

THE LIBERATOR

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Cause of Good Government and the Advancement of the American Negro

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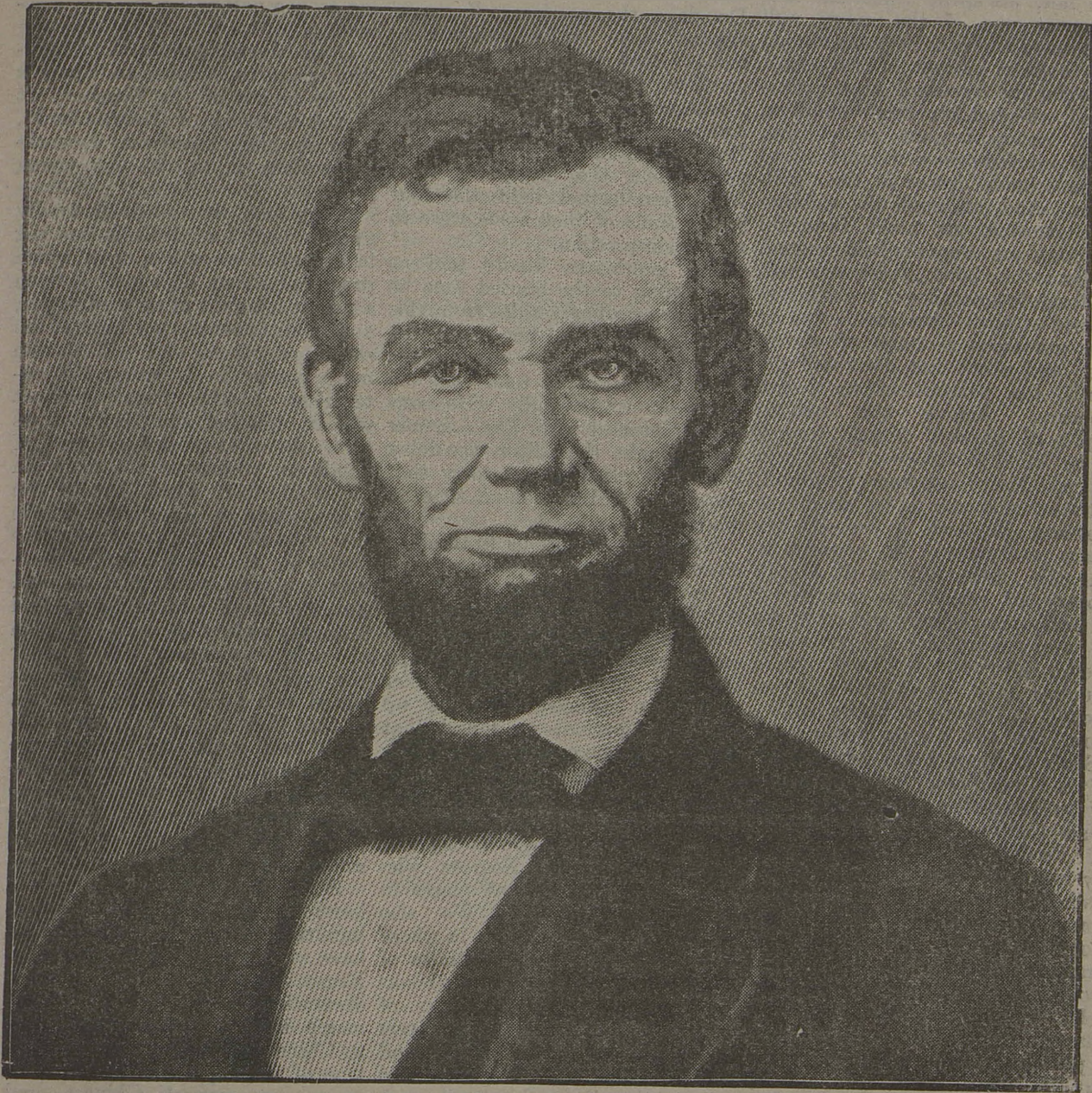
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No. 11

1863

Lest We Forget

1913



Abraham Lincoln

Whose Immortal Proclamation of Emancipation, while Liberating Four Million Black Slaves,
Liberated Thirty-two Million Whites.

