

The Liberator

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

VOL. II.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., JULY, 1901.

No. 22.

Shall the Color Line be Drawn in the Public Schools?

What Does the Preacher Want?

White and Colored Children Are Treated Alike.

Agitation Uncalled For.

A SCHOOL FOR NEGROES ONLY.

Speaking of the need for educational endeavor among the people of his race Rev. Chandler said that if he had the facilities for opening a school he could have 50 students by this evening, and that all would be more than anxious to learn. He speaks from intimate knowledge of the situation, and says that his people suffer much from the race prejudice that exists in some of the schools.

"There are few of our children," he said, "who ever reach the high school, just because they are disheartened before they have advanced far enough. They leave school and grow up in ignorance, although they are capable. After they are older they often see the need of education, and if there was a night school for our people many would go. I have been in such schools when men 40 years old came in and began with the alphabet, wailing to study hard for the rudiments of an education."

He told the story of a young colored girl in Los Angeles who was denied admission to one of the local private schools because of her race, and said

that the management gave as an excuse for excluding her that there were some Southern pupils in the school who would probably leave if she were admitted.

"I do not believe they would have left," said Rev. Chandler. "I have attended college where there were Southern boys, and some of my warmest friends were among these. It is too bad that this fear exists in California where people should be more liberal minded. There is no question, however, that the colored people are discriminated against in many cases, although we are supposed to have equal rights so far as the public schools are concerned."—Express.

The above from an interview with Rev. Chandler by the Express reporter, is indeed strange reading to those acquainted with the splendid educational advantages offered to its youths by this state and city without regard to race, color or condition. A college education is offered every youth in the state free of charge. Now, if they refuse it whose fault is it? To attribute it to race or color prejudice is to make a statement that cannot be borne out by facts. "There are few of our children," he says, "who ever reach the high school, just because they are disheartened before they advance far enough. There are many more white boys and girls in this state who never reach to the high school than there are negroes, counting men, women and children. Thousands of white children leave the common school every year before they reach the seventh grade.

What disheartened them—race prejudice? In both cases it is largely due to the fact that they are allowed to do about as they pleased. In this connection we regret to say that too many parents, both white and black, take less care of their children than they do of their poodle dogs. The refusal to admit colored children into private schools is no argument in favor of drawing the color line in the public schools. If there are colored people who prefer to send their children to a private school let them organize such a school. To say that any considerable

number of colored children have left the public schools on account of race prejudice and are growing up in ignorance in consequence, is to cast a serious, uncalled for reflection upon an honorable corps of teachers and officers who are actuated by the highest motives. This we are satisfied Rev. Chandler would not knowingly do. There is more or less race prejudice everywhere in this country, and California is no exception, but it has not driven a single colored child from the public schools of this state who wanted to learn. It has not kept one out who wanted to learn. This cry about race prejudice is the favorite dodge of every colored boy and girl who want to leave school to hang around the street and visit dives and dens of vice, and the pity of it is, they have no one at home to protest against their downward course.

COLORED SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

We know several cases where colored men are serving as trustees of schools in their respective school districts, although their entire districts contained from 2 to 6 colored children each, the balance, numbering several hundred, being white. Was it race prejudice or the absence of race prejudice that prompted the white citizens to elect these negroes to assist in supervising their schools? In each case, however, the colored men elected are heavy property holders and public spirited citizens. Mr. G. W. Albright, the well known colored orator, is trustee of one of our suburban schools.

Not long ago a colored minister of this city was nominated for member of the school board, a position that would have enabled him to stand between the colored children and race prejudice, if any existed, but he was so well pleased with the happy condition of the colored children in the city schools, he refused to let the people elect him, which they certainly would have done had he consented to run. Now to boil this whole matter down the colored people, that is,

the intelligent, enterprising element among them, are satisfied with the generous provisions now existing for the education of their children, and while they would not object to mix teachers for mixed schools, they will never aid in drawing the color line in the public schools by establishing colored schools. In the mixed schools in New York and Illinois these are mixed teachers and the world is moving on just the same. But this question need not be discussed. In no state in the Union are the colored people better treated than they are in California. Few states offer its colored citizens better opportunities to acquire and enjoy wealth than California does. The churches, schools and colleges of this state, like the truths of our precious Bible, are open free to all.

