

# THE LIBERATOR

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

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No. 4

## We Have Carried California for Wilson, And it Shall Not be Stolen. The Political Emancipation of the Negroes Accomplished. A Sixteen Years' Struggle Ends Gloriously.

### VICTORY AT LAST

Having reached the conclusion that the political ills of the Negroes were due to the fact that they voted solidly for one party regardless of issues, and that such voting was dangerous not only to the voters themselves, but to the community in which such voters reside, we made up our mind to publish a newspaper advocating a division of the Negro vote. This was more than twenty years ago. In 1896, sixteen years ago, with the end in view, set forth above, we commenced the publication of *The Searchlight*, a weekly paper.

In the municipal campaign of that year we supported the Democratic ticket headed by Hon. M. P. Snyder for mayor. We took the position that the city government ought to be non-partisan, and that its officers should be selected only on the ground of fitness; and, if graft was to be eliminated, all city officers would have to be taken out of partisan politics. And, strange as it may be, the municipal policy advocated first by *The Searchlight's* policy has since not only been adopted by the city but by this state relative to the judiciary.

For its support of the Democratic ticket *The Searchlight* and its editor were bitterly attacked by the colored leaders, and subscribers, by fives and tens, each week ordered the paper stopped.

"I want no Democratic paper in my house," accompanied every request to stop the paper.

The editor was roundly denounced everywhere as a traitor, and the paper so bitterly criticized that the stockholders became alarmed

and called a meeting to have the policy of the paper changed. By investigation of the books they found that the paper was paying expenses, and its circulation was rapidly increasing, despite the fact that many names were being dropped. As we were doing all of the work it was agreed that the editor might continue his (radical) policy until after the election.

At our suggestion an independent club with a membership of 200 was organized. After many meetings and much discussion, a Fusion ticket, made up of candidates selected from the Democratic and Republican tickets, was nominated by the club, each member pledging himself to support the ticket thus nominated. Receiving about 25% of the Negro vote Mayor Snyder was triumphantly elected.

The strongest objection to Mayor Snyder was that he was a "Southern Democrat;" we argued that as one reason why the Negro should support him, and his succeeding administration proved the correctness of our position. His policy towards the colored people was the most liberal in the history of the city, and set a precedent for succeeding administrations.

In the meantime, despite the paper's success, and although the sentiment of the colored people changed regarding its policy, and began to approve of it, the stockholders decided that, as the editor of the paper was a Democrat, his resignation would be accepted. We accordingly retired, and the paper failed. But we kept up the agitation unceasingly for a division of the Negro vote as a race necessity.

In 1898 I was elected a member of the campaign committee and put in charge of the work among colored voters. With the aid and encouragement of Dr. R. W. Hill, chairman Democratic Central Committee, a large colored Maguire club was organized which held many big meetings and took a prominent part in the campaign for the election of Judge Maguire. In the Lane and Bell campaigns we occupied the same positions, relative to the colored voters, and had the staunch backing of Dr. Hill and many other prominent Democrats each time.

Being a Virginian, Dr. Hill's friendship and sympathy for the Negroes is strong and sincere. Amidst the discouragements we encountered on every hand, the manly treatment we always received at the hands of such men greatly strengthened us in keeping up the fight.

### Supported Col. Bryan.

Realizing the power of the press as a moulder of sentiment, we began publishing *The Liberator* in 1900. The Republican party having adopted the policy of Imperialism, by acquiring and holding the Philippine Islands as subject territory, we indorsed the position of Col. Bryan on the Philippine problem, and supported him for the presidency. In urging the colored voters to support Col. Bryan and the national Democratic Party at that time, we took the position that, since the Republican Party regarded the Philipinos as unfit to govern themselves in their own country, because they were brown, the Republican party, by that

conclusion, had indorsed disfranchisement in the South, and had become a propagator of race and color discrimination. Col. Bryan, on the contrary, stood by the Declaration of Independence. We urged that the policy adopted by the Republicans, relative to the Philippine Islands, meant the entire abandonment of the black Republicans in the South, and that the only hope of securing better political conditions for the Negroes was through the Democratic party. This the Negroes could not hope to secure while voting solidly against that party.

The old opposition to the editor and his paper, more bitter and relentless, broke out afresh. It was alright, they said, to support local Democrats for office, but to advocate the election of the National Democratic ticket to power was the crime of all crimes against the freedom of the race. The subscription list was again attacked and colored business men were warned not to patronize the paper on the pain of being boycotted. The Afro-American Council under its present president, having been changed from a non-partisan organization to a Republican club, adopted every means possible to put the editor and the paper out of business. This time, the editor, being the only stockholder, could not be recalled.

