THE AFRO-AMERICAN

An Independent Weekly Newspaper

A Champion of Civic Welfare and the Square Deal

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JOHN H. MURPHY, Sr., Editor and Publisher, 1896-1922. CARL MURPHY, Pres. D. ARNETT MURPHY, Treas.

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What The "AFRO" Stands For

1. Colored policemen, policewomen and firemen.
2. Colored representatives on city, county and State Boards of Education.
3. Equal salaries for equal work for school teachers without regard to color or sex.
4. Colored members on Board of State Institutions where inmates are colored.
5. The organization of labor unions among all groups of colored workers.
6. A university and agricultural college for colored people supported by the State.
7. Closer co-operation between farmers and the State and Federal Farm Agents.

THOUGHTS OF THE FOUNDER

July 11, 1910.

There is plenty of newspaper discussion going on as to whether or not Mr. Booker T. Washing is a part owner of the New York Age.

L. M. Hershaw says that Mr. Washington is a part owner and in his issue of the "Horizon", recently, quoted the following extracts from a letter by T. Thomas Fortune to the "Indianapolis Freeman" in the fall of 1907:

"When I sold my 1,250 shares of stock to Fred Moore last September, and took his paper in payment for most of it Jerome B. Peterson owned 1,250 and Booker T. Washington owned 950 shares, Emmett J. Scott being stockholder of records, the shares being of the par value of $10. A few shares of the total capitilization were held by other parties, mostly friends of Mr. Washington."

The "Age", by way of replying, characterized Mr. Hershaw's letter as a "scuttle lie" and added that Mr. Washington is not now a stockholder and the "Age" is not his "personal organ."

J. H. Murphy

One Drop

One drop of known colored blood in an individual would have stamped him as colored if the Price bill had passed the Virginia legislature this week.

The measure was passed by the lower house but was voted down in the Senate Monday. It was aimed at some 5000 Indians in whose veins flows some colored blood by reason of the fact that colored men intermarried with that tribe the red men before the civil war.

In recent years, these red folk have attended white churches, schools and their associations have been white. The Price bill would have compelled them to attend colored schools and churches.

What is important in this case is not whether some 5,000 Indians of mixed blood are ruled colored or white, but Virginia's high regard for the potency of Negro blood. One bird doesn't make spring. One drop of rain doesn't make a storm, but Virginia proposed to have one drop of blood change a 200 pound Indian buck from an Indian to a Negro.

Jimmy Walker Sober

Mayor "Jimmy" Walker of New York, sober add on the "water wagon" according to his own admission made an address at the formal opening of Harlem's newest theater, The Princess which presented "Meek Moses" last week.

Said the sober city executive, "New York is a city where men are measured by their achievements and not by their color.".

In Paris and Rome last summer, Mayor Jimmy objected to colored folk and white dancing together in cabarets.

Can it be that the Mayor of the world's greatest city is willing to drop the color line at home and pick it up abroad or wasn't he sober when he visited those foreign cabarets?

300 Not Enough Either

"Uncle Tom" Heflin, democratic senator from Alabama has introduced in congress a bill to give each senator 300 free copies of the Congressional Record instead of the 88 free copies at present allotted.

"Uncle Tom" has some 200,000 voters down in Alabama to provide for. Senator Copeland (Rep. of New York) has 14 times as many possible constituents and so far as known he has made no request for an increase in allotment of free Congressional Records. But then Senator Copeland hasn't attacked the Catholic Church as has "Uncle Tommie" Heflin.

Catholic Clergy numbering 24,990, and Catholic Communicants 19,483,000 strong are swinging on Mr. Heflin's coat tails. They are backed by the race press of the entire country. The Ku Klux affiliations of Uncle Tom haven't saved him frfom nation-wide abuse, ridicule and contempt.

In his dilemna, he seeks to fight back thru the Congressional Record. However 300 or 3,000 records can't save "Uncle Tom" when he's wrong. Frequent doses of race and religious toleration might, if he isn't too old and callous to absorb it.

We Run Everything

On another page in the AFRO this week Dr. L. K. Williams, president of the National Baptist Convention, is quoted as follows.

"Baptists run everything in the way we want to run it," and we do not let it run unless it runs like we want to run it."

It seems strange that in these days when men are talking federation, unification and co-operation in the Christian church as never before, anyone should seek to continue old discords and bittrness.

Dr. George F. Bragg speaking before the A. M. E. Preachers' Meeting Monday, declared "there is but one church and that is the church of Jesus Christ."

This is not the first blunder by Dr. Williams as head of a great religious group. His attacks upon Miss Nannie Burroughs and the National Training School at Washington are another indication of how far wrong a good man can go in a bad cause.

40 Acres And A Mule

Duty of the federal government to maintain special schools for colored people, while it may not do so for other groups except Indians, is pointed out by Rep. Daniel A. Reed, (Rep. Penna.) in Congress this week.