There is no Negro Question

Says the Washington Post.

Ignorant White Voters are as Dangerous as Ignorant Negro Voters.

THE POST AND THE RACE QUESTION.

The Washington, D. C., Post goes to the root of the matter when under the caption of "Too Much of the Negro Question" it says:

"There is no negro question of any great importance that cannot be solved by the very simplest of processes. We have only to treat the negroes under general rules applying alike to all other classes of our heterogeneous population and pay no further attention to them as negroes."

"Why should we concern ourselves about the negro any more than about the Sicilian, the Malay, the German, the Russian, or the Portuguese? Why should they be segregated and set apart as a specially favored people? It is true that for two or three centuries

they were slaves, but they have been free for forty years., and during that period they have enjoyed the same advantages of education and opportunities of improvement that have been offered the whites. It is a fact, indeed, that nine-tenths of the complaints and agitation proceed from negroes who were born free, while the few survivors of slavery are as a rule well contented with their lot. The truth is that a dispassionate examination of their present attitude reveals more of a pretense of superiority than a petition for equality. They make the negro question themselves with an imprudent and clamorous demand for what they call 'recognition.' "

The Post continues:

"The state owes nothing to the negro more than to any other citizen—that is to say, it owes protection of his life and property, equal rights before the law, equal facilities for education. We do not approve—on the contrary, we deplore and denounce—the exclusion of the negro from the ballot box merely because of his race and color. In our opinion the illiterate, shiftless, and irresponsible whites make just as bad citizens as do negroes of the same kind. Suffrage laws should not discriminate. They should take note of all disqualifications, mental, moral, or material, and apply them to whites and blacks alike. Under that arrangement—and it prevails in nearly every part of the country—the negro has no excuse for annoying his neighbors with childish reproaches and recriminations. If he wants to become a capitalist, let him set about it as white men have had to do; if he wants to get into society, let him make himself eligible and acceptable to those who control its entrances. He will never become rich by loafing around and living on the wages of confiding cooks and chambermaids, nor will he endear himself to society by sticking out his under lip and looking for a *casus belli* every hour of the day."

"None of this applies to the honest, industrious and self-respecting colored people, who can be found in hundreds of thousands between the Potomac and Gulf of Mexico. It applies to the pushing, impertinent, half-educated and wholly futile negroes who are making all this tiresome noise.

"Any one who has read history knows that there is no royal road to wealth, power, greatness, influence for race or class. The race that rules more than half the civilized world today lived in caves like the bears 2000 years ago. The Latins who rule the rest of it knew the meaning of civilization only a few centuries earlier. Egypt was the exemplar of culture, the arts and sciences, when all the Caucasian races were steeped in a hideous and appalling barbarism. But none of these races rose to eminence and domination by complaining of injustice and persecution. What they got they earned. What they received they were entitled to. Nations, peoples, individuals, stand or fall upon their merits. Social evolution is not affected by silly outcry and peevish lamentation.

"We are weary of this 'Negro Question.' It is nonsense."

WHAT WILL MY SON DO?

Ask any one of the numerous parents whose children are hanging around the street, why they don't send them to school and invariably the the query will come: What will they do after they are educated? They will go to work and make a place for themselves if they are worthy of existence. Just think of the amount of honorable labor there is to be done to keep the world going. There will be men to be made and homes to be built and to beautify, forests to fell, lands to till, and factories to fill. There is our great country to be developed and governed. There will be victories to be won and crowns to wear; kind words to be spoken, noble deeds to be performed; the world to save from sin and heaven to enter in. Nothing for your children to do in the midst of all of this glorious work? Shall your children starve in the thoroughfare of plenty? Although we have mentioned only a few of the small pieces of work that is to be performed. Yet, it must be performed by educated men and women.