SEEKING OUTSIDE IDEALS A FOE TO PRIDE OF RACE

Several months ago, while making calls among our subscribers and visiting homes of those who are not, we spent a pleasant half hour at one of the many well appointed homes to be found among the colored people of this city. The family consisted of the husband, wife and four bright children, both being persons of culture, their intelligence was reflected to a remarkable degree in their children. And, although the children are growing up amid beautiful surroundings, they are being reared, as far as their home life is concerned, in absolute ignorance of the achievements of their own race. Among the numerous pictures of statesmen and poets that decorated the walls, the portrait of no Negro appears. Among the various types of physical female beauty to be found in the group, the form of no Negro woman is found; although the race is by no means wanting in such types—it has them everywhere in abundance. In the well appointed family library of which the gentleman is justly proud, are standard works of every kind except books by Negro authors. Not only were Dunbar and Braithwaite overlooked in his wide poetic collection, but the classic volumes of "Souls of Black Folk" and "Quest of the Silver Fleece," by the scholarly Du Bois had no place in this black mans library. "The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass," written by himself; "The Life of Frederick Douglass" by Booker T. Washington, containing numerous quotations from Douglass; matchless orations against human slavery, from which he had liberated himself; Dr. Washington's "Up from Slavery,"—books that should find a place in the home of every Negro in the land, were also absent, although this man boasted much of his race pride.

Looking calmly down from the beautifully tinted walls of the elegantly furnished interior of that home, but one generation from the

slave cabin, were portraits of Lincoln, John Brown, Grant, Wendell Phillips, Whittier and Longfellow. But Toussaint L'Ouverture, whose name Wendell Phillips would write far above all the soldiers and statesmen of modern times; Frederick Douglass, the peerless self emancipated slave orator and statesman; Booker T. Washington, ex-slave, founder and maker of Tuskegee, and widest known living American; Du Bois, Price, Dunbar, Braithwaite and Kelly Miller were not among the luminaries from whose intellectual light the four young souls of that home were to receive inspiration.

The gentleman kindly told us that owing to the limited time he had for reading aside from his library, prevented him from devoting much time to newspapers. On this account he took only one paper—a white daily. He was greatly pleased with *The Liberator* and thought the editor was doing a great work, but was sorry that he simply did not have time to read it.

This incident put us to thinking so we decided to devote some time to investigation along the lines of our discovery. We found that that man was a patronizer of no Negro enterprises. The Negro not being his ideal, he simply didn't bother with him. Quietly following up our investigation, we found that while some one or two daily papers visit fully 90 per cent of the colored homes there are scores of them in which no Negro papers enter. The absence of Negro books and portraits of great Negroes who have secured permanent places in history, is pathetic. We also found that the Negroes in whose homes are found the portraits of distinguished Negroes, Negro books and newspapers, the inmates of such homes are liberal supporters of Negro enterprises. We found farther, that the Negroes who are wanting in confidence in each other are confined almost wholly to the class who read no Negro papers. Their lack of confidence in Negroes is not due to any meanness on their part, but is due mainly

to their ignorance of their peoples achievements. Their source of information about members of their own race is gained wholly from the white press, which for the most part is devoting more space to discredit Negroes than it is devoting to the nation's moral advancement.

O, no, there is no dearth of beautiful pictures, books and papers in the homes of the Negroes. It is the absence of Negro books, portraits and papers that is working serious injury to our young people.

A people that depend wholly upon others for ideals is wanting in the main essentials upon which progress-making depends. Such a people ignorant of its own power, and achievements, worships at the shrine of others and will devote more energy in boosting the enterprises of other people than it will in creating something of its own. In spite of his centuries of handicap, no people are richer in ideals of every kind than is the Negro. Let the Negroes decorate the walls of their homes with the portraits of their soldiers, statesman, authors, poets and orators. For models of female beauty and womanly virtues the race has them in rich abundance. Supply our young people with books and papers edited and published by Negroes, so that they may take a peep into their own souls, and receive the inspiration that comes to him who discovers that his own illustrious deeds have made for him an abiding place in the annals of human achievement.

For one reason or another we have visited the elegant homes of hundreds of white people and we have yet to find the portrait of a Negro, Japanese or Chinaman decorating their walls. The Chinaman's ideal of female beauty is a Chinese woman, the same is true of the Japanese. As a result there are several Chinese and Japanese daily papers published in this city and read and supported by every member of the two races. And their business men control the patronage of their people

wherever they want it; and they keep posted about the doings of other people by the presence of a number of Japanese and Chinese in every colony who can read the American dailies. In this way they are not only fully acquainted with themselves and their daily achievements, but they know just how the other people feel towards them.