By incessant hammering, week after week in the face of repeated defeats, the opposition melted, and the best men and women of the race came to the support of the paper.

#### Delegate to the Kansas City Convention.

When the Free Silver Republicans held their convention to elect delegates to their National convention, held at Kansas City, the editor of this journal, Messrs. C. C. Flint and R. F. Douglass, all stalwarts, were elected as delegates. The editor alone, however, attended, being the only colored delegate from the Pacific Coast.

When the city adopted its present

non-partisan charter, there being no Democratic ticket in the field, we took the Good Government side of the contest, and aided very materially in the victory it achieved; the bulk of the Negro precincts giving the Good Government ticket a plurality.

#### The Campaign Just Closed.

Sixteen years having been devoted to the moulding of independent sentiment, among the Negroes, and taking into consideration all surrounding circumstances, we had no doubt as to how the Negro vote would be cast at the recent election. It has been a long, hard struggle; but the fact that Mayors Snyder and Harper, both Democrats, were able to poll 90% of the Negro vote, when they were candidates for Mayor, and that president-elect Wilson polled more than 40% of them, shows that our fight for a division of the Negro vote has been a fruitful one. The support given Mayors Snyder and Harper by the Negroes not only secured for them representation in the public service, unthought of before, but raised them in their own and public estimation. Now, that they, as well as the Negroes throughout the country, loyally supported Gov. Woodrow Wilson, a Democrat, for president, and thereby made overtures for a truce between them and the Democratic party, which, we believe, insures a kinder relation between the races in the South, in the poetic language of Julia Ward Howe, I can say that:

*"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."*

We truly believe that if the Negroes of the country will cease their hostility to that party, by cultivating the friendship of its better element, we believe that the opportunities for the race to improve its condition will be improved as never before. While we took up the fight for a division of the Negro vote far in the advance of many prominent Negroes, who supported President-elect Wilson, we are proud that they have seen the light, and taken

up the fight for the amicable solution of the race problem, which can alone be secured through the Democratic Party.

Bishop Walters, William Monroe Trotter and many others representing the best intellect of the race, are men with whom it is an honor to battle for rights of a people.

#### MR. TITUS N. ALEXANDER

About seven months ago, Mr. Titus N. Alexander, who had just reached the city, and learning of the policy of *The Liberator*, called at our office stating that he was a Democrat. He stated that he was anxious to join us and work for the success of the Democratic National ticket to be made at Baltimore. We are pleased to state that, after the nomination, he entered the campaign with a whole heart and rendered yeoman service. While acting as solicitor for the Edison Electric Light Co., he became well acquainted with the different sections of the city, which knowledge he used with great advantage to the party in supervising the colored precincts.

The colored precincts showed up grandly; and, if the sentiment, created against the Bull Moose ticket by *The Liberator*, had been followed up, as the editor suggested by a half dozen public meetings in the heavy Negro precincts, fully 65% of that vote would have been cast for Wilson. As it was, they did well, Gov. Wilson polling 43%, and the larger portion of the remainder remaining away from the polls.

Mr. Alexander rendered important service for which he deserves credit.

#### MR. JAMES M. ALEXANDER IN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Mr. Jas. M. Alexander, who has been president of the Afro-American Council for a number of years and ever since it became a Republican Club, came out on the eve of the election and announced that he was supporting the Democratic

ticket. headed by Woodrow Wilson for president.

Mr. Alexander has up to the present time usually been found denouncing the members of the race who supported the cause of democracy.

He is now a deputy collector in the office of the Internal Revenue Collector, and was appointed by President Taft, who took the place out of the Civil Service in order to make the appointment.

It has become generally known that he is now making a strenuous fight on the Democratic leaders for reappointment.

#### Y. M. C. A. HOLDS BIG RALLY

The Y. M. C. A. Rally held at Wesley M. E. Church last Sunday, was one of the largest in its history. The object being to awaken new interest in the great Y. M. C. A. project. The audience was a representative one and the interest manifested lent inspiration to the board of management. Encouraging addresses were delivered by the leading pastors of the city. Mr. A. J. Roberts of the A. J. Roberts & Sons, undertaking establishment, and one of the largest contributors to the Y. M. C. A. fund, delivered a short address as a representative of the laymen. After which Sec. Green delivered a most encouraging address setting forth the needs and aim of the management. Of the \$15,000 necessary to commence the erection of the new building \$5,000 was already in the hands of the management. It was the object of the rally to raise \$2,000 \$1,034 of this amount was raised at the rally. The good work is to be kept up for the next thirty days. As a result of which at least \$3,000 may be raised. The people are doing nicely and we trust they will continue the good work.

