is exceedingly complimentary to the old veterans who have preceeded them. They built well and wisely. They succeeded in getting together quantity, with no little quality. That this quantity, and quality, may be well directed and made the more efficient for the problems of the race which lie just ahead, Providence, at the right times, seems to discover and lead in to administrative places of leadership the personalities, disciplined and trained for the weightier and keener responsibilities of advanced leadership. In the increasing efficiency and success of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, every intelligent member of the race is profoundly interested.

BLACK AND WHITE.

In another column is a brief communication directing attention to the splendid services rendered the race by certain white clergymen, pastors of congregations composed of colored members. It is a pleasure to bear witness to the fidelity and zeal which have characterized quite a number of white clergymen who have served colored congregations from time to time, in this city. Their work merits all praise, and is fully appreciated by our people. But it is not a question of acceptable service, altogether. It should not be the desire of any congregation of colored persons, of whatever denomiation they may be, to prohibit their own sons from entering the Gospel ministry. If they give their money and influence to maintain a ministry of the other race, by direct implication they confess that their own sons are unfit and unworthy of so high a calling.

But, with respect to one of the denominations mentioned, the condition which enables a white minister to pastor a colored congrgation, connected with a white parish, is fraught with a great deal of mischief,, both to the white as well as to the colored people. As a race, we want every right and privlege in denominations controlled by the whites but we do not seek or should not to create fresh "race problems." Now in the denomination in question where there is a chapel of colored people connected with a white parish the colored people in every respect are just as much full members of that parish as the white people who worship at the parish church. For convenience they worship in separate buildings. But the one rector is rector over both congregations; and what is true of the rector is true of the vestry. There is but one vestry. The colored men of the parish financially qualified have the same right to participate in the election of their vestry as the white men of the same parish. But the colored men refrain from such a participation for there can hardly be any doubt that if they attempted to exercise the right of suffrage in a white parish some way would be speedily found to induce them to follow the example of their brethren who have themselves constituted that they do not have to forego the exercise of any of their ecclesiastical rights. The advantage of such position is the entire congregation is a sphere for racial activity, and at the same time they forego no right or privilege and are cordially admitted into a share of the government of the church. However the race is fortunate in being able to make choice between the two systems.

Every once in a while some great calamity has to befall the people of this world to wake them up to the fact that God still reigns above. And after all is it not their own fault.

Human life is the cheapest thing in this world. In order to cut off a few minutes in railroad travel hundreds of lives are sacrificed. In order to cut off a few hours between two countries, a couple of thousand lives must pay the penalty.

There is an undoubted sentiment in this State for former President Roosevelt, but unless the managers of his party get a much bigger hustle on them, the chances will be against them, it will not do to take too much for granted.

Dr. Lyon's hat is in the ring and he proposes to follow it. He has announced himself as a candidate of the Taft ticket for delegate to the National Convention. We will be much surprised if the good doctor does not make somebody hustle.

The Titanic did not belie its name. The disaster was simply titanic. We are doing big things in these days. Better remember the tower of Babel.

THE FORUM

To the Editor of "The Afro-American Ledger:'

We have in our city not only able and faithful men of our race, as pastors of colored congregations, but we have, at least, two or three white clergymen of the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches, doing splendid service for the well-being of the race. Should we not be broad enough to recognize such good work? Is it not distinctly advantageous to the race that we have such colored congregations pastored by white men?

Observer.

Virginia Conference Meeting At Hampton.

Hampton, Va., April 18 — The Virginia A. M. E. Conference adjourned Monday night with the announcement of the appointments of Bishop Coppin. The following presiding elders were named: Revs. G. D. Jimmerson, Portsmouth district; J. B. Tynes, Richmond district; J. C. Williams, Roanoke district, and Jones. The next annual session will be held at Eastville, Va.

LEADERS MUST GET TOGETHER TO WIN

Too Many Leaders To Make A Succrssful Fight Throughout The State.

The filing of a list of Roosevelt delegates by some of the leading spirits of the Equitable Republican league, a so-called national organization of colored voters, may be responsible for the vote of Maryland being recorded for Taft in the Republican National Convention according to some observers of matters political.