Said he,

"The obligation in favor of the Negro race would seem to be even stronger than in the case of the Indian. The Negro was not robbed of his land as was the Indian, but he was seized by force and brought unwillingly to a strange couhtry, where for generations he was the slave of the white man, and where, as a race, he has since been compelled to eke out a meagre and precarious existence."

Abraham Lincoln turned down the plan of Charles Sumner and General Butler to divide certain southern plantations into homesteads for freedom. Expectancy of slaves that the government would stake them to 40 acres and a mule, never materialized. These one time chattels were set free without a penny in many cases to sink or swim.

Today Congress appropriates $200,000,000 for Indians and employs some 4,000 workers to administer the funds of 354,940 red men.

No one demands that Congress should do as well by colored folk now, having failed 60 years ago, but continued and increasing appropriations to Howard University are evidence that Congress is aware of the nation's obliga-

Shenandoah Valley

By LEWIS K. McMILLAN

A trip through the Shenandoah Valley is a resort to the very heart of nature. If heaven comes to earth anywhere, it is here. The (appreciative) Indian gave the river its name—Shenandoah: "Daughter of the Stars"—which came to the name also of the valley.

In the Shenandoah Valley there are signs of countless years of activity—intense and varied; numerous caverns, including one whose end has never been found; a natural bridge, chiselled out of stubborn stone by tireless persistent waters,—waters that have vanished now, leaving only a quiet little stream some seventy feet beneath; hills mountains, valleys, all sorts of stones, brooklets, streams, rivers, fertility, barrenness. Nature has ben at work for a long time in the Shenandoah.

Valley Of Many Battles

Though departing from the spirit of nature, men have been very active the few years that they have lived in the valley. The quiet life hunting, fishing, farming, dreaming, picnicing. But immediat.ly upon the arrival of CIVILIZATION war commenced; within a little more than a century four major wars and numberless scrimmages were fought, in the effort to establish SUPREMACY. The "brave, liberty-loving" American Colonists disputed with the comparatively defenseless Indians. The superior white man, true to form, took care to have the more deadly weapons. And on they fought: imperialistic England against France, with the Indian as a means to an end; the revolting colonists against their mother; the internal American struggle; John Brown's feat at Harper's Ferry and his fate at Charlestown; Sheridan and Jackson contended bitterly around Winchester.

The town changed hands seventy odd times in the war—four times in one day. Jackson was killed in the valley. Lee died at Lexington. Woodrow Wilson was born at Staunton. Men have been very active the few years that they have lived in the Shenandoah.

Selling Nature

What a strange condition one finds in the Shenandoah: at one and the same time one sees openly revealed the heart of nature—spiritual, kind, generous, impartial,—and the heart of Western Civilization—materialistic, cruel, narrow, clannish.

To see the marvellous caverns or the Natural Bridge it is necessary to pay the price of a good show in New York. These objects of beauty are fenced in by men who get rich on the policy of taking from creation what was intended for the comfort and the making of all. "June may be had by the poorest comer." Nor can sundises and sunsets be fenced in by lazy money-makers. The rich symphony of the wonderful variety in the Shenandoah continues in the face of all perversions.

Winchester

Here one finds the DOMINANT race taking all its share and practically all of ours in the name of progress. In these parts and the jim crow school is in its full bloom. The powerful influence and the preponderance in nu.bers of the opposition to freedom make John Brown still look ridiculous.

Winchester, just thirty-two miles from Harper's Ferry, has abodt the best public high school building in Virginia for white children. Negor children have been provided wth a NEW elementary building—a wood work shop, cooking and a few courses in high school.

Harrisburg

Harrisonburg, fifty miles south, has the only public high school in the state which is recognized by the New York Board of Regents. The town is now erecting a new building costing $400,000. Half of the project will be completed by next fall. For the Negroes there is an old building, crowded conditions, teachers having to teach everything, a junior high schol. With a polulation of only seven thousand five hundred, the expense of the white school will eat up all tax funds for many years.

Staunton

Staunton's quatrer of a million high school sits on a hill opposite the few thousand dollar school for colored children. Besides, the Negro patrons had to buy the laboratory equipment for their PUBLIC school, although they are denied the paying jobs in the city.

Lexington

Lexington has a population of three thousand five hundred, at least a third of whom are classed as Negroes by the State Assembly. The town has recently completed the first public school building for Negroes in its eventful history. Seven grades are taught in the school, each room having two classes. A new PUBLIC high school, and three elementary schools constitute the share of the ruling whites.

Private white schools—Colleges and preps,—among the most exclusive in the South—are distributed from one end of the Shenandoah to the other. Swanson and Glass are having their day—their hey day. The vicious circle of ignorance among Negroes will remain unbroken a long time yet.