We do all kinds of job work on short notice. Office 620 S. Broadway. Telephone, green 1882.

WHY EDWARDS KILLED FOSTER.

HE STRIKES EDWARDS' WIFE. THE BURNING OF SAM HOSE RECALLED.

From a reliable source we received the following particulars of the killing of Foster at Benton, La., by Edwards, which are as follows: On the morning of the killing, Foster went to the field where Edwards, his wife and a number of laborers were snapping cotton. After abusing Mrs. Edwards, Foster slapped her, whereupon he was knocked down by some one supposed to be Edwards. Foster got up mounted his horse and rode rapidly to the house for his gun as the sequel showed. In the meantime Edwards and his wife took refuge in their cabin and none too soon for Foster returned armed with two six shooters and accompanied by the overseer who was also armed. When informed that Edwards and his wife had gone to their cabin, Foster and his body guard followed and on reaching the yard, tied their horses and with a pistol in each hand Foster and the negro driver approached Edwards' cabin, whereupon Edwards armed with a double barreled shot gun stepped in front of his door and shot Foster dead thus saving his own life and that of his wife. He did not shoot Foster from ambush as reported in the Associated Press, but in the precise manner as stated above. The killing would have been justifiable under the circumstances if Edwards had shot from ambush as most men would have done. The unexpected appearance of Edwards in front of his cabin with shot gun paralyzed both Foster and his body guard. When Foster fell dead the negro driver threw away his guns and cried lustily for mercy which was given. Armed with the guns of his would be slayers, Edwards quietly walked away from the scene with the air of a man determined to sell his life as dear as possible. That's why the Louisiana mob has been so careful to avoid a meeting with him unless reliably informed that he was dead or unarmed and securely

chained. Although the facts as stated above were well known to the people of that community, false reports were sent out and preparations were made to burn him at the stake if he could be captured asleep or unarmed. It was also well known that the other negroes on the farm had no more to do with the killing than the governor of that state, and the murder of Rev. Smith and McLand was one of the most cold blooded murders in the history of mob murders except the murder of Rev. Lige Strickland after the burning of Sam Hose.

Hose, it will be remembered killed his employer near Atlanta, Ga. in self defense, according to the statement of the deadman's wife. She says that Hose called upon her husband for a settlement and after a few words her husband, whom she says was very quick tempered, ran into the house, secured his revolver and ran out, she followed him only to see him killed by an axe thrown by Hose who immediately left the place. As is always the case false reports were sent to the country which were readily believed. Hose was charged with killing the man at the latter's supper table, then outraging his wife all of which were known to be false by Clark Howell, editor of the Constitution and his gang. Hose was captured and turned over to the mob, who notified all of the white people in the surrounding towns including Atlanta, the capital of the state to bring their wives and young ladies to see him burned alive. Accordingly churches and Sunday schools were abandoned and every body repaired to the scene. Perfectly nude, in an elevated position, the victim was chained to an iron stake in full view of the women and children. The ears of the victim together with nameless portions of his body were cut off and sold to the highest bidder. With knives in their hands the members of the mob fought for an opportunity to cut a slice out of his quivering flesh for a memento. After this shocking manner of torture had been carried to excess without bringing from the victim the slightest expression of pain, fire was brought and what remained of the spark of life was slowly burned out. When his baked liver protruded from a hole made by knives and fire the

mob again fought for slices which were sold at 35 cents each. As far as Hose was concerned the tragedy was ended and his innocent spirit had returned to the God who gave it. His troubles were over, not so with the mob. Not so with the country that permitted it, not so with women and children who witnessed it. The image of that crime and the horrid appearance of that tortured victim will be transmitted by them to their posterity. Nothing receives and transmits images so perfectly as woman.