The fact that the Roosevelt organization had already filed a list of delegates for the city and which only allowed the colored voters of the Seventeenth ward representation is given as the excuse for the Equitable League's action. The fact that there will be two sets of Roosevelt delegates in some of the wards contesting for supremacy and a united Taft delegation in all of the wards may rob Mr. Roosevelt of those votes in Maryland's forthcoming Republican State convention that would have have been surely his if no contests had been instituted.

One well known man had the following to say:

"There has been too much blundering already on the part of some of those who purport to be the leaders of the colored people in the local fight for Roosevelt, and already we behold the spectacle of men whose active support of Roosevelt would mean hundreds of votes for the Colonel, but who stand aghast at irresponsible, unthinking, assured and not generally supported leadership on the part of one or two who imagine that with the support of a few well intentioned gentlemen that the national leader of the Roosevelt campaign will not only regard them as the Negro Roosevelt leaders in Maryand, but that the colored people of the city and State will actively rally to their standard.

The issue in the present campaign is not Negro representation in Maryand but President Taft whose administration is not regarded with favor by the masses of the colored people of this country."

Mr. H. E. Macbeth, who has been selected by Senator Dixon to lead the fight among the colored voters of Maryland, says that the additional list of delegates was filed because the colored voters of the city had been practically ignored in the first list. When asked if the additional names would not jeopardize Roosevelt chances in certain wards, he replied that the Equitable League would issue an appeal to all of the colored voters to support their list, and also support the Roosevelt candidates in wards where there were no contests.

The sweeping Roosevelt victories in Illinois and Pensylvania have added hundreds to the Colonel's banner in Maryland, and the Roosevelt headquarters in the Equitable Building, has been invaded by many of the new Rooseveltites. While there is a good prospect for an anti-Taft victory in Maryland, there is some lukewarmness among some of the most prominent men of the race in this city, who while they declare they will support Mr. Roosevelt, say they will not take any active interest unless the men who are well known to the great mass of the race in this city and State and who are thoroughly conversant with conditions are consulted.

Carrington Optismistic.

Colonel Carington, who is leading the Roosevelt fight in this State, says that the lion hunter will surely be nominated. The Taftites are hustling hard to keep the tide running with them, and are now endeavoring to win over some influential colored men.

An insight into the overwhelming sentiment for Roosevelt is indicated in a straw vote that has been taken at Daly's Theatre. Up to the present, Roosevelt has received 1,312 votes, Taft 475, and other candidates a vote which does not total 200. Woodrow Wilson is the only Democrat who has received a vote, his number to date being 96.

Mrs. Josephine Gross, of 407 N. Pine street, and Miss Mamie Thomas, of 1218 St. Paul street, are visiting friends in Washington.

McClain and Crampton, a female comedy team, William Coffey, of Chicago and Leroy, who plays a tramp act, are on the bill at Daly's Theater this week. Mrs. McClain is the wife of William McClain, a well known comedian.

The Other Man

By Tilbur D. Nesbit

"There is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his own works."—Ecclesiastes iii, 22.

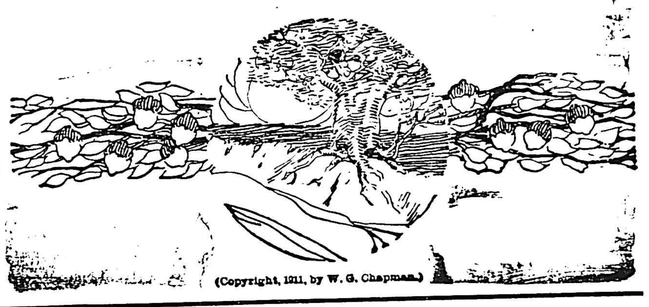
"Who is he that wins success?
Is he one of those who press
On and on from day to day,
Keeping toil's appointed way;
Starting, stopping at the note
From the whistle's iron throat,
Bartering his thought and time
That another man may climb?

"Is it he who may but feel
As a cog in some great wheel
That goes turning, turning on
Heeding not the ones who come
Or the ones worn out and gone—
He whose heart and hands are numb
With the worker's weariness,
For another man's success?"

Who, then, are the men who fall?
Are they he who drives a nail
So that the resisting oak
Knows the certain masterstroke
Or the man who guides the plow
Knowing every why and how;
Or the man whose one thought is
That the work he does is his?