Missionaries

Many of the relics of anti-bellum times, physical and spiritual, are still seen in the Shenandoah Valley; a most interesting and pathetic relic is the rather large group of poor, ignorant, spiritless whites. In the very Athens of the state and South, Lexington, there are scores of white people who are in a far worse condition than the PRIMITIVE Indians. They care nothing about themselves, the "blooded" whites care less about them still. Caste-wild India would be justified in sending missionaries into the valley—surely as much justified as the rank, prejudiced in Southland in sending converts to that contry.

The bus had stopped at a little town up the valley, and one of thes low caste whites was displaying his supply of morning papers. Some one on the outside called out, "Say, when are you going to shave?" The reply came, "When I git ready." Well, every body had a big laugh. A little later another person asked, "Why don' you shave?" The answer, "I don ned to." Maybe he had shaved for Thanksgiving.

Guides

I met two interesting Negro guides, one at the Lee Memorial and the other at the Natural Bridge. The former is in charge at the museum and is interesting because of his intelligence and devotion to the spirit of the General. To him his work is more than a job—although a man without much formal schooling.

The guide at Natural Bridge is trained in the art of fooling foolish people. The "Lace Falls", the "lost River", the "Saltpeter Cave", afford but little interest in themselves. They might well be likened to attractively named side shows where the name is all. The guide in question is able to make many tourists think that they have really seen something. It was not enough for him to point out the stone on which George Washington, the surveyor, carved his initials and the ground, as being the indication that Washington was the first man to discover the bridge. Forgetting the centuries' trampings of the Indians, his simple believing class went on to learn more about American history.

Capitol Invited

The little towns in the Shenandoah are mad in the effort to induce foreign capital to come in. Such inducements as unorganized labor, with low standards of living, native born whites, good schools, are published.

The natural scenery of the valley is described in floods of printed matter that is sent all over the country. Secretary of Interior Work was speaking quite above the heads of Virgians when he urged the state to agree to the Shenandoah National Park project, because the people need much of the beautiful to make their lives mean for most. It is the outsider with the money for whom these efforts are made, and not the native who is always in the midst of a veritable Garden of Eden.

What was merely a figure in Genesis' Eden may yet become a literal fact in Virginia's Shenandoah; because bad things go on here in this region of free choice.

"DE BITTAH AN' DE SWEET"
By W. M. DAVIS

When eb'ryting am wo'kin' smoove,
Den life jis' caint be beat;
But we'y few ob us can tek
De bittah wif de sweet.

We tek a rosy view ob life,
An' eb'ry t'ing we meet;
'Till we fin' out we hafter tek
De bittah wif de sweet.

An' den a mighty struggle 'gins;
We lie, we steal, we cheat,
To keep 'rom tekin' ouah share of
De bittah wif de sweet.

So why not tek it easy den,
We're sure to meet defeat;
If we jis' try to separate
De bittar fo'm de sweet.

Atlantic City.

Afro Readers Say

Readers may write on any subject they like. Usually 150 words are enough. Beyond that expect the editor's blue pencil. "Reading maketh a ready man, writing an exact man." Sign name as evidence of good faith, it will not be published if you so desire.

Salvation Of America Comes Only Through Justice.

To the Editor:

I demand of my intolerent country the right to earn my bread and retain my citizenship. I feel it a patriotic duty to thunder against her every sin for only through justice can she see salvation.

NEVAL H. THOMAS,
Washington, D. C.

Bible Not An Elinor Glynn Love Story And This Writer Thinks Mr. Blair Might Make Better Use Of His Writing Ability.

To the Editor:—

I have been reading with much interest the so-called Biblical contradictions by Mr. J. C. Blair. I should think that he might use his time to far more advantage than trying to reduce the influence of the Bible. Regardless of the so-called self-contradictions, it has never been the real cause of anyone being misled.

Mr. Blair's attempt to benumb the minds of those who are struggling to find the light of righteousness is both selfish and shallow. The Bible is not an Elinor Glynn love story and, if it is not studied and interpreted in a spiritual sense, it cannot be wholly understood.

I would suggest that Mr. Blair use his ability to write in publishing something on health, politics or worldly amusement, but keep off the Bible, for God's words are "quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword."

Johnnie Williams.
Washington, D. C.

But Won't The South Nullify Such Uniform Marriage And Divorce Law As Senator Curtis Proposes Just As It Has The 14th And 15th Amendments?

To the Editor:—

Senator Curtis, of Presidential aspirations, proposes uniform marriage and divorce laws.

In all the southern states, and some of the northern, there are statutes forbidding intermarraige of whites and Negroes. Such statutes are unilateral in that they operate solely in favor of the amorous Caucasian who is not averse by any means, to have a nocturnal affaire d'ameur with a woman slightly different ethnologically.

The thousands of mulattoes present evidence that not a few individuals have crossed over. Now, there is nothing particularly wrong in that except for the fact that the poor mother and, even more so, the children have to suffer because the father is able to evade the responsibilities of fatherhood. If the Congress proposes to outlaw such statutes, thus providing means whereby the white culprit can be forced to marry and support any woman that he outrages, then, well and good.