200 COLORED DELEGATES

From the Southern states, who are en route to the National Epworth League convention which will convene in San Francisco, will reach this city on the 13th. They will attend a grand Epworth League celebration to be given at Elks' hall, 231 South Spring street, 3 p. m., Sunday evening, July 14th. Everybody invited. Admission free. Good singing. Grand reception, Monday evening, July 15, Elks' hall, 231 S. Spring street. Admission 25 cents to all, except delegates. Supper free to all.—Reception Committee.

ALL IS WELL.

The God of love who reigns above
Placed me on earth to dwell;
He'll guide my feet to waters sweet,
I feel that all is well.

If Truth and Right and reason's light,
Within my spirit dwell.
They'll banish tears and blinding fears
They teach me all is well.

When fleeting breath or pain and death,
Or seething waters swell,
This beacon light will banish night,
I know that all is well.

This is my song when troubles throng,
And this I love to tell;
In weal or woe, Oh, this I know
That all, that all is well.

When my eyes close in death's repose,
And I bid earth farewell,
Oh, may I say without dismay,
I know that all is well.

WM. WESTENFIELD.

South Pasadena, March 20th, 1901.

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Business office, 620 South Broadway, Los Angeles, Cal.

TEL. GREEN 1882.

A FITTING RECOGNITION.

Our bright local contemporary, the Liberator, says: "The recognition received by colored voters of this state at the hands of Governor Gage, by the position given Mr. Wickliffe, is a splendid victory for the independent colored voters." The extract alludes to the appointment of G. W. Wickliffe, a promising young colored attorney, to a \$1200 clerkship in the office of the board of harbor commissioners at San Francisco. The appointment was probably made, however, solely on the ground of the personal fitness of the appointee, coupled with a recognition of the fact that capability and not color is the proper test of fitness.

The appointment which the Liberator thus commends should help to dispel the pessimism which that paper is wont to display in discussing the prospects of the colored people. For example, it says, relative to the recent decision of the supreme court in the insular cases: "The people owe obedience to no court that orders them to disobey the golden rule." That rule is admirable as a moral law and theoretically perfect, but mankind will have to reach a higher

plane of evolution before the rule is adopted in all circumstances of life. A little reflection will convince our zealous contemporary on that point. Nor is it wise to hold the Republican party responsible for outrages in the south which it deplores and deprecates, but is powerless to stop. But the Liberator means well, as this extract proves: "We love law, but hate lawlessness. To plead for the enforcement of the laws is the best proof one can give of his devotion to the women and children of his country. To help make the law supreme is to glorify God."—The Herald.

Our esteemed contemporary, The Herald, says: "The appointment of Mr. Wickliffe was probably made however, solely on the ground of the personal fitness of the appointee." Upon this point we take no issue with the Herald, but it was the independent colored voters under the leadership of the Liberator that caused the discovery of his personal fitness. This appointment is hailed by the colored voters of this state as the dawn of better things. If the negro continues to become less partisan and more American in his voting there will be other discoveries made that will benefit him. Rampant partisanship is poor politics. The solid negro vote has injured the negro, just as the solid South has been detrimental to the South.

Mrs. C. E. Jeremiah, of San Francisco, a former resident of South Pasadena is visiting her friends and former neighbors. As she came entirely unheralded her visit was the most agreeable surprise that they have had for some time. The improvement in her health and appearance is so marked that some of her friends could hardly recognize her. Mr. Jeremiah's friends were pained to hear that he was suffering with rheumatism. Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Edmunds entertained Mrs. Jeremiah at dinner on the 9th inst. Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah will shortly make Portland, Oregon their permanent residence.

MR. B. R. RANDOLPH.

Mr. Randolph, our popular policeman, will spend his vacation in San Francisco. He has made a good record on the police force, and the residents on his beat feel that their persons and property is safe when he is on duty. He is a dignified, and fine looking officer.

Much of the colored prejudice that exists in this state is due to a certain class of negroes who will themselves draw the color line whenever they imagine that they can profit by it. They run from the color line in one section of the country, then persist in drawing it where they stop if it does not already exist. The more attention you give to the things that will add to the prosperity of your community, the more you will be treated as a citizen. The less you think about your color, the better it will be for you.

