

The Liberator

Devoted to the Cause of Good Government and the Advancement of the Afro-American.

VOL. VIII.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., FEB. 1906.

No. 2



THE LATE PAUL LAWRENCE DUNBAR

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You will be immensely pleased with the style and fine appearance of "F. B. Q." Spring Suits. We want you to come and see them whether or not you are ready to make a purchase.

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A Description of the Ga. Chaingang by Judge Speer, the Brutal Whipping Boss.

The most cursory view of the evidence in the record will convince the impartial that practically every ignominious mark of infamous punishment is stamped upon the miserable throng in Bibb county chaingang. This is clear from the testimony of the superintendent, E. A. Wimbish, and from the uncontradicted evidence of witnesses who have there expatiated their disregard of sundry provisions of the City Code. The sufferers wear the typical striped clothing of the penitentiary convict. Iron manacles are riveted upon their legs. These can be removed only by the use of the cold chisel. The irons on each leg are connected by chains. The coarse stripes, thick with the dust and grime of long torrid days of a semi-tropical summer, or encrusted with the icy mud of winter, are their sleeping clothes when they throw themselves on their pallets or straw in the common stockades at night. They wake, toil, rest, eat and sleep, to the never-ceasing clanking of the manacles and chains of this involuntary slavery. Their progress to and from their work is public, and from dawn to dark, with brief intermission, they toil on the public roads and before the public eye.

About them as they sleep, journey and labor watch the convict guards armed with rifle and shot gun. This is to at once make escape impossible, and to make sure the swift thudding of the picks and the rapid flight of the shovels shall never cease. If the guards would hesitate to promptly kill one sentenced for petty violations of city law should he attempt to escape, the evidence does not disclose the fact. And the fact more baleful and more ignominious than all, with each gang stands the whipping boss, with the badge of his authority. This the evidence discloses to be a heavy leathern strap about two and a half or three ft. long, with solid hand grasp, and with broad, heavy and flexible lash. From the evidence we may judge that the agony inflicted by this implement of torture is not surpassed by the Russian knout, the synonym the world around for merciless corporal punishment. If we may also accept the uncontradicted evidence of the witnesses it is true that on the Bibb county chaingang for no day is the strap wholly idle and not infrequently it is fiercely active. One witness, who served many months, testified that if the gang does not work like "fighting fire," to use his simile, the whipping boss runs down the line, striking with apparent indiscriminate the convicts as they bend to their tasks. Often the whipping is more prolonged and

deliberate. At times, according to another witness, also uncontradicted, the convicts when at the stockade are called into the "dog lot." All present, the whipping boss selects the victims in his judgment worthy of punishment.

They are called to the stable door and made to lie face downward across the sill, a strong convict holds down the head and shoulders and the boss lays on the lash on the naked body until he thinks the sufferer has been whipped enough.

ATTORNEY BLAIR WINS A VICTORY.

Some time ago a young colored man was lodged in jail charged with attempting to snatch a white lady's purse. On the evening of the arrest, the lady who made the charge, in company with a companion, was taking a walk with her purse swinging from one of her arms in the usual style. The colored man imprudently passed between the ladies and in so doing, in some manner got fastened to the purse. With might and main the lady held to her purse while her companion set up a scream that brought everybody in the neighborhood to the street. To the colored man, who was just from the south, the lady's screams sounded like the crack of doom and he set out on a wild run but was soon overhauled and turned over to the police. At the police station he was so non-plussed that he didn't know whom he was or where he was going. When the case was brought to trial in the superior court the prisoner's conviction was regarded as a foregone conclusion. On the witness stand the prisoner who knew nothing of himself or where he lived, testified that as he passed between the ladies the purse chain got fastened to a button on his sleeve which caused all the trouble. This sounded so fishy that his case seemed hopeless. As soon as Mr. Blair took up the cross-examination the prosecution that had all along been confident became alarmed. His cross-examination was so rigid that the witnesses for the prosecution became panic stricken and was as badly at sea as was the prisoner. The jury promptly gave the prisoner the benefit of the doubt and discharged him. Seven members of the jury were Southern white men. After severely castigating the district attorney for his method of getting evidence, Mr. Blair, with his usual vigor, made a very ingenious argument to the jury. Among other things he told them that pocket-picking, purse snatching, diamond nipping, burglary and counterfeiting were professions exclusively the white man's, and that while the negro is rising and will ultimately become intelligent enough to enter these

professions, they are at present in absolute undisputed possession of the white man.