But, can any assurance be given that the legislation of the Congress will be considered mandatory? Will not those who oppose certain sections find ways of nullification? Most assuredly, there is no pretense of observing the fourteenth and the fifteenth amendments in the South.

Lee Lellinor,
Chicago, Ill.

His Hat Off To Heflin Whose Chief Fame Is He's From The Tuskegee District Of Alabama And Shot A Colored Man On A Street Car.

To the Editor:

Senator Heflin has resumed his routine denunciation of Governor Smith and the Roman Church. To our surprise the democratic party in the Senate has been thrown into a panic. Such advocates of human rights and exponents of the cause of free men as Robinson of Arkansas and Glass of Virginia have become suddenly shocked by the religious bigotry of the senator from Alabama although for twenty years Mr. Heflin's record has been an open book to these men and they have heretofore glorified in such service as he has rendered the democratic party.

Indeed Mr. Heflin was merely a typical backwoodsman chiefly known for being the representative of the Tuskegee district in Congress when he shot a Negro in a Washington street car and won undying fame from the very many men who now rise to repudiate him. It was largely on such a record that Mr. Heflin was elevated by his state to his present seat in the Senate.

When will the white press, also alarmed, learn to attach the same importance to all racial attacks and place the same emphasis on all religious persecutions? And when will the groups now assailed realize that prejudice is a thing to be attacked at its roots?

Yes, we take off our hats to Tom Heflin. May his tribe increase. We glory in the democratic discomfiture. Of the lion and the fox our favor is with the lion always.

T. C. WILLIAMS,
Brooklyn, N. Y.—Y. M. C. A.

Article Concerning Union Baptist Church Painted This Reader Who Terms Situation There A Tragedy.

The Editor:

It was with a heavy heart that I read your article concerning Union Baptist Church. Perhaps to some it may be amusing but to the faithful followers of Dr. Harvey Johnson, it is a tragedy, to think of a work of fifty years torn asunder in a few months.

I have been told that I am not for progress. Progress is just what I want and Dr. Johnson left us free of debt so that we could progress and do something for the benefit of mankind.

Dr David E. Over told us when he came here that he had prayed to God to send some one to Baltmore to save the girls and boys of Baltimore. He seemed so zealous to do the work that he claimed God wanted done, said he was willing to go in the by ways and hedges, willing to preach in the streets, and said we need not be surprised if we saw him doing so.

And I want to know why he has not done the thing God sent him here to do, and gathered the harvest of souls and filled the church. If he had done this we would be ready for the great expansion he dreams of.

Dr Johnson left his memorial not in those stones on Druid Hill Avenue, but in the lawyers, doctors, teachers and women and men in other walks of life that are trying to live clean lives.

I am not against the move merely for sentiment. I am against the move because we do not need a church. All you can hear of that antique castle on Madison avenue is about a rest room, kitchen, dining room and dishes. We do not go to church to rest, we go to church to serve God, and if we had stayed out of debt we would not need to be in the kitchen and dining room all the time. It is much cheaper to buy dishes than to pay for and remodel an eighty year old church.

Viola Wright Taylor,
2007 Hargrove Street.

Contradictions In The Bible Prove Its Authenicity And The Humanness Of The Various Men Who Wrote It.

To the Editor:

Pray what is Mr. Blair attempting to prove or disprove by amassing such an array of facts and apparent contradictions as he claims are found in the Bible?

What do these contradictions prove? If anything they certainly help to prove the authenticity of the Bible and the humanness of the writers.

An inspired Bible from a spiritual standpoint, (and that is how the Bible should be interpreted) does not necessarily mean infallible dates, memories and language on the part of the authors. A book that has gone through as many translations, in equally as many languages, during equally as many centuries, as the Bible, would not compare favorably with it.

Our friend out to differeniate at least between history, biography, auto-biography, direct and indirect quotations, lyrics and narratives.

The Bible is a collection of books written by many authors over a period of several centuries. Literal contradictions why of course! What has that to do with the spiritual message? The Bible is an oriental book. Some of its messages are symbolical. The cold, calculating and mechanistic mind of the accident cannot event yet understand or even appreciate the Mystic of the East. Mahatma Gandhi and his passive-resistance program is still a type of Eastern mysticism that is not yet understood by the materialistic Westerner.

Now, unceremoniously Brother Blair selects a verse from Leviticus and one from Joel in order to ordain slavery and then quotes Isaiah, Exodus and Matthew in order to forbid it. All of this is done with utter disreward to historical background, setting of the story, and the circumstances and conditions under which it is written.

A representative of the intelligentsia! ! Horrors! What an academic attack upon the Bible? Even H. Mencken or Haldeman-Julius would be fairer than Brother Blair.

EGBERT C. McLEOD,
81 Shawmut avenue, Morgan Memorial, Boston, Mass.

