

THE ST. AUGUSTINE'S PEN

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PURPOSE OF THE "PEN"

The purpose of THE ST. AUGUSTINE'S PEN is to act as an organ for the student body; to stimulate intelligent student opinion; to establish high moral standards, scholarship and sportsmanship; to promote greater interest in all campus activities; to foster stronger coöperation among the students of the various departments, administration and alumni.

"BE ALERT"

"The nation is crying for leaders; the Race to which you belong is crying for leadership. May the Great God who shapes the destinies of people inspire you that you may go upward and onward toward success." These are the words uttered by Dr. Emmett J. Scott, treasurer of Howard University, in an address on the anniversary of the 135th branch of the Y. M. C. A., New York City. Ought we not as students, to catch a vision from Dr. Scott's statement and feel that it is a challenge to us as Negro students who represent the future hope of our Race? Ought we not to stop and consider for a moment what this new year 1934 holds for us as a group; and what contribution we can hope to make to this new era which seems to challenge the students of today to find a way out for the future? Ought we not to stop and ask ourselves a few questions about the kind of justice we are receiving as a Race in certain sections of the country? What benefits have we received and shall we continue to receive from the abolition of child labor? What have our fraternities, student organizations, societies, and other organizations been doing to ameliorate our conditions and diminish the evils of our existence? Ought we not, as students, to stop and think about our leaders (if we have any real ones) and find out what contributions they are making to their Race in order to blaze the way for us, and those who are following us? We, as students, spend too little time thinking about the changes that are going on about us. We assume the attitude that unless they affect us personally and instantly they are not very important, without considering that whatever affects us individually, affects us to a large extent as a group. We are too individualistic, and too prone to think that some one else will do our part. Surely this is not the thought in Dr. Scott's statement when he said, "The Race to which you belong is crying for leadership."

UNDER THE SURFACE

Institute Week has come and gone. We were reminded during this week of the work of our church Institute in furthering Negro Education and at the end of the week we were presented a plate in which we were to put our contribution to this splendid work. I am sure that the sum collected was meager, and hardly sufficient to pay the postage on a letter to the Institute headquarters. I am also sure that the administration hardly expected an amount that would have helped materially in defraying the expenses incurred in propagating this type of work, but certainly there was a point in this which we as Negro students should not miss, and which affects us considerably.

We should recognize and appreciate the splendid accomplishments of the Institute and the high place their schools hold in Negro education. But we should also recognize and appreciate the handwriting on the walls that surely reminds us that our white friends are gradually withdrawing their support from Negro institutions. Dr. Battle told us this last year and cited some of the experiences and difficulties in procuring financial assistance for the Institute from the Northern white people. They are refusing to continually educate us. Along with this fact we must realize that Negro alumni and our Negroes in general are contributing very little to Negro education, and most of this goes to the state schools. Where does this lead us?

We must face the facts. Negroes must assume the responsibility for their education. And that appears to me to be the significance of Institute Week. Although we are able to contribute very little now, we must organize our alumni and in some way aid appreciably in this work. When you shall have graduated, what will you do toward promoting the education of future generations of the Negro youth? This is a challenge. It is up to you to plan your action for the future so that when you shall have achieved some financial advancement and success in life as a result of the education you are receiving you will be able to give to your institutions some aid that will enable some Negro boy or girl to secure an opportunity as was afforded you. Will you pay for your education, since you know from the above facts that our avenues are being shut off gradually?

The post-bellum attitude toward Negro education is fading and with it will go our schools and colleges unless we come to their rescue.

He meant that our Race needs men and women who are willing to make sacrifices for a worthy cause—a cause which will not only bring benefit to their race, but to the country as a whole. Let us then as students strive for a prospective view of the changes that are taking place in our country, especially those that are near to us, in order to study them and be able to act intelligently under all circumstances, which is really the purpose of our education.

"THAR'S GOLD . . ."

A message from the President of the Student Body.