POSTPONED.

The entertainment that was to be given by the colored citizens of Pasadena for the benefit of the Ruth Brown Thompson fund has been postponed. This was done in order to give all who desired to attend both an opportunity to attend the reception to be given the colored Epworth League delegates from the South. When the new date for the entertainments has been decided upon, full announcements will be made. Look out for the announcement.

Say, friends, we have sent you several copies of The Liberator in order that you might understand the object of its publication, which you know is in the interests of good government and the general advancement of the people. We hope that you have made up your mind to send in your subscription, and thus aid in a worthy cause.

Each copy will give you information worth many times the subscription price.

If you want a clean, able, independent, up-to-date newspaper, subscribe for the Liberator. Now is the time. Subscription, 10 cents per month, \$1.00 a year in advance. Sample copies free.

The other day a white boy 13 years old up in Massachusetts killed his playmate, age 12, then hung himself, thus ridding the country of a dangerous criminal. The spirit of the mob is taking possession of the people, both old and young. Every day witnesses the slaughter of a white woman by her husband or sweetheart. No life is safe. What will the harvest be?

THE SOUTH'S MISTAKES.

"The mistakes of my life have been many," addresses itself to our dear southland with unusual force at this time, as there seems to be no news from that section, but its mobs and unconstitutional constitutional conventions, which are now attempting to legalize nullification. The money that should be spent in educating the ignorant white and black masses of that section is being squandered by conventions to legislate the manhood out of the negroes and poor whites. The time that the people of that section should be devoting to the development of its great natural resources to the promotion of commerce and general prosperity, is now, under the leadership of demagogues, being wasted in the attempt to degrade the very laborers to whom they owe the little prosperity they now possess. The negro's labor has made the South bud and blossom like the rose. He cleared her forests, built her cities, educated her people. For his two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil he asks not a cent. Against those who wronged him in the past he cherishes no resentment. He stands with his face to the future and his back to the past. The demagogues are trying to turn him around. The mob seems determined to turn him around or put him in the ground. They can do the latter, but never the former. The negro is free, he is going to remain so. To future prosperity of the South demands it. When the South enslaved the negro she made a mistake; when she purchased the slaves of the Northern slave holders, who sold their slaves because they could not make the business pay, she made a mistake. The belief that slavery is the best condition for labor is a mistake. The agitation for the extension of slavery was a mistake. The Dred Scott decision, the fugitive slave law and the firing upon Fort Sumter, were mistakes. The organization of the Ku Klux Klan and the toleration of its offspring—the mob—are mistakes. The attempt to legislate the negro out of his rights, to tax him without representation, to disfranchise him and yet count him for congressional apportionment, is a serious blunder, and, like slavery, will

work great injury to the South. Already the making of the so-called negro question the paramount issue of every campaign has dwarfed Southern manhood, driven statesmen from the halls of legislation and filled their places with mob leaders and pigmies. It has driven the Haynes and Hamptons from the federal senate to make room for brainless blackguards of the Pitchfork Tillman type. For the past three quarters of a century everything has been sacrificed to fixing the "nigger." It has stifled her industries, denied the entry of capital, suspended the operation of the law and set up the rule of the mob. History will repeat itself. If our Democratic brethren of the South keep up the pace at which they are going in the disfranchising business self-preservation will compel the North to treat the inequality of suffrage they persist in producing just as it did slavery. Then the South will need the assistance of the negro to keep that section from becoming a non-entity. The policy of the South toward the negro is wrong.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Miss Kittie E. Bradley had one of the fingers on her left hand so badly crushed by being caught in the machinery of the laundry where she was working that it had to be amputated. It is sincerely regretted by her friends. Miss Bradley is organist for the Wesley Chapel, M. E. Church, whose members are pleased to know that the organ will still send forth sweet strains of music at her bidding.

