

The Palmetto Leader

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Saturday, May 30, 1925.

The Supreme Court of Mississippi has rendered a decision in which it is held that the Chinese not being white is Colored and the young Chinese must attend colored schools and not those for white children. But wait until the question of where shall the Japanese go comes up—Japan has a strong navy, many air ships and a trained army.

If congressmen Henry B. Steagell of the 3rd Alabama district and Miles C. Allgood of the 7th district are correctly quoted in their comments on the students' strike at Howard University, it but shows that Alabama is but very poorly represented in the national legislature. These men with such ideas belong in a period at least fifty years back. Such rot as they gave is void if any intelligence at all.

According to the Chicago Whip, quoting statistics compiled by the Chicago Crime Commission, of the 991 murders committed during the past four years only eight murders were hanged. During the past two years, every criminal hanged was Colored. "There is some thing rotten in Denmark," says the Whip. We wonder why doesn't the Chicago Defender get busy on some of the things at its own doors instead of having its eyes forever focused on the South? This looking too far.

Last week a mob estimated to be about 5000 strong attempted to storm the jail at Dallas, Tex. and take therefrom two colored prisoners. The mob made a mistake however about the kind of sheriff and officers in charge. Instead of getting the two prisoners, it got hot lead. Five of the mob were injured, the others quickly dispersed. The law not the prisoners, was protected by that sheriff and officers. Texas for once shows the way. Page Florida and a few other mob ridden states.

The assertion of Gertrude Stern in the New York Times that the phrases, "First in War, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen," referring to George Washington was first written by Phyllis Wheatley, the Colored poetess, has started up quite a controversy. The authorship of these phrases has heretofore been attributed to "Light Horse" Harry Lee. It is horrible to think according to some of our Southern friends that these words were first expressed by a colored person. But whether Miss Wheatley is or is not the author of the phrases makes no difference, her fame is secured and is in nowise dependent upon this expression.

"Selling Seaboard Services"

The Seaboard Railway company is to distribute buttons bearing the above slogan. But listen—buttons are to be distributed only to its white employees. Now, the chief business of a railroad is the selling of transportation or service. But the Seaboard employs hundreds of colored people in the production of transportation. That being true, just why does it or will it make it so plain to these employees that it does not care about their "Selling Service." No, Corporation can do its best with a part only of its employees really interested in its welfare. Perhaps, the Seaboard thinks that its Colored employees can only sell its service to their own people and about them it cares but little. That seems an affliction with most of our railways. They care nothing much about the service they give the Colored patrons, though they do not balk at receiving their hard earned dollars. The railroads are continually asking the privilege of taking off or discontinuing certain passenger trains on the grounds that they are losing in the operation. As motor conveyance becomes more convenient, so far as the colored passengers are concerned. They are going to lose more. The railroads have never paid much attention to selling service to them and at the first opportunity they are going to lose them. No, there is not a very valuable good will and the fault is the railroad.

THE GRADUATES.

This is the season of the closing of the schools and colleges. Thousands of young men and women are leaving school for the stern realities of life. Up to this moment most of them have been living in a dream world. But now all will be changed. The things that were gotten in the schools must be carried into the world. There must be adjustments. If the student got nothing in school, he will have nothing to carry with him. If he performed the day's task in school, he will do the same out of school. Such a one will be worthy to receive benefits and will be worthy to confer benefits for the useful life is one of give and take.

The task ahead of the young Colored man and woman is harder than that of any other race. The question with them is not only individual but racial, and this has to be even kept in mind. But notwithstanding this, this young army will make good, they must make good—this has ever been kept before them. There need be no sighs for new worlds to conquer. There is much to do right here. The world has never presented more glorious opportunities than at this very period. All that is needed is the man the woman with the vision and the determination. Lets go.

FIGHTING INTELLIGENCE

The Legislature of Tennessee has passed a law which makes it criminal to teach evolution or darwinism in any school supported in whole or in part by public funds. Of course, no one need reach the conclusion that the Tennessee legislators, in passing this act, should themselves men far above the average intelligence of the usual run of legislators. They, like the legislators of many states, simply passed something concerning which they had but small ideas, wanting at the time something better to do. Little however did those Solons know that when they placed that piece of tomfoolery on the statute book, they were firing a shot that was heard around the world." Prof. J. T. Scopes, a

The Searchlight By William Frank Williams.

THE RAYS of the Searchlight

have not appeared in The Leader recently. To be exact, we have missed two weeks. But it seems like a month to the writer if to nobody else. Its terrible to say, but down right jealousy permeates my whole soul and body when I see another scribe's stuff occupying the important and sacred space that belongs to the Searchlight.

It was my will to come, and I had some pot off stuff to write about, but I was deprived of the pleasure by that horribly persistent old ingrate, Mr. M. Quad. He is a parasite and has been sucking the life out of me for several weeks. Yet he has continuously cooled my temper with bucks. So, after all Mr. Quad is a friend.

If there are any people who waste time to read my column, I suppose the more thoughtful wonder why do I use the first person when referring to myself. In answer to their silent question let me say I have authority for doing so. I can name a dozen (or less, to play safe) of the best columnist of the country who use the first person. I am naming only three for you now. Heywood Brown of the New York World, possibly the leading columnist in America; Frank Sullivan, of the World and O. B. Keeler, of the Atlanta Journal.

If it's good enough for these boys, it's good enough for me.

A Marvelous Exception

THE MAGAZINE section of the Atlanta Journal has broken a long kept rule in southern journalism by printing a Negro's picture in full dress suit, a page article with many quotations from the Negro, none of which has the slightest touch of the customary dialect, and a commendable reference to his career in the city of Atlanta.