Linotype

BIRTHDAYS

February 19: Robert E. Jones, 56, 5207 Constance St., New Orleans, La.

February 20th: Mary L. Avery, 51, Box 21, Ashburn, Ga.; Elisha H. Jones, 45, 124 W. Battle St., Talladega, Ala; Joseph H. P. Westbrook, 50, 1029 21st St., Denver, Col.; Christopher C. Wilson, 69, 7718 Maple St., New Orleans, La.

February 21st: Charles E. Bentley, 69, 5816 Michigan Ave., Chicago; William H. Foster, 36, 113 W St., N. W., Washington, D. C.; Edward P. Jones, 56, 1413 First North St., Vicksburg, Miss.; Frederick D. Tildon, 61, 825 Richmond St., Plainfield, N. J.; Eugene A. Watson, 58, 187 Waldo St., Providence, R. I.

February 22nd: John E. Bruce, 72, 146 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, N. Y.; Joseph S. Flipper, 69, 401 Houston Ave., Atlantic, Ga.; Samuel W. Houston, 57, Houstonian N. and I. Institute, Huntsville, Texas; William R. Morris, 69, 3017 Second Ave. S., Minneapolis; Charles A. Buchanan, 68, Oklahoma Safe Guard, Guthrie, Okla.; Frank H. Cook, 55, Vidalia, La.; George C. Hall, 64, 3408 S. Park Ave., Chicago; Pattie G. Shepard, 54, Colored Orphans Home, Winston-Salem, N. C.; Estelle B. Wingo, 50, Amelia Court House, Va.

February 23rd: William Y. Bell, 41, 220 W. 130th St., New York City; W. E. B. DuBOIS, 60, 606 St. Nicholas Ave., New York City; Ray J. Meaddough, 39, 1100 Izard St., Little Rock, Ark.; David C. Rose, cross, 52, 6 Sheppard St., Montgomery, Ala.

February 24th: Arthur A. Lowry, 50, 802 S. Locust St., Pontiac, Ill.; John E. Robinson, 52, 244 W. 64th St., New York City.

February 25th: Ambrose Caliver, 34, Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.; Blossie B. Oldfield, 37, 312 N. Greenwood St., Chattanooga, Tenn.; George S. Schuyler, 33, 2100 Fifth Ave., New York City; Henry L. Hummons, 55, 840 N. California St., Indianapolis; Eva J. Lewis, 46, State Colored Normal School, Elizabeth City, N. C.; R. Reche Williams, 47, 658 W. Broadway, Ocalo, Fla.

The Why Of Work

Work Faithfully For 8 Hours a Day
And Don't Worry,
Then in time you may become the boss
And work 12 Hours a Day
And have all the Worry.

—Linotype.

When You Are Young

Dear Lino:—A couple of young ladies come tripping along the other day, giggling and seeming to be having a most hilarious time. "Where are you bound for?" he asked. "On our way to sing at a funeral," replied one of them.—Sub-Deb.

Prize Boob

Dear Lino:—Another prize boob has been discovered in Baltimore. He wanted to know if the elephant had to eat mothballs in order to keep moths out of its trunk?—U. R.

How About The Rest Of Us?

Dear Lino:—The bully is only one-tenth that, the other nine-tenths is coward.—M. T.

Children's Bright Doings

Dear Lino:—My wife apologized to her unexpected guests for serving the apple without cheese. The little boy of the family slipped quietly away from the table for a moment, and returned with a cube of cheese, which he laid on the guest's plate. The visitor smiled in recognition of the lad's thoughtfulness, popped the cheese into his mouth, and then remarked:

"You must have sharper eyes than your mother, sonny. Where did you find it?"

The boy replied with a flush of pride:

"In the rat-trap".—O. N.

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onrw

Swapping Animals Insteps Do Not Count

Dear Lino:—The man who's up on his toes will never run down at the heel.—S. D.

TOLERATION

There's no use o'.raising a hullabaloo
'Cause people exist uncongenial to you;
There's all kinds o' hosses an all kinds o' corn,
An' all kinds o' people, as sure as you're born.
Some hosses is gentle an' willin' an' kind,
An' some needs a beatin' before they will mind.
There's no use complainin' an' blamin' the lot;
Some people are righteous an' others are not.
We was all meant for good when we started to grow,
But there's no way of tellin' how people will go.
It's the same way with corn; some is useful to us,
An' some turns to whiskey an' raises a fuss.
An' we don't blame the corn. What I'm tryin' to say
In a ramblin' an' unsatisfactory way,
Is that hosses an' corn an' us creatures with minds
Is bound to turn out lot's o' diff-erent kinds.

Yes, Yes

Dear Lino:—What this country really needs is waterproof toast to put under poached eggs. T. N. C.

Now Why Discuss That?

Dear Lino:—If the Balto. teachers are as busy as Mrs. Maybelle Chew says, please tell me when they ever get chance to go to parties, fall in love, get married, get divorces and do the things us laborin' guys does?