In passing between the ladies the colored man acted rude and ungentlemanly, and, but for the legal and forensic ability of Attorney Blair, he would be in the penitentiary.

The Times described the prisoner as "a burly black negro," but when he was put on trial the judge thought he was white on account of his fair complexion and straight hair. The whole trial was a great victory for Blair.

A FOOLISH HABIT.

It is very seldom that a distinguished colored man or woman ever travels as far west as California, and when they do we ought to take advantage of every opportunity to make them welcome and to learn a lesson from their lives.

But the most foolish habit the colored people have and the most humiliating to the visitors, is to invite them to deliver a public address and then take up the best half of the occasion delivering foolish welcoming addresses and singing stale solos.

The colored people have turned out in large numbers to several meetings where some prominent visitor was to speak when almost the entire evening would be taken up by local soloist and welcoming orations and, before the visitor, the one whom the people came to hear and see, can finish speaking, they have to leave in order to get the last car going to their homes. It is said on good authority that Dr. Bowen, the most learned colored man that ever visited California, said that he wished the colored people would learn not to take up their time with solos and welcoming speeches when they invite them to speak, as they can hear as good singing at home and there was absolutely nothing in the speeches.

In the case of Mrs. Washington, it was not as bad as we have seen, although the two solos and the four welcoming speeches should have been omitted, with the possible exception of one address and that should have been delivered by Mrs. Stovall for all the clubs, thus saving a half hour for Mrs. Washington and the public.

A NEW LODGING HOUSE.

Mrs. C. L. Campbell has removed from 125 Vine street to 815 Lynden street, where she has fitted up a first-class rooming house. For furnished rooms, neat and sunny, at reasonable rates, call and see her. Mrs. Campbell makes a specialty of supplying families with home-like compartments.



MR. AND MRS. H. A. HARROLL OF
CRAFTONVILLE, CAL.

Mr. Harroll is not only the wealthiest colored farmer in Southern California, but is one of our most practical men. For a number of years he was manager of a large orange ranch at Craftonville and was one of the largest shippers of oranges in that locality. As the owner of the ranch lived in the east, Mr. Harroll had complete control and while keeping the ranch in first-class shape, made it pay as large an income as any ranch there. A few days ago he purchased the Dalton ranch on Citrus and Crafton avenues, paying \$12,000 cash. This is doubtless the largest cash deal ever

made by a colored farmer in this section. He is a staunch supporter of all worthy race enterprises and his usefulness as a member of the race increases with his business success. On a visit to this city last summer he found the members of the Wesley M. E. church struggling to raise \$2000 and handed them a check for fifty dollars. He pays for and reads every colored paper in the state. A man of his calibre will succeed in anything he undertakes and will have and enjoy wealth because he aspires for something higher.

A Tribute to Paul Laurence Dunbar.

Paul Laurence Dunbar is dead. There were only seven or eight lines in the newspapers yesterday to chronicle the fact. Yet there was not a newspaper in the world but published those seven or eight lines. While the bustling, the busy, the harsh and greedy age made as little of the circumstance as it was possible to do, still it could not ignore the fact altogether. It had columns of space in its newspapers to give to the financier who had been discovered to be a thief, to the hollow words and the infinitely worthless acts of politicians, but to the dead poet—seven or eight lines.

But when all these who strut their brief hour on the stage of human action and human interest are long forgotten, the name of Paul Laurence

Dunbar will live. He was just a singer, but weary men and weary women needed his songs, and when we of today are long in our graves there will be men and women to come after us who will need his songs again. For, rush and hurry through life as we will, and as we do, following the false light and grasping at greed with our puny strength, deep down in the worst of us all, there is a hunger for the good, for the beautiful and the true. Paul Laurence Dunbar was among those whose mission it was to satisfy and to feed that hunger, and few that ever lived fulfilled their missions more successfully. Like Keats, he died young, not yet having reached his thirty-fourth year. Like Burns, he came up from the sweet fragrance of the soil. He was born poor, the son of a father and mother who were

slaves. He earned his education by working as an elevator boy in Washington. But, how futile and how unavailing are handicaps that the world puts on the soul that God endows with divine fire?