The adopted son of Rev. J. E. Edwards and a student of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute is spending his vacation with Rev. Edwards in this city. He has adopted the trade of brick mason. He has already found employment. He speaks very highly of Tuskegee.

The entertainment given at Elks' Hall to raise money to defray the Rev. Edwards' expenses to the eccumenical conference which will convene in London, England next September netted \$110.

Attorney G. Woodson Wickliffe and Miss Minnie C. Mitchell of Oberlin, O., were united in marriage on the 2nd. Rev. J. E. Edwards officiating. They left for San Francisco immediately. Accept best wishes.

* * *

Dr. T. J. Nelson has returned to San Francisco.

* * *

Mr. W. H. Downey and Miss Cora Price were married recently in Kansas City. Mr. Downey's many friends here extend congratulations.

* * *

Mr. C. A. Graves, the wealthy mining man and post master Rosamond is spending a few days in the city.

* * *

The interior of the Wesley chapel M. E. church is being painted and refurnished. Many changes are being made that add to its beauty and to the comfort of its members and congregation.

"LORD, YOU PROMISED TO BE WITH ME NOW,"

Were the words of "Prophet" or Rev. Smith, as he and McLand were being led away by a mob at Benton, La., that had decided to hang them for being on the farm when Edwards shot Foster. Though guilty of no crime, in spite of his pleadings for another opportunity to see his loved ones, he was led away to the slaughter by the mob. "Unmindful, though a weeping wife, And helpless offspring mourned."

His plea for mercy fell like mist upon the rocks of a desert. Without redress his widow and orphans must bear their loss alone. There are none who dare offer consolation; no Red Cross society to relieve their wants. The constitution guarantees them and their race nothing. The stars and stripes offer them no refuge beneath its folds. Slavery had its day, so well the mob, but the end must come.

"For God hath marked each sorrowing hour,
And numbered every secret tear.
In heaven's long age of bliss will pay
For what his children suffer here."

A NEW FIRM.

Messrs. C. M. Smith and G. B. Lewis, both former employes of the Cass & Smurr Stove company, have commenced business for themselves under the firm name of Smith & Lewis. Their place of business is 220 West Sixth street, where they are prepared to do all kinds of stove repairing and light plumbing. They will carry a large stock of all kinds of stove repairs; also new and second-hand stoves. Mr. Lewis, the well-known stove doctor, will have charge of the repairing department, which insures first-class work on short notice. If you wish to buy or sell, ring up Tel. John 321.

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The prompt action of Governor Gage in the Modoc lynching and his offer of \$5000 for the apprehension and conviction of the murderers is indeed commendable and shows that the governor is not in sympathy with the mob mania that is now disgracing the whole country. It was the most cold-blooded uncalled for murder that has occurred in this state for years. It is sincerely hoped that the good citizens of Modoc county will assist the authorities in bringing the murderers to justice.

The cold-blooded murder of an old man of 72 years and his sons on a larceny charge is so inhuman that language is inadequate to properly describe it.

Mr. William A. Willyms, a distinguished scholar and linguist and classmate of Archbishop Corrigan, died in New York on the 1st. He was the sacristan of the Roman Catholic church of St. Benedict, the Moor. He was the son of a Virginia slave, and was educated in Rome for the priesthood.

THE RACKET STORE.

The readers of the Liberator, especially the ladies, will find it to their interest to call and examine stock and prices at the Racket Store, 111 and 113 East Colorado street, Pasadena, Cal., before purchasing. They carry a full line of first-class goods. Their five and ten cent counter is unexcelled. Headquarters for toys and children's goods.

When you want anything in gent's furnishing goods don't forget F. B. Silverwood, 221 South Spring street. For hats of every style at prices within the reach of all Silverwood cannot be beat.

The Racket is the place to buy your house furnishings at prices that will make you glad you are living. Courteous treatment, low prices and good goods are the principles we deal on. Come and see for yourself.

THE RACKET,
111 and 113 East Colorado street, Pasadena, Cal.

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