

Negro World

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What's Right With the Negro Press?

SPEAKING at the annual convention of the Negro Press Association at Nashville, Tenn., Mr. Benjamin Jefferson Davis, the Association's president and the veteran editor of the Atlanta Independent, took the Negro Press to task severely, and we are glad to add that the latter deserves that rebuke in ample measure. In his scathing criticism, Mr. Davis placed his finger on specific evils and weaknesses.

"Negro newspapermen," said he, "do not seem to have any intelligent conception of the united power of the press. We certainly have no intelligent conception of a united cooperative power to the press. We are a sect, not a wisdom of the benefits of organized cooperation. In our effort not to help our brother, we defeat our own interest."

"Our association has been a failure because every publication has undertaken to run it alone, without the regard of the other papers' interest. The strong has not undertaken to help the weak, but to fatten on those less fortunate."

"We haven't even the genius to follow up. We cannot outline an editorial policy and follow it up to a successful conclusion. Who can tell the editorial policy of the average Negro newspaper in the country? We stand for nothing definite and nothing constructive."

"The average Negro editor would rather be the lone star in the firmament than for all the Negro papers to have a share in the glory of newspaper achievement."

"Now all this is true. But what gives rise to this situation? In our opinion most of the Negro newspapers are owned and edited by persons whose outlook and intelligence is limited to the narrowest horizon. And consequently they fail to realize the important role that a newspaper ought to play both in the local community and in the country. The only power they are aware of is the dollar bill they can get hold of TODAY and by whatever means."

"It is not unusual to find the provincial-minded Negro editors and business managers engaging in tactics of vilifying their rivals in order to 'get all by one.' We have noticed this tendency even in New York practiced by one of our successful weeklies. It is sad but true."

"What the Negro newspapers need most is well and highly trained men and women to engage in journalism. The present untrained journalists are in most cases unware of the new tendencies in their field and practice no journalistic ethics at all. It is sad to learn that there are not even one full dozen college-trained journalists among the Negroes. Not that we are stuck up on college education, but present day journalism requires the knowledge of many, many fields of human endeavor."

"But Negro journalism has failed to attract college and university men and women. Why? Because the present owners do not believe in paying high salaries, if they believe in paying at all. They seem to be the victims of the old Christian philosophy of GETTING SOMETHING FOR NOTHING. We think it was George Bernard Shaw who said: 'It is not until the Jews taught the barbarians and backward Christians of Europe that they should pay for everything they get that Europe began to rise in the scale of civilization.' The Negro publishers in particular and the Negro businessmen in general should study the implications of this philosophic observation."

"Because the Negro editors are not paid well they try to make themselves a STAR, thereby hoping to make side money, which gives rise to vacillating editorial policy. As for the reason why they are not paid well it is because there is a wrong sort of individualism which encourages the growth of too many publications which are of necessity local papers and limited in scope. They are run on economically unsound principles and on professionally wrong ethics."

"Once—during the early twenties—there were nearly four hundred Negro weeklies. And now about 150 survive, most of which are sickly, nervous and in debt. Only a palmyered few are prospering." The entire problem of the Negro Press can be solved only if a sound, economical consolidation could take place and that too under an intelligent leadership. Thus better service will be given to the Negroes of the entire country by a score or so strong, well organized and well edited papers than by the present hundred and a half."

The press can be powerful only if it learns the secret of organization plus cooperation.

Now a Cat Goes Jim Crow!

ONLY the other day a Bas Alley cat came to court!

Well, it was rather brought there. A Negro said that it belonged to him and that it was missing for two weeks. It might have been so, since cats are in the habit of disappearing often on a spree, and especially this cat because it was a base one. At any rate that was the reason why the cat was brought to the court. The Negro gentleman wanted it returned from its present owner, a white lady.

The magistrate was confronted with a baffling case, indeed! "What is the name of that cat?" asked the court.

"Tom," said the Negro.

"Well," said the white lady.

"Well," called the cat by its name and thus establish your ownership," said the court wisely.

"Tom, come Tom, come. Jump!" repeated the Negro fifteen times. Nothing doing. The cat simply blinked and ignored the dark skinned man.

"Pinky, wink at the judge!" said the white lady. Ah! Pinky came to itself, got lively and winked at the judge.

"The cat's name is Pinky," the court decided, and the white lady took it home.

Problems of Virgin Islands Analyzed

By Our Own Correspondent.
 WASHINGTON, D. C.—The bill (S. 4161) for the annexation of the United States of America to the Virgin Islands was recently passed by the Senate.

The self-styled friends of "colored people" in the House should have obstructed its passage for no better reason than the fact that the Navy Department did not oppose its enactment. A silent battle was being waged in the islands between conflicting interests for the special privilege to further exploit the natives, who, unfortunately, are without any known, recognized, intelligent or militant representatives over here.

While speaking on the floor of the Senate about the miserable manner in which the "Negro" population of 300,000 Indians, are being taxed (and "robbed") to support other agencies Senator Thomas of Oklahoma tried to build a bridge to the "colored" people in the Congressional Record as having said:

"I hold in my hand a clipping of the world wherefore they this Rebellious Spirit and seek our place in the world. Let us not die regard this CALL. Let us not die in laziness, sloth and cowardice. Rebellious! Let us not be resigned! Rebellious for the Cause Africa!"

Reverend Porter

In looking over the leading journal, The Negro World, I observed and noted the editorial on the subject of the CALL. Let us not die in laziness, sloth and cowardice. Rebellious! Let us not be resigned! Rebellious for the Cause Africa!