He who makes his work his own
Stands out from the ruck, alone;
Though he dig a ditch, or plan
Streets and structures of a town,
Pale in schools, or gather tan
Where the sun-scorched mountains frown—
Though he has no dream of fame,
On each task he sets his name.

Cogs are cogs, and wheels are wheels,
But the finished work reveals
If the cog its duty found
Or, unhelping, went around.
If the work be fair and fine,
Then he may say: "This is mine"—
Furrowed field or finished plan—
Who, then, is "the other man?"



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A Call to the Ministerial Women Of Baltimore.

As the result of a call to the ministerial women of Baltimore city and vicinty published in the Afro-American Ledger and special invitations sent out by the Rev. Mrs. Jeannette Johns of the A. M. E. Zion Conference, who has been engaged in mission buildng in this city for the past three years under the Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington Conference. A number of ordained women elders, evangelists, and missionary sisters met at 4.20 P. M. April 8, 1912 at the home of Rev. Mrs. J. Johns, 1711 Keyser street and organized what is to be known as the first Ministerial Women's Union of U. S. A. There were remarks and addreses made upon the purpose of the organization, which is to draw the worthy and true women who are in the field working for Christ, closer together and protect and support the same—by the Rev. Mrs. J. Johns, who called us together, Rev. Mrs. Mary L. Harris, Rev. Mrs. Mary E. Silver, one of the pioneer women minsters in the field, who gave us an electrifying address, one of the most enthusastic and inspiring that has ever been delivered by any minister.

White Not In The Fight.

Philadelphia, April 17—Former Congressman George H. White did not enter the primaries to succeed the late H. H. Bingham as a member of Congress from the First Congressional district. Harry W. Bass, of the Seventh ward, was renominated for the Legislature last Saturday by a flattering vote. The Roosevelt victory in this State is well received by the colored residents of the city.

Fairfield Notes.

Fairfield, Md., Aprjl 18—A farewell reception was tendered Rev. J. L. Isles, pastor of the colored M. E. Church. Addresses were delivered by Rev. A. M. Turner, Mrs. E. Hall, L. G. Vallingdingham and J. H. Gillespie. Mrs. Belle Dorsey was chairman of the reception committee and Walter W. Brown, master of ceremonies. A unique program was presented.

The Public School Educational Club, at a meeting last Monday night, decided to run the local public school until the end of May.

Annapolis Personals

Annapolis, Md. April 18—Miss Lillie Colbert has returned home from Cape May.

Mrs. Wm. Frances, of Hagerstown, Md., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. King, of 24 Carroll street.

Miss Evelyn Brice has recently returned from a trip to Washington.

Mrs. Hester Welch, of 27 Bladen street, has returned from an attack of the grippe.

The Cantata of Joseph.

The cantata "Joseph" will be presented at Ames Memorial M. E. Church, Carey and Baker streets, next Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The cast includes some of the best known young men and women in the city, and they have been thoroughly drilled for their respective parts. The music for the evening will be under the direction of Mr. John E. Robinson, Sr. Mrs. Belle Carroll will be the pianist.

The cantata is founded upon the Biblical stories of Joseph. A synopsis follows:

The favored son, Joseph, guards his father's flocks with tender care. The gift of the coat of many colors excites the envy and jealosy of the brethren, who are fixed in their purpose to dispose of Joseph. He is at first cast into a pit—afterwards taken out and sold to the Ismaelites—carried into Egypt and becomes a servant of the court.

The king dreamed a dream which no one, even the magicians can interpret. The king is in dire distress until the released butler tells of the Hebrew servant who is able to disclose the dream. Joseph is called and interprets the dream. As a result he is placed in a high office, second only to the king. The Egyptians are convinced that Jehovah alone is God and render praise to His name.

CARD OF THANKS.

The Board of Managers of the Baptist Orphanage decided at their annual meeting to take this method to thank their many friends, pastors, churches, Empty Stocking and Fresh Air Circle, the Calendar Embroidery Club, all organizations and the public at large for their liberal donations and all favors shown them and their little ones during the year.

We thank alll in advance for the continuance of the same.