I. N. QUISITIVE.

I'm Afraid To Say

Dear Lino:—I've decided that a shoe has more sense than my wife. It has a tongue, but it keeps quiet all the time; she has a tongue, an' I'll be switched if its ever still. Am I right? JIM

The Last Line

The last line this week is a piece of poultry printed several years ago in the Washington Star entitled "Toleration". I hope you will like it. —Linotype.

Look And Learn

By A. C. GORDON

1. What is known as "the great American visit"?
2. What flower is seen most frequently in the fields of Germany?
3. Who is known as "the children's poet"?
4. What was the symbol of the Crusaders?
5. What spot in the world is considered to have the greatest rainfall?

Answers

1. The week-end.
2. Cornflower, or "Kaiser blume".
3. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.
4. The cross.
5. Mt. Waialeale, in the Hawaiian Islands.

The Orator!

Amidst the maze of many words,
Our souls' emotions swell,
In ecstacy we fly to Heaven,
Or sadly sink to Hell.
But when we've drifted back to Earth,
We wonder just what 'twas he said,
That took our souls away.

—W. P. DABNEY.

The Tiger Lilies

By Frances Cole Lee PNS

Four gorgeous tiger lilies,
All growing on one stem,
With long and slender stamens,
And speckled, all of them.

I cut them very gently,
And placed them in a vase,
I watched them very closely
And knew each speckled face.

One curled and died at sundown,
Another opened wide,
Another's petals shattered,
The fourth, her face did hide.

Ah! then, I thought of children
Whose parents are the same—
Alike, and yet different
In everything—the same.

Heard And Seen In Baltimore

By WILLIAM GIBSON

Beg pardon, folks, but with your consent or without it, I have invited Big Bill Gibson, AFRO Soprts Editor, to be my guest writer this week, while I go over and play in his backyard, called "Talking It Over". Step up, Bill, and meet Mr. and Mrs. Reader. Mr. and Mrs. Reader, shake hands with Bill. Now that you are acquainted, I'll run along over with the tough boys. .Tra-la-la.

—Ralph Matthews.

The other day they sentenced a man by the name of John Kwiakowski to serve from 10 to 20 years in the penitentiary for murder. We understand John was sentenced by one judge, but had he been sentenced by a jury, we're sure he'd have gotten double life.

• • •

Imagine, if you please, twelve jurors, tried and true, all trying to pronounce Kwaia53,79&" name at one time. They would at least have had to return a verdict of manslaughter against poor old John. The strain on larynx, tonsils, epiglottis, et al., would have been more than the peers could have stood.

• • •

And then maybe the jury foreman, after being instructed to return a verdict of guilty, might, while engaged in such strenuous labial acrobatics, twist his scandal flipper into such a knot that the prisoner would get the benefit of the doubt and go scot free, as they say in Scotland.

• • •

Take the case of Ralph Matthews' right hand man, Salubrious Snoozlefritz, he of the euphonious nomenclature, to say the least. Why old Snoozie, as I affectionately call him, told me from his own mouth that the day he discovered that his father had wished such a name on him, the old man caught a boat for Singapore.—and he bought a one-way ticket too.

• • •

And there's the instance of Alonzaugge Whimpershoogle, brilliant young printers' devil, who is heading a move to a S. F. P. C. T. B. A. C., which in brief is the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Babies at Christenings, said society to be empowered to exile or execute parents guilty of handicapping children with such bogus titles.

• • •

By the way, it's probable that our good friend John Kw$*&??%' who was sentenced to serve from 10 to 20 years to wearing a suit whose styles never change, might have bumped off the old man for the dirty trick he played on him. You couldn't much blame the boy, could you?

• • •

But after all what's a name between friends? A boob by any other name would be just as dumb. Fond parents often go in tantrums in search of a title for their spring-offs. Consider, if you so be pleased, Kate and Duplicate, or better yet, Peter and Repeater, woh are their parents' pride and joy.

• • •

We found Mr. White, of a complexion akin to stygian velvet, and we found Mr. Coward to be a pugilistic terror. What of it if Mr. Green was as shrewd a swindler as ever wrapped up a gold brick or that Mr. Wise was so dumb that he thought a tennis racket was a squabble?

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Names, after all, are only things that you are called, or are called at you, mostly at you. You know, they say that if your ears burn, somebody's talking about you. Probably that's why some folks have one, or both auditory organs a. w. o. l. Now wouldn't that burn your ear drums? No wonder old Mark Anthony wanted those Romans to lend him their ears. They'd been talking about him, and don't let anyone tell you differently.

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And speaking of names, these are not only the atrocious appelations affixed to mortal beings but there are those coerced upon poor, defnseless inanimate objects—Pullman cars, for example. We've always entertained a suspicion (no Scotchman would even do that) that the namers of Pullman cars had imbibed just a little too freely before engaging in their dirty work.