This young negro poet goes down to his early grave as one of the immortals. It has been prophesied that the negro race would yet give us our greatest poet and our greatest musician. Paul Dunbar went far to prove that the prophecy will yet come true. As it is, the only real American music that we have was given to us by the negro. And no land, no country or time has produced anything sweeter or more inspired than the "Sorrow Songs" of the rice fields and the plantations—songs that ever wrung from the souls of them who were shackled with our gyves, and bound in infamy to the wheel of the bondsman.

Dead is the poet. Tonight, beyond the stars he sits with Keats, with Burns and Shelly and all that palm-crowned company who went before him. No color line will be drawn there, but arm in arm will they wander together down the golden highways of God's eternal Land of Beauty. He was one with them, and great will be his welcome.—The Times.

THE GRIM REAPER BUSY.

Dr. Hiram A. Reid, the wellknown local historian and prominent citizen of Pasadena, has been gathered to his Father. Dr. Reid was identified with every movement that had for its object the moral uplifting of his community. His love included the men of every race. He seemed to be a total stranger to race and color prejudice, and was intensely interested in the welfare of the colored people. He was present at nearly every meeting held by the colored citizens of Pasadena to consider ways and means for bettering their condition and was ever ready to aid them in any way he could. At the Emancipation celebration held in Pasadena January last, with a number of gray haired veterans, he occupied a front seat and rejoiced that as a soldier in the civil war he had helped to make that evening possible. As he had done many times before, he warmly shook our hand and bade us God speed in our struggle for equal protection of the law and for equality of opportunity. It is extremely sad to note the rapidity with which the ranks of those who stand for absolute justice are being thinned.

THE LIBERATOR

J. L. EDMUNDS, Editor and Business Manager.

JEFF L. EDMONDS, JR., Assistant Editor.

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DUNBAR NO MORE.

Paul Laurence Dunbar, the great negro poet, is dead. He has joined the colony of immortals on heaven's eternal camping ground, and for all coming time his songs, by dispelling care, will sweeten the lives of struggling men and women. When the fact that this republic once existed, shall have become a dim tradition so far as its position among the nations of the earth is concerned, with Longfellow, Whittier, Bryant, Lowell and Holmes, Dunbar will, in defiance of the lapse of time perpetuate the memory of these states.

In spite of the tremendous efforts that are being put forward in this country to crush the American negro, he is adding to its glory in every department of the earth's endeavor. And when the part played by him in the history-making of this country shall have been blotted out, its achievements will have perished from the memory of men. In the halls of fine arts in Europe, Tanner's paintings stand for America. In oratory and statesmanship, Hon. Frederick Douglass, a negro and fugitive slave occupies the forefront, the American mus-

cian is the Negro. In science, philosophy, medicine, law and constructive statesmanship, and unflinching courage and gallantry on the field of battle, the Negro is inseparably linked with all that is great and grand in this country's history. As a believer in the doctrine set forth in the sermon on the mount the negro alone stands for America.

Earth bids farewell to all that is mortal of Dunbar, but the sweetness of his soul in the songs he has sung will ever live to bless the children of men. A race that in spite of innumerable handicaps produced, Toussaint L'Ouverture, the founder of a state, Bishop Allen the founder of a church. Frederick Douglass, the founder of Negro citizenship, Paul Laurence Dunbar the immortal singer and Tanner the world-renowned painter need have no fears for the future.

* * *

Why Gov. Vardaman Should Be Sent to the U. S. Senate.

Gov. Vardaman, who is candidate for United States senator was, says the Colored American magazine, a convict guard twelve years, and for years has sustained illegitimate relations with the worst element of degenerate women at Greenwood, his home city, bases his estimate of Negroes on the vicious class with whom he has associated. Vardaman wants to go to the U. S. Senate and is in a position to gratify his ambition. The convict guard element, the overseers or plantation whipping bosses, who whip, lynch and burn Negro men and seduce their wives and daughters, are in the saddle in Mississippi, and will send Vardaman to the Senate. This we trust they will do, for the reason that his elevation to the U. S. Senate would lift him off the backs of the law-abiding mob ridden Negroes of Mississippi and load him on to the white Americans whose winkings at crime made the Tillmans and Vardamans possible. It is indeed unreasonable to suppose that mobs and convict guards in control of states will deny themselves representation in the United States Senate. Furthermore his elevation to the Senate would lessen his power for evil towards the Negroes. If all the Vardamans and Tillmans in the South could be elevated to the U. S. Senate, it would be a blessing in disguise.

