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JULY 23 1921

Some Negroes, like some white folks, rejoice at the misfortune of one of his race.

Some people are chronic kickers. They kick if you do, and kick if you don't do.

A Negro near Iva, who cannot write, was accused of writing notes to some white girls a few days ago and his wife was accused of being an accessory to the crime. Both had to be speeded away to another town for safety. In Sumter, a white brute was caught by two officers of the law in an attempt to ravish a colored girl; for his safety the jury declared him "not guilty."

We are slow to believe that times are growing better for the Negroes in the south when they are being lynched in greater numbers than ever, while whites are turned free for crimes of much graver nature in many cases.

The intelligent Negroes as well as whites all over this country, are reading the papers and are pretty well up on the conditions in the south as they relate to the Negroes.

It has always been, and we presume will continue to be, that one among many worthy Negroes here and there gets a hush up consideration at the hands of supposed white friends, but must we continue to accept these as evidences of better times? The great question now is, What consideration is the race getting as a whole?

Judging from the reports through the daily papers, the many recent court decisions, the empanneling of juries to the complete exclusion of Negroes; the increased interest in lynching; the reorganization of the nefarious Ku Klux Klan, the many threats and running together of the stronger to hold the Negroes down, the neglect of providing adequate school buildings and terms commensurate with taxes paid etc., lead us to believe that conditions are growing worse.

In this same light all of us have been made to see the true conditions of things and it is not fair that any one should attempt to veil these conditions and present a false picture.

While the supposed better class of whites in and around Greenwood were startled at the long delay by the Governor in ordering a special term of court to try Dr. C. L. Lipscomb's slayer, the whole of South Carolina was lost in wonder to understand how a jury over in Sumter, in the case of W. H. Thomas, a white man, could stay in a room 21 hours, and, with the convincing facts in hand, bring out a verdict of "not guilty."

Thoms was indicted for assault with intent to ravish a colored girl. The girl in question was leisurely walking along with two young men who were driven away by this inhuman brute. The boys left and reported the case to two officers who rushed upon the scene and caught Thomas struggling to overcome the girl.

In this case as in all similar cases, if this white brute had been a black brute, he would have been sentenced to death on the same spot. But this brute, being white

and his victim an oppressed and defenseless colored girl, he was declared "not guilty."

This verdict sustains the southern preachment that Negroes have no rights that a white man is bound to respect.

If Lawyer M. J. Frederick of that city had been attorney for the unfortunate girl, the verdict no doubt would have been a different one.

Race pride, love for law and order and justice for all alike under the laws, would have forced Lawyer Frederick to use his best legal talent. Too, he would have known his jury and if possible would have had colored men placed on the jury or laid a good foundation for an appeal if the right verdict was not rendered. In which case if attorneys' fee could not be raised, he would have defied his client for the sake of the race as has Esq. Mooror of Orangeburg done on more than one occasion.

To these facts the Negro must be opened.

The outcome of this case should open the eyes of the Negroes in all South Carolina that hereafter they will seek their own legal talent in such serious cases instead of crossing the line for talent that is only interested to the extent of the dollar. This seems to be a hard lesson for our people to learn but it is becoming more simple each day.

One of Our Hopes.

Publishing a newspaper for the benefit of Negroes is by no means a money paying proposition. To this we are quite sure every newspaper man below the "Mason and Dixon Line" will agree. The average Negro, in whose interest a newspaper is published, labors under the false impression that the publisher is at a game of making money and unconsciously many will refuse to subscribe to the paper on these grounds while others will subscribe as a matter of course thinking the paper can run perpetually for same reason. That's our opinion for the reason that they never put themselves to the inconvenience of paying their support or dues to the paper unless they are approached by the publisher or his direct representative when they for the same reason—a matter of course—will hand him a little change and pass him on.

There are others however just as true to their trust as the earth is to its orbit but this number is so comparatively small that many publishers are forced out of business while the remaining few are merely surviving with the hope that their weekly message of hope will reach their readers and at least offset some of the bad things with which the race is charged and inspire them onward and upward in right living and the Commercial world.

The duties of a publisher are decidedly heavy and more expensive than what the small subscription price and returns from advertisements remunerate him. But this is a fact that the masses have not as yet learned and the duty of the ministry and all other public agencies have up to now, neglected in teaching not as a matter of helping the publishers for the publisher's personal benefit but the masses for their benefit.

No right thinking person will question the necessity of a live Negro newspaper in every home. Only the careless and indifferent whose race consciousness has not been awakened would be guilty of such during these perilous times when the opposite race journals lend us no encouragement and can only refer to us when one of no race pride and no ambition is found guilty of vagrancy or petty larceny etc. Of course if one of us happens to out-strip life-long hard times to reach "three score and ten" we get a little corner mention of "A good Negro servant is gone." But what are these compared with a Henry Lincoln Johnson, a Booker T. Washington, an R. R.

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Can you at any time read anything of them in these journals without their going begging with hats in hands for a little space? If so please apprise The Indicator of it. We admit, however, that if any misfortune should overtake them such as would lower the standard of the race, great and screaming head lines would lead you to read of the race's downfall.

We have written all of the foregoing that we might say that one of our hopes lies in Negro newspapers and that it is the duty of every Negro to subscribe to read and pay for a good Negro paper for the benefit of the race.

People who read think, and people who think act with a consciousness. And it depends greatly on the kind of reading matter one reads as to how he acts. One who reads only discouraging news in the opposite race papers concerning him and his is lead to believe, argue and act in support of his belief that "this is a white man's country and a Negro has no right that a white man is bound to respect." Therefore he is an inferior being and must subject himself to inferior treatment, and make himself contented with back door

refusals.

Negro newspapers teach against any desire for social equality. (Drive a peg there) but contends that out of one blood God, the righteous Judge, created all men and adjudged them equal.

Negro newspapers further hold and contend that Negroes should have all civil and political rights of any people in keeping with the laws governing this land of which they own very much and pay taxes on the same.

Negro newspapers further hold and contend that if Negroes would know what the Negroes of this land and country are doing and their ability to do they can only get it from Negro newspapers. No other race has as deep an interest in the Negroes as the Negroes themselves. Hence the one remedy for those few narrow and shortsighted Negroes who are quick to say, "I get all the news out of my county paper" is to resolve to rise up and get out of the slumps of ignorance as it relates to their own people of wisdom and power and resolve from this day henceforth to read Negro newspapers in preference to any paper published.

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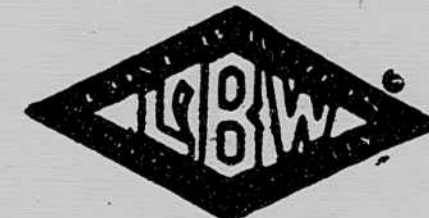
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