

The Star of Zion

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The Negro in the North

(Reprint of Editorial from the New York Globe, Wednesday, April 6, 1921)

Are the 11,000,000 Negroes in the United States gradually shifting their habitat from southeastern United States to the north and west? During the last ten years there has unquestionably been an amazingly large migration. In 1910 there were already 1,049,000 out of a total population of 9,787,000, living in the north and west, and in twelve northern cities there has been an increase of 300,000 colored people since 1910, most of them unquestionably coming from the south. The 1920 census returns have not yet been completed, and the total increase in the north is conjectural.

Together with this evidence of a rapid shift comes rather definite testimony as to its permanence. The National Urban League, which has carried on social work among Negroes all over the United States, states that those returning southward have totaled less than 100,000, and possibly no more than 50,000. The cause, say the league investigators, is social rather than industrial. Natural conditions favor the Negro in the south. If he could have there the advantages he can secure in the northern states he would probably remain. But in the north he can get better educational advantages for his children, at least theoretical equality as a worker, fairer trials, and greater security from mob violence. The white north is not disposed to welcome him as a full equal as yet, but whatever sense of superiority it may have is less likely to become an incentive to persecution.

North and south may both profit by reflection upon these facts, and by study of the general work which such organizations as the National Urban League are doing. The annual report of the League has just appeared, and it shows that the Negro is still engaged in a struggle for the most elementary privileges. One of the great tasks of the organization has been to get positions for Negro contractors, skilled tradesmen, and office workers. The world of intelligent occupations has been walled off from the average Negro, no matter what his natural capacity. It is only now beginning to crumble even in the north. As the Negro population in New York, Illinois and Ohio grows, such a situation becomes a matter for serious thought. The migration northward was a protest. The protest will simply be transferred if the Negro finds that he has fled from open injustice and discrimination to tacit injustice and discrimination. The growth of Negro population in New York City from 97,000 in 1910 to 158,000 in 1920 indicates, perhaps, a preference for New York in place of Atlanta or Memphis or Baton Rouge. But it also indicates a will to betterment which may prove the old northern attitude toward the colored population no longer adequate for a group rapidly increasing in numbers, intelligence and self-respect.

NOTICE.

The Rev. C. M. Joshua at 802 E. Brainard St., Pensacola, Fla., is desirous of one good evangelist for St. Mark A. M. E. Zion church. He wants a real soul-saving revival. Plenty of money and a good attendance guaranteed.

NOTICE.

Any one wishing the service of Rev. W. W. Deener and wife, evangelists and gospel singers, of Washington, D. C., can secure their service by writing to headquarters, 1530, Tea Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Every soul that is born into the kingdom of God today, has a larger vision of the possibilities of that kingdom on earth, than the majority of those who accepted Christ 50 years ago. The concepts of the human mind depend very largely upon the condition in which they are formed.

The great outcry of the human soul today is, fraternity, co-operation, good will and world brotherhood. The lifting up of Jesus Christ to the gaze of humanity is the dawn of freedom to every thinking mind. The high state of economical development to which the world has come; lays a broad basis for co-operation. It may be well said, "No man liveth to himself." To continue the rapid pace of commercial and material development, fraternal relations among men, must increase in order to insure the toiler, a just and equal compensation for the honest service which he renders.

Nations must realize that the best

good of one is the best good of all and the best good of all must be the highest happiness of each. Hence the world cry for brotherhood: and there is but one example to which all minds

A BIGGER AND BETTER ZION.

By Dr. H. J. Callis.

must turn. We behold Him twenty centuries ago, born in Bethlehem of Judea, sojourning in Egypt, schooling in Nazareth, consecrated in the temple at Jerusalem, preaching from the hilltops and the valleys of Judea, proclaiming the good news by the Sea of Galilee, spending midnight hours in prayer, dying on the cross, rising from the dead, ascending to heaven: the supreme example of hu-

man brotherhood. Say what you will the evangel of the religion of Jesus is being called to earnest, honest consecration and toil in presenting the story of the cross today as in no other age of the world.

The splendid efforts of Dr. W. J. Walls in the winning of souls for the kingdom, the electrifying sermons of our General evangelist, Dr. B. G. Shaw, which have swept hundreds in commendation, but earnest prayer and to the kingdom, deserve not only the consecration to conserve the work that they and others are doing; that the goal set in soul saving by our Church may be realized.