Vardaman's change of tactics in regard to negro schools, is the result of recent information he has gained on the subject. His first proposition was to divide the school fund between the races, basing the division on the proportion of taxes paid by the Negroes on the one hand and by all other elements on the other. Judge Critz and

Senator Noel, both of whom contested the nomination for the governorship with Vardaman, investigated the amount of taxes paid by the negroes and told the whites of that state if such a dangerous law was enacted the Negroes would receive more of the school funds than they were receiving at present. Hence Vardaman's change. What a humiliating position for the superior race in Mississippi.

By all means let every lyncher, Negro burner, plantation whipping bosses or ravishers of Negro girls, and haters of justice, send their chief, J. K. Vardaman, the insulter of the President's mother, a high-toned Southern lady—to the United States Senate. He is the legitimate offspring of our present national policy of acquiescence in the nullification of the federal constitution in the Southern States.

MAJOR ALLENSWORTH

Is delivering a series of lectures to the Sunday school children that are not only instructive to the young, but inspiring to all who hear them. Every colored Sunday school in Southern California ought to hear these lectures. They can be heard and heard again with profit and interest. The major, who is a retired army officer with a salary of \$3000 per year, is devoting his entire time and energies to uplifting the race. He is a man of large experience, a happy entertaining speaker who carries his audience with him.

War with China? The attempt to force Chinamen to trade with Americans is making the big stick too common. Prominent Chinamen say that the whole thing is a bluff. We have seen negroes whipped and even killed for not trading at the plantation store, but we didn't expect to see the nation reduced to such a godless level. When a Christian nation sets out to kill off a pagan nation for an opportunity to worship the pagan's God (gold) that God is supplanting all other Gods.

Too many colored people are stopping in the cities. What the race needs now, is more acreage and less city lots. On two acres of land a small family can make an independent living. There is room, freedom and wealth for a hundred colored farmers to raise vegetables for this city alone.

* * *

The only way to instill race pride in your children is to have them read race papers, race books and race history. If your children have no race pride they will have no personal pride. They cannot have race pride without a knowledge of the race's achievements; the only way this knowledge can be obtained is by reading race literature. The only way to develop race literature is to pay for it.

THE LIBERATOR.

THE UNKNOWN.

(Written for the Liberator.)
I've asked these questions oft in vain,
If after death we'll live again?
After the earthly twilight glow
Will endless dawn illumine our brow?

Is there a land beyond the tomb,
Where lilies and sweet roses bloom?
Some mystics empire o'er the way,
Where night gives place to endless day?

Is there a green, Elysian shore,
Where we shall dwell forevermore?
When life and earthly joys have fled,
Will white-winged Peace its pinions spread?

When loved ones have faded from our sight,
We said good night, sweet dreams,
good night,
Beyond this world of strife and pain,
Hope whispers we shall meet again.

Life and love like flowers will fade,
No voices answer from the dead,
Our friends pass over one by one,
Into the realms of the Unknown.

—WM. WESTENFIELD.

Bloomington, Cal.

MR. GEO. W. DENNIS, JR., JOINS THE MAJORITY.

The sad news of the death of Mr. Geo. W. Dennis, Jr., was received with sincere regret by the colored people throughout the state. He was a native son, a brilliant orator and an ardent lover of his race. In every movement for the advancement of the race in this state he took a leading part. He was loved for his honesty, independence and strength. His loss is mourned by the colored people of the entire state.

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DEATH OF MRS. A. THURMAN.

After an illness lasting several months, Mrs. A. Thurman died at her home in Santa Monica on the 9th inst. The interment took place at Woodlawn Cemetery on the 11th. Rev. R. H. Herring of Pasadena, her pastor, preached the funeral sermon. The floral offerings were many and beautiful emblematical of the beautiful life she had lived. Her consistent Christian life made her many friends who, with the bereaved family, sincerely mourn her loss. Mr. Morgan T. White manager of the Moore & Burnett embalming Co. had charge of the funeral.

ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST.

The Little Delimonia, 216, 218½ E. Second street, is the place to get your meals when up town. Every thing up-to-date. T. H. Wiseman, proprietor.

Rev. G. R. Bryant is sick from overwork. At a recent meeting the Asbury Club of the Wesley M. E. Church

electd the following officers: Pres. Mrs. A. D. Jones; Treasurer, Mr. C. H. Dougherty; Secretary, Mr. A. D. Jones. Everything is now in readiness for the big rally April 22nd.

* * *

The Moore & Burnett Co., undertakers, have been quite busy in the last few days, having charge of five funerals. One of the funerals was that of a white child. The services rendered by the company on these sad occasions is very satisfactory to all, so much so that there is an increasing demand for them.

* * *

DON'T FAIL TO HEAR HIM.

Mr. G. LeForest Wood, impersonator, story teller and dialect reader will give an entertainment at Wesley Chapel M. E. Church Tuesday evening, February 27th, for the benefit of the church. Admission, adults 25 cts., children 15 cts. He will appear in nine different characters.

* * *

The man that has no confidence in his race has none in himself. Such a man can accomplish but little in this world.

* * *

Major Allensworth visited Sawtell on the 15th, looking over real estate in that prosperous locality. While he was there he was the guest of the editor, who took the Major for a drive to the Soldiers' Home, West Gate and Santa Monica. At the Home the Major was cordially received by the Adjutant, the Governor being absent. After looking over the country, listing much real estate, the Major returned to the city well pleased with Sawtelle. He represents the California Investment Co. of which he is manager.

A NOTED LECTURER.

Major Allen Allensworth, of Los Angeles, made a visit to Sawtelle last Thursday afternoon, and in company with Mr. J. L. Edmonds, paid the Sentinel a call. The Major intends to become a resident of this place in the near future. He also promised that he will give the people of Sawtelle a lecture at no distant date. He is an old time friend of Capt. B. F. Leeds of this place, who was very much delighted when he saw the Major once more.

Major Allensworth is an eloquent speaker, a logical conversationalist and an entertainer, always pleasant and judicious in his talk, and original if not unique in his selection of subjects for the lecture platform. Let's eagerly wait for him.—Sawtelle Sentinel.

DRUG STORE.

The efforts of Drs. Nelson, Johnson and Garrot to start a drug store is a move in the right direction. We trust

that our other colored physicians will give the matter their hearty support. A drug store owned and conducted by the colored people is badly needed. The proposition is popular with the masses, and if a company is organized its stock would find ready purchasers among our people. We would be pleased to see Dr. M. E. Sykes assist in this enterprise as he is worth \$50,000, and his participation would lend it great impetus. Organize a company gentlemen.

MRS. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

Wife of the distinguished educator of that name, has returned to Tuskegeon after spending a few pleasant days in this city. She was the honored guest of the Friday Morning Club the swellest white club in the city. She was also a guest of some of the best white families. Her addresses were all well received. The address she delivered at Wesley Chapel M. E. church was great. Mrs. Washington is a native of Noxubey county, Miss., the county in which the editor of this journal was reared.

* * *

The Moon. With pleasure we place The Moon on our exchange list. It is a neat and ably edited weekly, published in Memphis, Tenn. Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, the well-known author of "Souls of Black Folks," is editor. This fact alone is sufficient evidence that The Moon will play an important part in the uplifting of the race.

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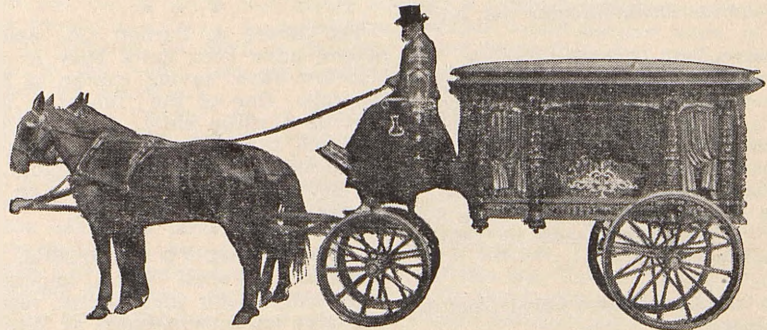
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