It makes no difference where the Jew lives or the school he attends, no Jew is ignorant of the splendid traditions of his race; neither does he look outside of his race for ideals. As a result they have surmounted the most galling race prejudice and have not only become the financiers of the world, but have held cabinet positions both in England and America. And one of the honored members of the board of education of this city is Herman W' Frank, a Jew. If the story of illustrious Hebrews are not told in the school histories of schools, which Jewish children attend, it is taught them around their firesides.

The Negro people are possessed of considerable prejudice against some shades of complexion within the race; we find him discriminating against the mulatto, members of his race then again we find him discriminating against the black members.

Several months ago the agent of one of the city orphanages, a white man, asked us to assist him in finding homes for a couple of fine looking black children. He said that although they were a fine looking children as there were in the home, he found it utterly impossible to find Negro families who would take them. It is hard to describe our humiliation at his intimations. These are facts and though they may be disagreeable, facts are stubborn things and must be met face to face, if their unpleasant features are to be eliminated.

It is time the Negro ceased teaching his children that they are inferior to other people merely on account of their color. Let the Negro use his noble black mother

as his ideal of womanhood, remembering when he bows at the shrine of her virtue and comeliness, that he is not the only man that has worshipped at that shrine. Let his ideals for manhood, statesmanship, scholarly attainments and patriotism, be his L'Ouvertures, Douglasses, Booker Washingtons, Du Boises, Dunbars and Kelly Millers.

This done, the Negro will be well on the way toward creating and conducting great commercial enterprises and maintaining a powerful daily press that will nullify the bad impressions others are making.

THE EMANCIPATION CELEBRATION

The crowd attending the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation was not so large as anticipated. The seats in the main auditorium were nearly all taken. There was a sprinkling in the gallery. The audience was not the size that usually attends Dr. Peck's services. In spite of the importance of the occasion the audience was not as large as the one attending the reception given Hon. John Mitchell of the Richmond Planet, when every inch of standing space was occupied. There was an almost total absence of business and professional men. Aside from those on the program there was but one prominent minister present.

MRS. NOAH D. THOMPSON SERIOUSLY INJURED

On stepping from a Long Beach car on Sunday afternoon, Mrs. Thompson stepped into a hole by the side of the tract and fractured her right limb below the knee. As we go to press she is doing nicely. This news is gratifying to a host of friends.

A BEAUTIFUL HOME WEDDING

The most beautiful home wedding of the season took place when

Mr. Le Roy Foisy and Effie E. Hamilton were united in the bonds of holy matrimony. at the bride's residence, 819 Towne Ave. The ceremony was performed by Rev. F. Jesse Peck at 3 p. m., Dec. 25th.

Lohengrin's bridal chorus by Wagner was played by a graphophone which in itself was a novel feature. Those present were Rev. and Mrs. F. Jesse Peck, attorney and Mrs. E. Burton Ceruti, Mr. and Mrs. Robert True, Mother Ouseley and Madam L. J. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pearl and Mrs. Safronia Malone.

The wedding cake 3 feet high was made and decorated by the bridebroom. The happy couple received many valuable presents. They will be home to friends at 819 Towne avenue.

MAKING A MISTAKE

A number of colored land holders are selling their holdings at Victorville which are worth from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for \$400 to \$900. The land is being bought up quietly by a syndicate. On the completion of the Panama Canal that section will be worth millions of dollars.

Mr. H. G. Gordon and wife of this city own 560 acres and have found water at a depth of 76 feet. Rev. J. T. Hill also has 160 acres. Their land is not for sale.

MINISTERS WILL HOLD IMPORTANT MEETING

The Baptist Ministers Alliance of Southern California will hold their regular monthly meeting Monday morning, January 6th, at 10 o'clock sharp, with the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Hemlock, near East 12th streets. Topic for discussion will be the "Spirituality of Man;" also the consideration of the new constitution. All Baptist preachers both ordained and local are urged to attend this meeting.

Rev. J. D. Gordon, Pres.
Rev. J. Gordon McPherson, Secy.

THE LIBERATOR

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JEFF L. EDMONDS, JR., Assistant Editor.

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MRS. ISABELLA MARTIN OF SOUTH PASADENA GONE TO HER REWARD.