Negro Has a Garvey

Editor, The Negro World: Please allow me to appear in your paper to answer the editor of the Chicago Whip, who writes under the name of "Candell."

I would like to ask the good editor to whom he refers. Surely not to the awakened Negro, who has just the type that can't care so good in his own race, and doesn't care to see it rise any higher than himself. He like most of our race leaders, can see the greatness in all other races, just as great men and women as any other race. They did not see the greatness of the late Booker T. Washington, or of Frederick Douglass, until after their death. And, of course, after having been told by their white "bosses," they believed it.

Comedy and Tragedy

Editor, The Negro World: In reading your various papers I have discovered that the N. A. A. C. P. has been in the habit of producing a Society supported to advance the Negro with a white man at the head of it. Now if the N. A. C. P. has been in the habit of producing a Society supported to advance the Negro and haven't advanced him intellectually enough to fit him to head his own organization, how can he lead a Nation, and the tragedy of a so-called leader and educator of our future generation. He is not to lead, such men are not fit to lead or teach our children and youth. He is not to lead, such men are not fit to lead or teach our children and youth. He is not to lead, such men are not fit to lead or teach our children and youth.

A Word From Capt. Alleyne

Harold G. Saitus, Bus. Mgr. Negro World, Dear Sir: Your very interesting letter of Jan. 27th, 1931, has been received, and I must say right here that I was more than happy to hear from you, and was very thankful to receive the greatest gift of the year—the Negro World.

The Spirit Calls! Rebel!

Let us not sit down in the midst of a great stirring when the spirit of the best because it's God's will! Everything that happens is NOT for the best. Most of our troubles are the result of our own stupidity, and they can be overcome if we use our energy and determination. There is no slightest proof that God will be angry if we do.

Know Thyself

By LESLIE BISHOP
 If we must judge by the expression on the faces of black men and women we meet daily, life is apparently dull and dreary. Many of our people who are satisfied to live in an alien country without any thought of the dominating race, are in the underground.

HELP FOR TIRED HOUSEWIVES

Could Not Do Her Work
 "I was always tired and kept going to sleep and I did not feel like doing any work. My husband said I was lazy. Yes, Beauty's Vegetable Compound advertised in the daily paper and got me a bottle. It helped me to sleep at night. I have a good appetite and feel better in every way for my work and I recommend your Vegetable Compound whenever I can. If women write me, I will answer them."—Mrs. Mattie Hester, Baltimore, Maryland.

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The People's Forum

Editor's Note: All letters to the editor should bear the signature and address of the writer on the side of the paper should be published. The shorter and more succinct they are the better their chances of publication. Owing to space requirements, the Editor must reserve the right to publish letters only in part.

MRS. ANNIE CARNER

Oh! Let us do as Marcus says, For we are in Africa, let us not die while we are redeeming Africa, Our Motherland. Which will be ruled by a Negro man.

Where black kings, and princes shall abide

Where we can really look with pride, For we will surpass all nations on every hand, For we will be ruled by a Negro man.

Appreciation of Reverend Porter

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Weekly Magazine And Feature Section

WEEKLY RELIGIOUS TALKS

By REV. DR. R. R. PORTER
 Pastor, "Tranquility L. M. E. Church," S. E. of "B. A. O. D. Inc."

ASOKA, KING OF INDIA
 "Heed therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's."
 A few days ago, I read a very amusing article in a popular magazine. The article was on Christianity and the building of the first hospitals by Christians. No doubt, it was written by some Sabbath-day Christian—one who sees God only through the Christian Faith.

I am a Christian, and do not care to be anything else. However, I do not care to read such nonsense about Christians having been the first to build hospitals and charitable institutions. I know that it is not the truth. Well read Christians know that Christianity is not first in many things; that Christianity as we know it, is not the brain child of the man Jesus. Modern Christianity is a joke!

When Hamilton, the strong man of Carthage crossed waters with Rome in the first Punic War for world supremacy, a young man, Asoka, took birth in the East. He was a true Christian centuries prior to the birth of Christ. He was a true Christian centuries prior to the birth of Christ. He was a true Christian centuries prior to the birth of Christ.

It is of little difference to you a believer in the Christian belief or not; the thing you should do is to render unto others the things which be theirs. If a man who was born in the East and who had the love for his people that he did things that were good for his people, it is not time that you do some real work for yours? An Asoka is not born every day, nevertheless, there is an Asoka somewhere willing to do his bit; God knows where, but in time he shall make himself known!

Look within yourself! See if there is a germ of Asoka there. If you cannot make the grade, help the other fellow to make it.

How Garveyism Has Made George and Sam Bold!

By J. MILTON RATSON
 It is an old proverb that a drowning man will grasp at a feather. What is true of the pedagogue is true of all true men in the same circumstances, including man.

"And while Christian civilization with its superiority complex and its 'I am that I am' cannot be referred to as a rat. The fact that it is obviously sinking deeper and deeper into the mire of the world, is a warning and enlightenment of the darker peoples of the world is not a very distant prospect—if it is a secret at all."

The fact remains, however, that Samoa and the Virgin Islands were acquired by treaties. They are not conquered "possessions." Still, the treaties have been brutally handled and the natives are being treated as inferiors. A review of the files in the office of the American Civil Liberties Union, the files in the office of the American Civil Liberties Union, the files in the office of the American Civil Liberties Union.

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