When world brotherhood is achieved it must come through the Church of Jesus Christ; not one of the other religions to which the world has been subjected are equal to the task. The Evangelistic Christian Church is the church for humanity. The hope of the

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Over the Line Versus Mother Zion.

By Rev. J. Edward Mason.

New York City, the greatest Metropolis in all the world. It also enfolds—Harlem, the largest, most densely populated city of Afro-Americans. The complex population of greater New York, represents nearly every nation in the bounds of civilization. All great interests are represented here. It is the head of America's commercial, educational religious and industrial activities and the mecca of her philanthropies.

Within a decade Afro-Americans from all parts of the world have found a home or an asylum within its borders. Different church boards in consequence are unusually active. Extraordinary efforts are being promoted to provide for the unchurched thousands. A great field is awaiting and enriching harvest. Within a generation, from the present outlook, over a half million Negroes will form a part of the inhabitants of this mighty center of life. It is the greatest missionary field of all American cities, among the Negroes.

A few months ago the colored Methodist Extension department, before a church organization had been effected, purchased a valuable property for \$80,000.00 making an initial cash payment of \$40,000.00. Today a congregation of over a thousand are regular worshippers. The Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Denomination, recently purchased a plot of ground for \$50,000.00; where the St. Mark's Colored M. E. church, is preparing to erect a great temple at the cost of \$350,000.00. The leaders of the Congregational Denomination seeing their opportunity, have called to this city, Rev. Dr. Proctor, who is now planning to erect an Institutional church costing \$250,000.00. The Baptist leaders who are ever on the job, are enlarging their boundaries, directed by able Dr. Brown last, year purchased a magnificent edifice formerly owned by Presbyterians for \$80,000.00 and is now making additional purchases, as Rev. Dr. Powell secures a large and centrally located property, and plans are announced for a new modern church, cost, between \$250,000.00 and \$300,000.00. The Episcopal Church is securely entrenched with a million dollar plant extending its lines under a well organized financial board.

These major church movements securing the strategic points, are destined to determine within a few years the place and the possibilities of the respective denominations, in the betterment of the colored citizenry, and the uplift of the race.

Mother Zion, the oldest colored church organization, is in its rightful place in the vanguard of religious work. In paying this special tribute to Mother Zion and its peerless pastor, Rev. J. W. Brown, I am not unmindful of the superior work being accomplished by the eloquent Dr. W. C. Brown, or the faithful and energetic, Dr. G. M. Oliver. But, as the pastor of Mother Zion was the first to reach the limelight in the solution of the perplexing problems of reaching, organizing the many-sided elements, and unifying them into the most powerful church of the denomination; I take this opportunity to emphasize certain facts of denominational interest.

Eight years ago, guided by our greatest living organizer, Dr. Brown, adopting the latest progressive methods—started a new era in the varied history of the Mother church. The membership and congregation have grown from a few hundred, to nearly three thousand. The finances have con-

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APPEAL OF THE BOARD OF BISHOPS FOR THE CHURCH PAPERS.

To the Presiding Elders, Pastors and the Members of the A. M. E. Zion Church:

Fellow-Workers:

Recognizing the flood of literature, circulating many kinds of confusing propaganda, both in religious and civil matters, and knowing the indispensibility of religious knowledge, simplified and ready for application to our common tasks and every day living, we make the present appeal:

The papers of the Church were established to meet this specific need in this age of the press. We renew our faith in the present service and the possibilities of our Church journals, which are meeting our needs in advertising our undertakings, propagating our policies and advocating the faith of our Fathers. The papers also voice the opinion and sympathy of the Church in all movements of race-building and the world problems. We believe it wholly necessary to have the largest possible circulation of these periodicals to bring the object of our Christian family before the humblest worker, and most indifferent members of any local congregation. To do this, the papers must reach the people at their firesides and in their quiet moments. At present there is a limited circu-

lation of the papers among the rank and file of our membership. Nearly 500,000 members representing 40,000 homes at least, and only one of the papers has a larger circulation than 6,000. Within the present year we propose to place the Star in at least 10,000 homes. Our subscription price is, in some instances, below the cost of issuing the paper. We hold the price of subscription within the means of the poorest families. The Star of Zion is \$1.50 a year; the Quarterly Review, \$1.00 a year; the Missionary Seer, \$1.00 a year; the Sunday School Bulletin, \$1.00 a year.

