

The Liberator

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

VOL. VI.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., JAN. 1906.

No. 1



POLICE OFFICER B. R. RANDOLF,
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CHAS. W. ENNIS, 233 S. Spring St.

A Negro Town within a Town

A Visit to Furlong and West Jefferson

ONWARD AND UPWARD.

Succinctly states the movement of the colored citizens of this city for the year just closed. What is true of this city is equally true of our people in the suburban towns. Many homes and much real estate have been added to our holdings, and large amounts of money have been spent for improvements. The year 1905 witnessed the erection by the colored people of hundreds of up-to-date cottages. Perhaps in no other city are the colored people so admirably situated as they are in this. Having prudently refused to segregate, their beautiful homes and well-kept grounds are to be found on nearly every street, and in every quarter of the city. From the aristocratic Angeleno Heights to the Heights of Pico; from Pico to Boyle Heights; from the exclusive Westlake district to the no less exclusive West Adams Heights; from the St. James Park district the Presbyterian colony, to the classic environments of the University settlement,—everywhere, and on every hand, the negro's modest mansions rise. And in all this vast aggregation of wealth and culture the only way to find the negro home, is to know his number, for his cottage and grounds are as tastefully kept as are those of his white neighbors. The heathenish cry of "No negro can buy in this subdivision," that is so frequently heard, is a wail from the Vardaman element which is mortally distressed by the progress the negroes are making. To see the negro's modern cottage and tastily kept grounds vieing with those of the white man, and to know that his family breathes unmolested the sweet odor-laden zephyrs as they glide in from the orange groves on their journey from the mountains to the sea, almost runs the Vardaman element of this fair city crazy. The spirit of progress shown by the negro wherever given a chance, gives the lie to their mouthings about his inferiority, retrogression and other base falsehoods—but it is the living, not the dead, we set out to discuss.

The Furlong Tract.

After repeated invitations by Editor Greene, Attorney Darden and others, accompanied by Capt. Crumbly on December 25th, we visited the colored settlement, known as the "Furlong

Tract." This settlement, which is within the city is about four miles from the court house on the Long Beach car line, is superbly located. Strictly speaking, it is not a negro settlement, as there are within its boundary four or five white families, and hemmed in on every side by cosmopolitan settlements, the tract lies like an island in a peaceful sea. Besides a grocery store there is one laundry, one hair-dressing and dressmaking establishment, one real estate and insurance man, Mr. Harry Mitchell; one newspaper, editor, Prof. T. A. Greene; one lawyer, C. S. Dardin, Esq.; one carpenter and builder, Mr. Bronson; one church site, given by Banker Ralph Rogers—but, strange to say, no preacher.

The administration of Furlong, if such it may be called, is vested in an improvement committee, which looks after street improvements, street cleaning, shade tree setting and the burning of old discarded bedticks and other rubbish. The progress made by Furlong in the past twelve months has been remarkable. While it contains many small houses, always to be found in new California settlements, it also contains many neat modern cottages. Mr. Mitchell, real estate man, and one of the leading spirits, has laid out lawn tennis and croquet grounds under the giant pepper trees that beautify his home site. This has proven a great attraction to the colored people of other sections of the city, who flock there in search of rest and innocent amusement. The hundred-foot boulevard from this city to Long Beach passes through the tract, which, taken into consideration with its situation and the character of men interested in its development, Furlong has a splendid future. Mr. W. H. Washington, our popular real estate man, owns the Furlong grocery, and has taken a deep interest in the development of the settlement, devoting to it both time and money. And last but by no means the least, with regard to saloons and dives, Furlong is to be a snow white district.

West Jefferson Street.

Responding to the invitation of Mr. A. R. Wyche, of over a year's standing, to visit his section and note the prosperity of our people there, on the afternoon of December 31st, we took a West Jefferson car and a half-hour ride through homes of unsurpassed beauty and loveliness. The car stopped for us at 1299 West Jefferson street, the splendid home of Mr. Wyche—our host. It was a stormy day. A wild, frosty wind from the snow-capped summits of Sierra's lofty peaks was madly raising dust and rudely tossing to and fro orange blossoms, calla lilies and geraniums, indiscriminately scattering such petals that let go the parent stem. A touch of the

electric bell, the door opened, a vacant chair before the roaring fire in an open fire-place extended an invitation and offered a pleasant retreat from the disagreeable elements without. This splendid home situated on a large corner lot is neat and contains all modern improvements. Besides this, Mr. Wyche owns a six-room cottage which he rents to a white family for \$30 per month. His immediate neighbors are all white by whom he is highly respected. After a short rest, Mr. Wyche took us for a walk among the neat and attractive homes of our people in that prosperous locality. Here reside 30 industrious intelligent colored families, whose modest homes are scattered over a wide extent of thickly settled territory. One remarkable thing in this connection is, that these 30 families own more than 30 homes. This is a pleasing prospect. The home of Mrs. S. H. Poole fronting on West 36th and Raymond streets, is a credit to its locality. At 1376 we found Mr. Frank Wilkerson and lady and spent a few pleasant moments with them. Their two-story cottage is neatly furnished and has every convenience one could desire. They own another cottage, rent of which yields a good income.