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They get paid for it too—wherein if they put those names on a person, they would be locked up for profanity. The namers of ships atone for it by smashing a jug of hooch against the sides of the vessel. One ambitious father tried this on his offspring at the christening, and the minister died from internal injuries caused by the glass.

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The children are resenting this sort of a thing too, and are showing their distaste by changing their names after they have found out what it's all about. You know they used to say it's a wise child that knows his own father, or something like that, but today, after a child has made certain changes in his name, you may well say it's a wise parent that knows his own child. No foolin'.

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Who knows good old Sue after she becomes consecutively Suzzane, Sussaye, Susye and Suze? And it just happens that in Baltimore there are Claudius and later Cloyde. And it just happens that in Baltimore there are a lot of people interested in names—men whose immaculate blue suits and brass buttons acclaim them minions of the Commonwealth. Folks are always changing names with them.

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"What's your Christian name?" asks the law of a hardened sinner. Such irony. Nowadays you can't choose your own parents, but you can pick your teeth. In view of this I'm going to advocate a law whereby children will be known by numbers until old enough to choose a name to their own liking. .Maybe that will decrease our quota of crime.

Poem This Week

OPPORTUNITY

Master of human destinies am I;
Fame, love and fortune on my footsteps wait.
Cities and fields I walk, I penetrate
Deserts and seas remote, and, passing by
Hovel and mart and palace, soon or late
I knock unbidden once at every gate!
If sleeping, wake; if feasting, rise before
I turn away. It is the hour of fate,
And they who follow me reach every state
Mortals desire, and conquer every foe
Save death; but those who doubt or hesitate,
Condemned to failure, penury and woe,
Seek me in vain and uselessly implore—
I answer not and I return no more.

"CONFIDENCE"

Facing at last the setting sun,
Watching the silent shadows creep,
Harbingers of the peaceful sleep,
Tranquil my fairless spirit waits
When ends life's day, and tasks are done,
To pass life's golden gates.

Voyager on Life's troubled sea,
Often with rent and tattered sail,
And buffeted by fiercest gale,
With peace and rest awaiting me,
I wait the time, (if near or far)
When I shall "cross the bar."

Triumphant over doubt and fear,
No frightful terrors can spall;
Calm and serene, I wait the call,
Faith's lamp still burning bright and clear,
Death has no "venomed sting" for me,
The grave no victory!

By R. A. ADAMS—PNS

DAY BY DAY

BY WILLIAM N. JONES

Watching The World Go By 25 Years

If, like this writer, you have had the opportunity to watch this old world of ours go by for 25 years you have seen and witnessed some marvelous things.

Early in the last 25 years, for instance, came Halley's comet from out of the unfathomable regions of the universe. Traveling at the rate of several hundred miles each second, it swung near enough to exhibit its splendor and then started back on a 72 year trip. For the last 20 years it has been traveling at this enormous speed in what astronomers call just a little section of the universe.

Thinking of distances in this big scale ought to make young men and women think bigger thoughts. It should also settle the question of a God in every mind, for whatever being guides the course of Halley's comet on its 72 year hundreds of miles a minute trip thru the ether as well as to have brought into existence all the millions of suns and worlds. SHOULD SUIT ANYBODY'S IDEA OF A GOD.

Then those who can look back 25 years can recall towns at that time in which there was no automobile owner, while today there is scarcely any ten blocks in any Amercian city where an automobile does not park.

Flying machines, radios and talking movies have all come into existence during the last 25 years.

Human Relations Have Also Changed

But if science has added to comfort on this terrestial sphere, human relations have also changed greatly.

Just 22 years ago this writer saw a South Carolina governor leave a lynching mob to wreak its vengeance on a victim after he had addresses the men in an effort to prevent it and go calmly back to his mansion office. Thanks to many fearless white and colored men in this nation, THAT COULD NOT HAPPEN TODAY. 25 years from now lynchers will be given full punishment for their deeds.

Less than 25 years ago rulers in Russia, Germany, England, and many other countries held life and death power over human beings and nine tenths of the world's inhabitants worked in virtual slavery to provide luxuries and ease for those who regarded themselves as privileged groups.

The year 1928 finds a poor peasant worker sitting where Russia's great Czar once ruled their mighty domain; Germany's emperor replaced by a socialist president; England's King taking orders from a self-made man who rose from the ranks of the workers and a world wide rising of the submerged masses.

Colored races in India, Africa, China and Egypt dispute the prerogatives of white dominance and white men and women themselves are fighting for the equality of opportunity for all human beings in greater proportion.

Social Customs Following In Wake

Following science and economic expansion are coming also deep seated social changes.

Twenty-five years ago a Booker T. Washington dining with a president was not only front page news, but the news.

The snobbishness which made rich Americans with marriageable daughters flock to Europe to mate them with "their betters" is now regarded with satiiric contempt.