#### MISSISSIPPI'S POPULATION

Out of 1,797,114 the Negroes Number 1,099,487—Paper speaks of Progress Race is Making in

#### State and the Work Being Done in Interest of Education.

Special to the New York Age.

Mobile, Ala., Jan. 15.—“The fact that Mississippi has a greater proportion of her population of the Negro race has been a subject of considerable comment by some of the other states of the nation,” says the *Mobile Register*, “but when it is known that Mississippi is putting forth a greater effort to educate her colored people than any other state in the union, and with remarkable success, it is a subject of still more considerable comment.

“The last census showed that Mississippi has a total population of 1,797,114, and that of this number 1,099,487 are Negroes, besides there are more than 1,000 not classified. At first these figures are startling when it is seen that there are a great many more Negroes in the state than whites, but it will be remembered that the Negro of Mississippi is many degrees in intelligence and civilization ahead of his brother in Africa and that the white citizenry of Mississippi is making an effort to raise the status of the Mississippi colored man. She has succeeded in doing this to such a great extent that now numbered among the leading farmers and business men of the state are some colored people. One Negro came to Meridian eight years ago with a capital of \$3, and to-day he is said to be worth at least \$30,000 in real estate and personal property.

“A fair illustration of what is being done for the Negroes of Mississippi is the work being done in this county of Lauderdale and in Meridian. Few people know that there is being taught in every public school for colored people in Lauderdale County all of the branches of manual training as taught in the leading schools of the country. In the eight grades of school the colored pupils are required to take a manual training course from early childhood up and the results are wonderful, so declare the superintendents of

education and others connected with the work of the colored schools. Among the branches taught are sewing, cooking, basketry, drawing, carpentry, school gardening and beautifying school grounds, laundrying, preserving, fancy work, making models of farm implements, millinery, canning, wood and iron work, etc. There is a great deal of interest and pride being taken in the work by the Negro children who attend the public schools.

Mr. Narian of Bombay, India, will address the Y. M. C. A. at 3 p. m. Sunday. Everybody is invited.

Harry M. Mitchell, real estate agent and McDowell & Barnett, lawyers, announce the removal of their offices to rooms 36-37 Canadian Bldg., 432 South Main St. Phone Main 4525—Advertisement.

#### FOR SALE—6 ROOM COTTAGE A SNAP

I have for sale a modern 6 room cottage 1535 W. 37th Street, price \$2,600, \$1,500 cash, balance in three years. This fine piece of property consisting of large lot and cottage is located in one of the most cultured sections of the city. Go out and examine the property then call at room 210 Thorpe Building. Phone Main 2051, J. L. Edmonds.—Advertisement.

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## THE LIBERATOR

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JEFF L. EDMONDS, JR., Assistant Editor.

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Broadway and Franklin

Phone Main 2051

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## THE BULL MOOSE DEMORALIZED

The crushing blow dealt the Lissner-Johnson machine in this state on the 5th has completely demoralized their forces. A plurality of 77,000, last May, was so completely wiped out that even at this writing no one has been able to discover its whereabouts. Many envelopes containing the returns from precincts in the county, are found to have been broken open unlawfully by some unknown person or persons, possibly Bull Moosers, evidently trying to dis-

cover and replace that lost plurality. But with chairman Cotton, of the Democratic Central Committee on their track, they will become farther demoralized if any steal has been attempted.

Chairman Cotton, with the aid of the Taft Republicans, has won a great victory for his party in this county, and will have what belongs to the party even if the matter has to be referred to Congress.

## GOV. JOHNSON WILL BE SUCCEDED BY A DEMOCRAT

That the next governor of this State is to be a Democrat was plainly fore shadowed by the election returns of Nov. 5th. The treatment the Taft Republicans received at the hands of the Lissner-Johnson machine has produced such a revulsion of sentiment that nothing shorter than the complete overthrow of that machine will result. There are 25,000 Negro voters in this State who assisted grandly in bringing about the disaster that has already overtaken the Lissner-Johnson machine. They are so highly elated at the result, that they are eager for another opportunity to assist in making a finish of the work so well begun.

The position of governor's messenger was created by a Democrat and given to one of his Negro supporters. This Gov. Johnson took from the Negroes and gave to a white man. With a Democrat as governor the Negroes will not only get back that messenger-ship, but will receive the full consideration due their voting straight.