* * *

At the modest well-kept home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cloyd, 1467 W. 57th, we met two young ladies remarkable for their physical charms and striking resemblance. They were Mrs. Cloyd and her daughter, Miss Cloyd.

* * *

The cozy homes of Messrs. J. C. Whitby and F. B. Alexander, 1455 and 1523 W. 37th street, respectively, were visited, where a few pleasant moments were spent. Mr. Whitby is doing a prosperous transfer business. Mr. Alexander is a bright young man popular in the young people's church societies, where he is an ardent worker. He is a leading member of the colored Presbyterian church, and is a former student of Miss Lynch, president of the North Carolina Colored W. C. T. U., and delegate to the late W. C. T. U. convention, held in this city.

* * *

Mr. W. H. Joyce, a bright young business man, has an up-to-date grocery at 1522 W. 37th street, and is doing well. He deserves the patronage of our people in that locality, as his success will redound to the credit of all, and add to the importance of the community.

* * *

The cottage of Mr. and Mrs. A. Simpson, 1558 W. 37th, is the prettiest in its locality. It is new, having been completed only a short time, being strictly up-to-date in every particular. Mr. Simpson was absent on our arrival, but Mrs. Simpson and her

charming daughter entertained us nicely till he arrived, after which dainty refreshments were served.

* * *

On our return via Jefferson street, we got a glimpse of the commodious home of Prof. E. L. Chew. It was too late to call. He came here recently from Atlanta, Ga., where he occupied a prominent place among the educators of that city of schools and colleges. He is a native of Mississippi, where he was reared and educated. He came to give his mother, whose health is feeble, the benefit of our mild climate. Already his presence for good has been felt in the community, and he is regarded by his neighbors as a valuable acquisition.

* * *

We called the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Norman, 1415 W. 36th street, but they had left for church. Their home is neat and in keeping with its cultured surroundings. From there a short walk brought us to the hospitable home of Mr. Wyche, where a warm fire and a sumptuous dinner awaited us. Mrs. Wyche gave us a dinner such as only Southern women can prepare. Our visit to West Jefferson was one of those that add to the length of days by developing the brighter side of life.

The Passing of Rev. S. W. Hawkins.

The position of the Liberator with respect to Rev. Hawkins' usefulness as a minister of the gospel, is too well known to be reiterated. That he was over estimated and would finally drift to his place, we well knew. Several years ago he quit the M. E. conference of this state, and cast his lot with the Zion A. M. E. connection by a special order from heaven. He went East and made a dismal failure, as the days of the "end man" are over in our Eastern churches. His cry of distress was heard by his cohorts here and they gave entertainments in the church that has just dumped him to raise money to ship him back. We offered a protest against it at that time, but it was a voice in the wilderness that went unheeded.

On that occasion January, 1901, The Liberator had the following to say:

Rev. Hawkins.

The money raised to ship Rev. Mr. Hawkins back to this city is in our judgment a very poor investment. What good thing did he do when here that makes his return now so necessary? He is remembered here mainly for his failure to grasp opportunities thrust upon him to elevate himself and race. His nomination for member of the board of education showed how vastly he had been overestimated. His attempt for some trivial consideration to withhold his resignation so as to prevent the parties nominating him from filling the vacancy has not been forgotten. As a pub-

lic speaker, his anecdotes were coarse, appealing mainly to the baser nature of his hearers and degrading to his profession.

But they brought "Bro. Hawkins back, and before he got the Eastern mud off his heels, he was accused of making overtures to get back into the M. E. church, attempting to desert the men and women who paid his shipping bill. The story of his betrayal of his race on the school board nomination is known to the chagrin of us all. Had he been true the race would be represented on the school board today. We opposed his nomination at the convention, believing it to be a bad one, but to no avail. He was always looked upon as a cheap grafter and his lining up with the infamous old six-bits push proved the truth of the conclusion. But we were not prepared to believe that he would rent the whole side of the church for \$5 to coffee dealers to advertise coffee. Some preachers would sell thier tickets to heaven if they could find a purchaser.

Los Angeles Business and Professional Negro and His Shortcomings.