The page under discussion is devoted to Perry Barber, as he is known to colored people, and just "Barney," as he is known to the whites. The article was written by Mrs. Medora Field Perkerson and appeared in the Atlanta Journal Magazine last Sunday. It starts under the caption: "25 Years of Calling Cars for Atlanta Society."

Mrs. Perkerson begins by naming a dozen things you may do, such as get married without a minister, or make a formal bow to society without a fond teacher in a school of Tennessee, went right on teaching the biological text that had been in use before that law, which text told of the development of man according to the theory of teachings of Charles Darwin. The professor was arrested and is now under indictment. He will be tried July 10th for that "high misdemeanor" as the learned Tennessee judge styled it. Eminent lawyers from all over the country will be engaged in the trial of the professor. Clarence Darrow of Chicago and Dudley Field Malone of New York will be among those defending Prof. Scopes. While the great dreamer and talker William Jennings Bryan will be numbered among the prosecuting attorneys. Perhaps no one is more thankful for this piece of freakish legislation than Prof. Scopes. From an unheard of humble teacher, he has become the most widely known pedagogue in the country. Tennessee cant stop thought nor intellectual progress though she may reject it. The freedom of learning will remain in America. In trying to get away from the monkey, Tennessee becomes a monkey.

mamma and a host of aunts and grandmothers composing a receiving line, but you cannot have a coming out party, or any sort of wedding and not have Barney to call the cars. She quotes Barney like this: "I carried some of them in my arms when they were babies. I've brought them out, and I've married them off." She says, during the first year or so of Metropolitan Opera in Atlanta, a duplicate system of checks was inaugurated for automobiles, but it was later abolished, because Barney didn't need it. His memory of the thousands of names and faces and cars worked faster than the system."

Mrs. Perkerson says Barney has become an Atlanta Institution. He has had the honor of shaking hands with four presidents of the United States. He called cars for President Roosevelt, Taft and Harding when they visited Atlanta and was introduced to President Wilson when he accompanied the Shriners to the national convention at Washington.

Barney tells all about Atlanta's oldest families, clubs and events that concerned them. Barney is not what they call a white man's "nigger." He works only for white people of money and culture and is highly respected by them. A man doesn't have to be a lawyer, doctor or professor to be honored. The car-caller's position is just as important in its place as that of an artist in its place. And this is evident in Barney's case, as he is just as highly respected by leading colored citizens of Atlanta as by the whites with whom he deals.

DR. FOSDICK'S CALL

IT MUST BE a shock and an eye-opener to the most unconcerned this election of Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick to the pastorate of the Park Avenue Baptist Church—the Rockefeller church in New York. Congregation of intellectuals and money magnates that it is, I did not think I would live to see even Park Avenue BAPTIST church agree to take members without insisting on baptism by immersion. And to think that only seventeen out of 400 members present uttered a dissenting voice. But this was one of the three conditions under which Dr. Fosdick consented to accept the call. And if they did not hold more dearly to them the privilege of having Dr. Fosdick as their pastor than the sacredness of their creed, they have not done injury to their consciences at any rate. I will be looking to see now this action digests on the organs of other Baptists in this country.

THE SOUTHERN EXPOSITION

THE SOUTH produces a most peculiar set of people of the Anglo-Saxon variety. Sometimes their alertness, if you please, startles the world, and on the other hand they are dumb beyond reconciliation. The Southern Exposition which has just closed in New York was a many-fold affair. I believe it was partly intended to blind the nation's eyes to the many injustices and humiliations which colored people suffer in the South. Just to crowd the nation's sight and mind with southern achievement in commerce, art and science meant much in this respect, and to the weak-minded and indifferent it showed that the South is not such a bad place after all. Well, the South isn't such a bad place, but it is a deal worse than it should be. And it could be made better without cost in honor or pride to the white peo-

ple who hold its destiny in their hands. If every white person and every colored person would make himself a resolution purposing to cut the last bit of prejudice from his heart, we could get along happily without that ever-present ghost "Social Equality" entering the minds of either race. And prosperity and a Southern Exposition wouldn't have to be carried to New York, Saxon.

NORFOLK INFESTED WITH DOPE FIENDS

Norfolk, Va., May—(By The Associated Negro Press)—Announcement by J. Williams Gilford, investigator, for the United States Department of Justice, that within this city's 60,000 population there are 2,500 narcotic addicts, has caused grave concern among the most thoughtful elements of local residents. The figures refer to the colored portion of the inhabitants. It means that one in every thirty Negroes in the city is a dope eater. Gilford's figures are backed up by other responsible investigators and authorities.

The work of Investigator Clifford has had the effect of turning attention to phases of Negro life in southern cities that grow increasingly detrimental to him, due to discrimination in the enforcement of law and the appointment of officers of the law. Up until the time Clifford went to Norfolk, according to the Journal and Guide of that city, it had

been impossible to trace the traffic in narcotic among Negroes, due largely to the fact that the dealers knew that all officers of the law would be white, and, as a consequence, refused to sell to any white persons. They escaped detection and were left free to ply their trade among easily sold Negroes.

Thus the traffic in this city grew to alarming proportion and might have been going on had not the government sent a Negro investigator. He did the work with swiftness and great thoroughness, helping Negroes to protect themselves, and showing the government that, even in the South, as the Guide remarks, the Negro officer can be of greatest value among Negroes. Mr. Clifford has come in for much praise because of his work here.

SECOND ANNUAL AUTO RACE AT CHICAGO

Chicago, Ill., May 21.—The Colored Automobile Racing Association, the organization that promoted the successful race last year at Hawthorne, has announced their second annual automobile race for the afternoon of May 24. The race will be held at the Thornton Track, 175th and Halstead Streets. The promoter, Bill Jeffries, himself a driver of ability, is authority for the statement that already more than thirty entries have been received with more and Guide of that city, it had promised.

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