With his vote the Negro is not only going to regain the places he lost on the street, in the parks and other positions in the public service, but will keep out of public office every person who attempts to discriminate between citizens on account of race, color or creed.

## The "Colored Troops Fought Nobly."

The Colored voters of this county and state should congratulate themselves upon the jolt they gave the Lissner-Johnson machine on the 5th. They had so often betrayed the Negroes that they flattered themselves with the belief that the Negro was too ignorant to resent it. In making their calculations they overlooked the fact that *The Liberator* with a weekly circulation of 3,000 among Negro voters was relentlessly exposing the perfidy of the Lissner-Johnson machine towards them. When, as a candidate for member of the Board of Supervisors against Lauder Mayor Alexander was threatened with political destruction *The Liberator*, followed by the independent colored voters, went to his rescue. When a candidate for Mayor against Geo. A. Smith, who had the backing of the machine, the Negroes again made his victory possible. The only reward they received at the hands of the Mayor and his Good Government forces was the gradual elimination from the public service. In the last municipal campaign, when the entire Good Government ticket found itself beaten by the Socialists at the primaries, they again made frantic appeals to the Negroes to save them from a Socialist victory. For the time being the Negroes forgot the cowardly manner in which they had been betrayed and joined heartily in the battle to save the city from Socialism. As a reward for their fidelity to the Good Government bunch every position held by them carrying with it responsibility was taken. Every request made by the Negroes for fair play was met by the "race prejudice" dodge manufactured for the purpose, a thing unheard of during the Democratic administrations.

The punishment inflicted upon the Lissner-Johnson machine at the primaries is only the beginning. The fight will be kept up without ceasing until every man guilty of race and color discriminations, shall

have been sent to private life. The only way to punish a faithless office holder is to vote against him every time he asks for public office. There may be differences in the color of men, but there is none in the color of the ballot. And the man or set of men, who discriminate against the Negro on account of his color, after getting his vote, should never have that vote but once.

The vote at the recent election shows as plain as plain can be, that the Lissner-Johnson machine in this city, county and state is doomed. Whether they will ever get any considerable number of the Negro votes again depends entirely upon whether the "Door of Hope" shall remain closed to them.

#### MONEY NEEDED BADLY

Having devoted our entire time and space for the past six months to a struggle for equal and exact justice for all, our collection department has been neglected by force of circumstances. This has left the paper with many bills to meet. We therefore urgently appeal to all of our subscribers to aid us in meeting these bills, by sending a money order for amounts due or notifying us to call.

We are unable to pay car fare for repeated calls so put aside a dollar or more, till we call or mail it to us at once.

*The Liberator* has fought the battle alone, and has won a glorious victory for justice; but the fight has just commenced. The editor is an old man whose strength consists mainly in his love of justice, for which he is battling with all the vigor of his soul.

He needs your aid.

#### AFTER 46 YEARS

After an absence of 46 years Mr. A. L. Jenkins of this city returned to the East a month ago to join in a family reunion. At this reunion he met his three brothers and one sister. He met for the first time in his life his

oldest brother who is 64 years old. Mr. Jenkins expressed surprise at the youthful appearance of the family group. Their combined ages being 300 years. He stated that the hair of the second brother was slightly gray but the oldest brother's head was almost minus of gray hairs.

Mr. Jenkins visited Chatanooga, Tenn., Atlanta, Ga., and returning stopped at Memphis, Tenn., and Kansas City, Mo., where he spent most of his vacation. He says he was surprised beyond measure at the progress that is being made by the colored people in the Southern cities. In Atlanta, Ga., he says the colored people own an entire ward, and are conducting successfully every class of business to be found in the other wards of the city. The colored real estate dealers he said are among the busiest people in the ward. At Chatanooga, Tenn., he found conditions similar. One of the finest and most up-to-date drug store he ever entered in his life was at Chatanooga and owned by Mr. E. C. Wickliffe, a brother of Atty. Wickliffe of this city. He says that that drug store with its soda fountain is not surpassed by any in this city. To meet the demands of the business Mr. Wickliffe owns and operates two drug stores. He

reports similar conditions at Memphis, Tenn., and Kansas City, Mo.

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—Advertisement.

#### WOMAN, 98, IS SURVIVED BY HER 113 DECENDANTS.

DIXON, Ill., Sept. 17.—One hundred and thirteen direct descendants survive Mrs. E. K. Miller, who died at Pawpaw. Mrs. Miller was 98 years old. She could read without difficulty and was up and about only a few days before she died. She is survived by four sons and two daughters, 43 grandchildren and 64 great-grandchildren. All the children were present at the funeral.

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