No paper has given as much space to free advertising of the business and professional negroes in this city, as has this journal. In fact, we have given them ten times more space than all of the other negro papers in the state combined. What is the result? With but a very few exceptions, it has not only proven so much energy, time and money thrown away, so far as the race is concerned, but by increasing their business opportunities, have made them practically useless to the race. Undoubtedly our business and professional men here, taken as a whole, must be different from those in other cities. Like most of us, they come here without anything, and newspapers of the Liberator make gave them a lot of free advertisement urging our people to patronize them. For this they are always thankful, and as soon as they "get things straightened out" they will put a card in "your splendid journal." He is a good fellow and believes strongly in encouraging race enterprise (his enterprise, of course). He goes to all the churches, takes a front seat prays loud and with a great show puts a dollar in the collection. He testifies at prayer and league meetings, always managing to ring in a word or two about his profession. Well, with this and his free newspaper advertising, he builds up a good patronage. Call upon him for his long promised card he tells you coldly, brazenly that a card in your paper will do him no good. Of course he would subscribe for it, but he "can't spare the time to read it, and therefore to subscribe would be throwing away a dollar." He gets so busy that his visits to the negro

churches grow less and less, and finally cease. Then he goes to a white church or go to the theater, go on Sunday excursions to the beaches or hang around parks the companion poor white trash that slip in the back doors of his home to spend the evenings with his family. Another scheme of this class to get away from their race, is to suddenly become holy and sanctified. There being no colored holiness churches, they are forced to join a white church of this faith. Such a negro would not be guilty of reading a negro paper or going to a negro church or patronizing negro enterprises. This class of negroes belong to no race organizations, takes no more interest in the race and its struggles for equal rights and fair play than the Chinaman does. They keep away from the race as much as possible and contribute nothing if they can avoid it, for the support of race churches, newspapers and other enterprises. They refused to be identified with enterprises looking to a combination of capital so as to furnish employment for members of the race, such as opening drug stores, department stores, banks, building and loan associations, hotels, etc., as the same class does in other cities, with less money and less protection of the laws. This too in face of the fact that the white people here aid us in every laudable undertaking. As soon as the class of negroes named reach the position where they can be of service to their race as leaders and examples, they try to get away from it. That's why this negro is looked upon as being beneath the offscourings of other races. The negroes here have \$500,000 in non-interest paying banks and vaults of this city, the bulk of which is being used by white men to build hotels and drug stores that refuse to serve negroes. This is due to the cowardice, hypocrisy and dishonesty of the negroes named. If Vardaman would confine his remarks to this class of negroes we could say Amen!

The working men and women who support our churches and other enterprises and keep our newspapers in a position to manufacture sentiment in favor of fair play for the race, must blacklist this infamous gang of traitors.

The negroes of this city are suffering from an over-dose of materialism in the direction of banking money. They are piling up money in white men's banks to be used to build factories and other establishments that refuse them employment. They have \$500,000 in banks that yield them no financial influence whatever. It does not give them a single bank clerk.

COME TO THIS LAND OF SUMMER BLOOM.

(From a letter written to an Eastern friend and copied for the Liberator by the author.)

'Neath balmy skies of cloudless blue,
I write this letter unto you,
Dear friend of yore, so tried and true.

The mocking birds sing sweetly here;
Old mission bells ring soft and clear,
And flowers blossom all the year.

How are my friends, each one and all
There, where wild winter spreads its
pall,
And snow and sleet so thickly fall?

Why shiver in a land of gloom,
Where winter sounds the knell of
doom,
And sweeps the flowers to the tomb.

Dark land, where blizzards fiercely
sweep,
Where nature lies in icy sleep,
Beneath the snow so cold and deep.

Oh, plume your pinions for a flight,
Away from arctic storms and night,
To genial regions warm and bright.

Come to this land of fragrant flowers,
This land of mystic, fairy bowers,
This rich, Elysian land of ours.

Come, where the murmuring sunset
sea
Makes sweet, perpetual melody,
And thrills our lives with ecstasy.

Come to this land of summer skies—
This joyous, blossoming paradise—
Where beauteous landscapes meet the
eyes.

Oh, from your frozen regions come,
And find here an enchanted home,
Near some majestic dome.

ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST.

Attorney P. M. Nash has built up a good practice. In view of the fact that he has been here less than a year his success is all the more remarkable. He is a graduate of Harvard, and therefore thoroughly equipped for his profession.

Miss Susie E. Edmonds has resumed her studies at the University of Southern California. She is paying her own expenses, and making a very credible showing in her studies. It seems that all of the other colored students have dropped out. This is indeed regrettable.

Attorney I. D. Blair, our veteran attorney reports a successful year. Mr. Blair is attorney for the Southern California Investment Company, and for several other societies for the advancement of the race.

Mr. S. S. Irving has equipped his

barber-shop with new bathrooms and everything has been modernized. Polite attendance and first-class service guaranteed. Corner Eighth and San Julian streets.