"Thar's Gold in them hills." Time and man proved this statement true. Yet not all who sought found gold. Nor was there gold in every hillock. Those who combined diligence and tenacity with alertness and enterprise were rewarded. Others traveled the same trains, underwent the same hardships, but never reached their goal. They 'funked' their opportunities. They permitted diversions to intervene at critical points. They brooded over past failures to the exclusion of sound thought on the value of experience in planning for future success." Men and women in all walks of life—educational institutions, business, the industries, and professions have the same remote aim—gold. This season of the year is a critical one at most educational institutions of the country. There is a pause for inventory. Professors cease, for a short time, to be well-springs of knowledge. Rather, they check upon the achievements of their students. Many will be rewarded for their labors with A's and B's. Others will not do so well. So the professors will seek means by which they may obtain better results. They will encourage their students to forget past failures and to work for future success.

We who are now enrolled in these institutions of learning are acquainting ourselves with the principles of gold hunting. It is here that we receive the fundamental processes. When we shall have finished our courses all of us will be potential gold hunters. Some will realize their gold in one form and some in another; service to mankind, and dollars and cents. To a great extent our success as seekers of gold will depend upon the making. Inevitably the responsibilities of the future will fall into our hands. It is up to us to see that society advances. Therefore as we begin the new semester let us remember that it is as true of this bill as of the Black Hills of the Dakotas: "In them thar's gold."

LLOYD H. DAVIS, '34.

THE DELTA SIGMA NU

The Senior College young ladies organized themselves into a club recently. The name of the club, the Delta Sigma Nu, suggests its motto, "Dignity, sociability, neatness." The officers chosen were: Miss A. Stiles, president; Miss L. Taylor, secretary; Miss J. Albury, treasurer; Miss I. Allen, reporter. During the school year the club will strive to do some very constructive work.

RECOVERY AND THE INSTITUTE

(Continued from page one)

Institute has been prepared by Lieut. Lawrence A. Oxley to give a stimulating experience to all in attendance. Students may also receive some valuable information, even though the Institute is held for practitioners in the field of social problems.

POETS' CORNER

PASSION

Strike me not, thou child of thunder,  
Bid thy flashing anger cease;  
For my soul is washed asunder  
Midst the roar of ancient seas.  
Seas that dash with waves of passion  
Echo whispers sweet and mild,  
Tender as the breath of music,  
Lulling to the drowsy child.

Strike me not, thou child of thunder,  
Call thy war-birds to their nests.  
Passion's seas have come to claim me,  
Passion's seas that know no rest.  
There are others here beside me,  
Friend and foe, akin alway,  
All have gone through storms of sorrow,  
All are under passion's sway.

Strike me not, the seagulls screaming  
Bid thy lightning stay its blow.  
Passion claims the greatest blessing  
Man of man can ever know.  
There is always somehow, somewhere,  
Ere the heart is laid to rest,  
Someone who is nearer, dearer;  
Her my wayward heart loves best.

FRANK M. STEWART.

A DEAD WHITE ROSE

I have forgot a pale, pale moon,  
A shimmering lake, a night of June.

Without one tear, without one sigh,  
I have forgot a star-specked sky.

A night bird's call, a trembling breeze;

So foolish to have cherished these.

And yet, I find in this late hour,  
I can't forget one dead white flower!

M. E. CLIFTON.

ASSEMBLY PERIOD

During the assembly in the Hunter Building study hall on Thursday morning, January 18, Miss Jessie E. Guernsey addressed the students on the present state of affairs in Germany. Miss Guernsey drew her conclusions from actual experiences in Germany.

Among the topics touched on by the speaker was that of Nazi discrimination against the Jews. Miss Guernsey quite justly asked what right Americans had to criticize discrimination practiced by another nation. Perhaps no nation in the world is more guilty of racial discrimination than is our own. Then too, according to the speaker, as the Jews constitute approximately only one per cent of the total German population, they are not being treated so unfairly as anti-German propaganda would make us believe.

Miss Guernsey also told of her experiences in talking with people in Germany. Speaking in German, she questioned the natives on the conditions existing in their country. In this manner much accurate and valuable information was gained. When the people of the world become sympathetic toward one another, then, and not until then, will race prejudice and intolerance be eliminated.