Twenty-five years ago there were more social relationship between white and colored folk, but under rover. Today a white man in New York's four hundred marries a colored girls and a white girl with lineage running back to the Mayflower marries a colored youth, and white young men and women even down South feel a thrill of suppressed heroism.

So that despite the many conflicts between right and wrong; despite the "die hard" spirit of human injustice; despite the selfishness of entrenched privilege and lingering prejudices, this old world is moving along very well, thank you.

If you survey the progress of the last 25 years and contemplate similar changes during the next quarter century, you have no reason to regret that fate brought you into existence.

Farm And Home Ownership Week

The association for the advancement of Negro Country Life is organizing a farm and home ownership week in which emphasis on property acquirements will be stressed throughout the country.

If this movement will tend to show the vital importance of keeping a ground floor interest in American economic life it will be worth the time and energy every man and woman can give it March 4 to 10, when it will be observed.

The latest U. S. census reports show that the race group is losing hold on farm lands throughout the South and making no compensatory gains in other farm sections of the country.

Migration has done some mighty good things for the group, especially in distributing labor where it can get the best advantages. But it has also decreased farm ownership and this is no good for the group.

In Georgia alone it is estimated that we have lost 5000 farms during the last ten years. Down in South Carolina where the $300 property ownership disfranchisement law stimulated farm buying 25 years ago, the race group at one time owned more farms than were owned by whites, but their holdings have greatly fallen off.

Many of our farmers are now in the industrial centers of the North where the high price of land will prevent them buying much of it.

Farm And Home Ownership Week

But while general encouragement, to acquire and keep farm lands should be given, what is really needed is a scientifically arrived at economic program for the group.

The Negro group, like all other groups, should have title to enough farm land in this country as to make its absolutely certain that it could produce on race owned land enough produce to meet the actual necessities of life, plus enough to produce a wealth accumulating surplus.

If the Association for the Advancement of Country Life could tell the group (1) what acreage they now own, (2) how much they should own to reach an economic efficiency and (3) furnish up to date information where it is best to acquire it, they would do a great service.

This knowledge should be followed by marshalling sufficient big insurance companies and race funds through farm land banks, savings to finance farm land buying on a large scale and community programs which would help distribut farm labor where it was best to be.

If the Jewish race after years of struggle in all parts of the earth and after having acquired culture and wealth far out of proportion to their population, have found at this late date that firm ownership of land is the only real economic security, and are spending millions on a backportance of land ownership in the Negro should realize, the im- to the land movement, certainly his struggle for a place in the Sun.

Highway Robbery In South Carolina

And Nobody Is Arrested For It
(From "S. C. State")

White men teaching school in South Carolina received an average pay of $1,595.94 for the 1926-27 session, while white women averaged $906.30, according to statistics published in the school directory just issued by Superintendent James H. Hope of the state department of education.

The average pay for Negro teachers was $292.54, Negro men receiving $355.95, and women, $278.62.

There were 13,089 teachers employed, dived as follows: White men, 1,290; white women, 7,400; Negro men, 702, and Negro women, 3,587.

White pupils made a better record for regular attendance than Negroes. The former had an average attendance of 73.68 per cent out of an enrollment of 246,078, while the 224,823 Negro pupils enrolled the averaged attendance was 69.18 per cent.

White schools had an average session of 171 days, as compared with 115 for Negro schools.

On the basis of enrollment the per capita expenditure was $60.25 in white schools and $7.65 in Negro schools. Taking attendance as a basis, the average expenditures were $81.78 in white schools and $11.06 in Negro

The average attendance for both races was 337,421 out a total enrollment of 471,701. The white attendance was 181,898, out of 246,878, and the Negro, 155,523 out of 224,823. White boys numbering 124,164 were enrolled with an average of 91,341 attending; white girls on the rolls totaled 122,714, of whom 89,958 were regular in atendance. The regular attendance record for Negro boys was 68.64 out of 101,790, and for Negro girls, 86,759 out of 123,033.

The Diary Of An Old Baltimorean

By WALTER I. REEVES, JR.

FEBRUARY 1, 1861

The city was visited bya heavy snow. An ordinance was passed imposing a fine on those who permitted snow or ice to remain on the sidewalks.

SLAVE LIBERATED

Yesterday morning, Marshall Kane ordered liberated from jail a colored boy age 7, named William H. Royston, who was held as a slave. The boy was summoned and freedom give in the Orphans Court.

RUN-AWAY SLAVE

One night recently a number of run-away slaves from one of the bordering counties slaves from one of the bordering counties of Maryland passed through York, Pa. County, on their way to freedom. The next day they were pursued and captured in Adams County and returned.

STOEL INKSTAND

Martha Williams indicted for the larceny of an inkstand, was found guilty before Judge Bond, in Criminal Court and the sentence deferred.

FREE AND SLAVES MEET

FEBRUARY 5.

The free and slave states met in Washington today. The slave states were