* * *

The Brown Celery Phosphate Company has decided to put a traveling salesman on the road to introduce their specialties, which are now on sale at all drug stores. The firm is doing a large business.

* * *

For anything in groceries, ring up C. C. Flint, the grocer. Phone Main 3799. All goods at up-town prices. Stock complete; free delivery. Corner Sacramento street and Santa Fe avenue.

* * *

* * *

The wealthy white men of this city are furnishing employment for thousands of white men, women and children. How many colored men and women are employed by the wealthy colored men?

* * *

Ah, There! Stricklin.

Some time ago, under large head lines there appeared in the Times the announcement that Mr. Hilyard Stricklin, a wealthy colored butcher, was going to build an old folks' home for aged colored men and women. This home was to be free to all for whom it was designed to benefit. How it was to be built and operated was explained at length in the Times, taking up considerable space in that great paper. We had our doubts at the time about Mr. Stricklin doing anything free or otherwise, for any member of his race, except Stricklin, and decided to investigate the matter before saying anything about it in this journal.

Was It a Scheme to Sell a Lot?

Taking up the investigation, we found that no one who knew Stricklin pinned any faith to his proposition, and vaguely hinted that there was a bug under the chip, when those close to Stricklin, or who were in a position to know his plans, were approached on the subject, gave it as an open secret, that the butcher had had intention of spending any money on old colored people or any other kind of colored people, but that the whole scheme was to frighten the white people who owned the property adjoining the lot on which the home was to be built, into paying him a fancy price for the property to prevent the building of the home. If the above is true, Mr. Stricklin has injured his race in several ways: First, by taking advantage of a friendly pa-

per to promote a fraud, and second, to create race animosity against innocent members of his race in the vicinity of his lot, just to make a few dollars; and third, by using the infirmities of our dear old men and women as a means to make money that was never intended to give them a night's repose or a moment's respite from their pains. Money is a good thing as a means to an end, provided the end is a good one. We trust that the charge is untrue. It is in the province of Mr. Stricklin to set himself right before the public in this matter.

As we said in the outset that we had our doubts about the matter as soon as we read it, the whole appearing inconsistent from the fact that Mr. Stricklin has withdrawn his support from all race enterprises since he commenced making money, and had reached the point where he thinks he can get along without his race. It was this fact that raised the suspicion. His change of heart is very sudden. The negro ought to buy property wherever he can get it, and if the prejudiced whites propose to buy him out just because he is a negro, he ought to make them pay him one hundred dollars for every dollar he invests, but no fraud should be attempted to induce them to buy.

Has Mr. Stricklin sold or tried to sell the property in question since the announcement of his old folks home scheme? When will he build his old folks home? Was the announcement a fake?

As a business man and church member, Mr. Stricklin should give the anxious public some light on the subject. We await his answer.

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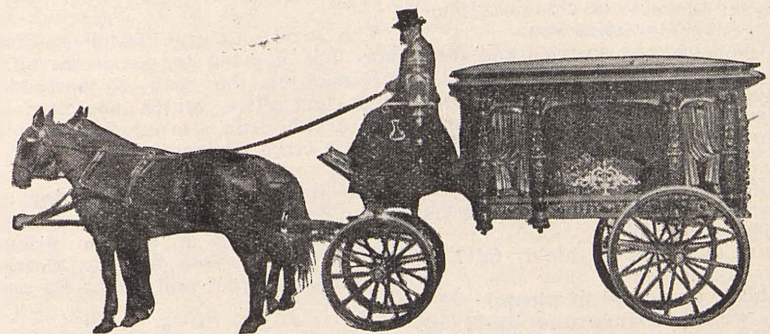
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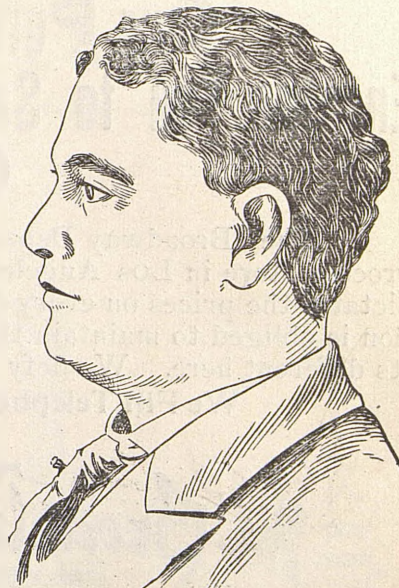


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St. Louis	30.00	St. Joseph and Atchison.....	25.00
Galveston	26.45	CoCuncil Bluffs and Omaha....	25.00
Dallas, Houston and Ft. Worth.....	25.00	Nearly all points in Kansas, Oklahoma and Indian Territory.....	25.00

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