We advise, in each church, an agent or club be designated to secure subscriptions. First, to the Star of Zion, our weekly organ, and to as many other papers as any may desire to take. We call upon each Presiding Elder and pastor to turn his attention directly to the mutual effort for the good of our common cause, assuring each and all that there can be no wiser investment of our time and attention than to bring our whole membership into the reading family, to know the spirit, undertakings and achievements of our Zion. When this has been fully accomplished, the work for every minister and officer will be greatly sim-

plified and helped along by the growing loyalty and enlightening enthusiasm for the cause we espouse.

We designate the week preceeding Sunday, May 5th, as a suitable time for "Star and Periodical Day." Use all meetings, part time, at least, for placing this matter before the churches, urging the necessity of reading the Church papers as a protection to the families of the Church against the hostile propaganda which they meet, and in too many instances lose the loyalty of the youth and dampen the faith of the adults of our communion.

Thanking you for your co-operation in this cause of our mutual interest and assuring you of the increased inspiration and the grand success to each of us who toil growing out of this campaign and wishing each of our Presiding Elders and pastors the success which you so richly deserve, we are,

Your Chief Pastors:

G. W. Clinton,
J. S. Caldwell,
G. L. Blackwell,
L. W. Kyles,
W. L. Lee,
G. C. Clement,
J. W. Wood,
P. A. Wallace.

"No feature of the American atrocities that have made the world thrill with the incredible cruelty of the unspeakable Turk" is lacking in the story of the Georgia peonage horrors, declares the Knoxville Sentinel (independent democratic). Similar disgust is expressed by most of the press over the revelation of the murder of eleven enslaved Negroes at the instigation of a modern "Simon Legree" in Jasper county. It is not merely the crime, however, but rather the institution of peonage which it was intended to conceal, that causes some of the most bitter criticism. Connivance of Georgia authorities and passive toleration of the crime by the community are declared by some to warrant immediate and drastic federal action.

From Georgia itself comes stern condemnation of the deed and a call for justice. "Decent public sentiment in Georgia," says the Atlanta Constitution (democratic), "will not permit a thing of this kind to go unnoticed," and the Augusta Chronicle (democratic), makes a similar demand, but "refutes, with all the vigor of its might," the charge of "unchecked lawlessness" in the state.

But "the brutality of the exposure is only secondary," the Pittsburgh Dispatch (independent), points out,

thus reflecting the opinion of a number of writers, "to the fact that slavery was not abolished in the south by the Lincoln proclamation and constitutional amendments."

The New York Mail (independent) says: "Negroes are put to work un-

WHAT AMERICA THINKS OF PEONAGE.

der conditions no better than slavery. Wages are low and men easily get into debt. No doubt their weaknesses are exploited to get them into debt. They borrow small sums to be paid back in labor. But they never get an accounting. They ask for one at their peril. Year after year they work, and the debt is never reduced. Charges of law-breaking are framed against them, and they are blackmailed into hugging their chains. We fought a war to end what is taking place in Georgia, and it must be ended."

The blame "for this cumulative brutality" lies on the state of Georgia, the New York World (democratic) believes, since it "legalized the subletting of convict labor," and there-fore the employer to these men

"is the relation of an overseer to his gang in the days before the civil war." Such conditions, indeed, as the murders revealed, "could not exist unless the local authorities were either indifferent or connived at this barbarous practice," declares the Birmingham Age-Herald (independent democratic). "Traversity" says the Chattanooga Times (independent democratic), will be written over the laws of Georgia if this peonage system, besides which the peonage system of Mexico was tame," is not eradicated.

That "public opinion" could remain "lethargic" in the community in which such conditions existed is "disquieting" to the Pittsburgh Sun (democratic), and the New Haven Journal-Courier (independent) calls it "a cheerful state of society" where this could occur, and adds, "It is noteworthy that though this modern Legree is credited with disposing of a number of blacks no one proposes to lynch him."

The Utica Press (independent) also accuses the community: "It is fairly evident that state and local officers were doing nothing to end peonage, which suggests a virtual, if not actual, collusion by them with offenders."

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