When the spirit of Mrs. Isabella Martin took its flight from this world to the spirit land, it marked the passing of one of the noblest souls that his earth has known. The editor's family had the good fortune to share the friendship of that good lady for many years and was the recipient of many favors at her hand. She was one of *The Liberator's* most staunch

white friends, although she and the editor differed in politics, she having been for the past 10 years a staunch supporter of Roosevelt, whom *The Liberator* strenuously opposed, she promptly renewed her subscription each year with the request that the editor deal with Col. Roosevelt as gently as possible.

Once when in need of a cook, she asked the editor to send her one. We secured for her a young colored matron of Helena, Arkansas, when Mrs. Martin found that the cook's husband was out of employment she had a comfortable tent erected in her back yard where the couple lived at her expense, when the husband was out of work. The couple finally saved up \$500, secured mainly in the service of Mrs. Martin and went back to Arkansas against her wishes, only to be succeeded by another young colored woman, who made better use of her money by purchasing a home in this city. These incidences serve to show the high character of that noble woman. Whoever had the good fortune to come in touch with her was better for that touch. Hers is eternal peace.

COLORED POLICE OFFICERS PROMOTED

Chief of Police Sebastian has promoted Officer Stevens to the position of detective at a salary of one hundred and twenty-five dollars per month. Officer McDuff has been made a stenographer in the Chief's office at one hundred dollars per month. These officers have made splendid records in the line of duty which the chief recognized by making the promotions. We understand that the chief was very anxious to place Officer Stevens in the hundred and fifty dollar rank but could not at this time.

There are eight colored officers on the police force all of whom have made records of which the department is proud. By their vigilance these officers have not only rendered great service to the city but have rendered much

greater service to their race by the extent to which they have reduced crime among Negroes. The fact that the police record of the colored people of Los Angeles is better in proportion to population than that of any other city of its size in the country is due entirely to the vigilance of the colored officers. These officers keep the idle floating element of the race on the move by seeing to it that they either go to work or leave the city. By this method the criminally inclined constitute a very small element of the race. While keeping the Negro criminal element on the move these officers have captured some of the smoothest white criminals in the country.

Another noteworthy fact in this connection, and one that is not new, is that there is less crime in colored districts patrolled by colored officers than there is in similar districts patrolled by white officers. And it goes without saying that if the plan of patrolling districts throughout the country inhabited by Negroes, by Negro officers, the criminal statistics of the Negro race would be reduced fifty per cent in a short time. As a general thing Negro officers do not wait until a crime is committed before acting but by keeping on the heels of the criminal element prevent them from committing crime.

REV. KENCHIN DELIVERS AN ABLE ADDRESS

The address delivered by Rev. E. W. Kenchin at the Emancipation celebration was remarkable for the ability and power displayed. Arrangements had been made for its publication in its entirety in these columns and everything was delayed for a half day for the arrival of the copy, but it came too late in the afternoon. Requests for its publication verbatim came to us from quite a number of young men.

The Queen Esther Circle was entertained on the 30th at the home of Mrs. Tibbitt, 715 Kohler

Street. The circle had an enjoyable time.

MRS. R. W. JOHNSON PASSES AWAY

After a short illness Mrs' R. W. Johnson, wife of Rev. R. W. W. Johnson, Pastor of the Friendship Baptist Church of Pasadena, passed away at the Pasadena Hospital on the twenty-seventh. Mrs. Johnson was a cultured lady of singularly sweet disposition and was universally popular. As pastor of the Friendship Baptist Church, Rev. Johnson has made it the most prominent church in Pasadena. In this splendid accomplishment he was greatly aided by Mrs. Johnson. Mrs. Johnson will be grealy mourned by the people of Pasadena without regard to denomination.

The funeral which took place Monday was attended by one of the largest audiences in the history of the city. Reverends J. D. Gordon, assisted by Rev.'s Hill, Kenchin, McCoy, McPherson, Anderson, Dyatt, Danly and others officiated.

MRS. JAMES HALL DIES SUDDENLY

Mrs. James Hall, of 1443 West 35th Place, died suddenly of heart failure on Saturday, December, twenty-eighth. Mrs. Hall was sincerely loved by all who knew her and her sudden demise came as a great shock.

The funeral services, which took place on the thirty-first, were attended by an audience of sorrowing friends that packed Wesley Chapel. Rev. E. W. Kinchen, conducted the obsequies. Rev. Mr. Kinchen paid a beautiful tribute to the life of the deceased. The floral tributes were exceptionally beautiful.

Besides her husband and five children Mrs. Hall leaves a host of friends to mourn her loss.

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