

A DARKY'S CLOSE SHAVE

HAVING NO LICENSE HE RAN

A Story Recounted to Show wherein the Law Imposes a Hardship Upon the Individual to Protect the Class—The "Frolicsome" Police—Jones at House—Old Darky Without Work and Eager to Earn a Pittance Given Job to Do Some Painting Only to Be Run Away by an Officer of the Law—The Good Points and the Bad of the Law.

The law as it relates to and affects residents of the city offers some strange and almost inexplicable features, or as the late lamented John Charles McNeill might have said: "That air good pints as well as bad, that chokes the law." These provisions on their face may appear unjust to the individual and perhaps are in certain cases, but to society, in the vast majority of instances, they are just about what they should be. For instance:

The law says to the negro who will not work: "You are a vagrant, shiftless, unproductive and criminally inclined, a menace to society and dangerous to good government. Not willing to work for your living and therefore to contribute something to the State, you shall be made to. You are hereby ordered to the county roads for four months at hard labor."

The same law says to another darky, a self-supporting, unoffending, even thrifty negro: "Painting that old house which has been an eyesore to this community for so long, are you? That's a pretty fair job, too, you are making it. Getting 50, perhaps 75 cents a day for your labor? Well, where is your license? Don't understand? Why, the city requires that all painters pay a tax and take out a license. Got none? Then come with me. You will wear a suit of striped clothes for four months and see what you can do breaking rock. No license is required to do that."

One darky is punished because he will not work; the other because he does work, striving to earn a living for himself and family in a modest but honest fashion and doing something for the State. Unfortunately he is working at a "tabooed" trade. No one will question the justice of the first requirement but the second seems strange.

THE POINT ILLUSTRATED. The following episode is said to have occurred recently within the borders of Greater Charlotte. A Charlotte man had several houses situated out on the edge of town which he wanted painted. Not having anything much to do himself, he thought that he would try his hand on them. He went to the paint shop and laid in a good supply, a portion of which he had sent to one dwelling, and the rest to another. The houses were several blocks apart and he commenced work.

He had been employed but a few hours when a darky stepped up. "Boss, ain't you got a little work you can give a poor nigger to do. I have a family to take care of and I have nothing to do. I lost my job at the foundry last week and I ain't got much to eat left. My old woman can't work and my children are too small to do much."

A SYRIAN MARRIAGE

George Knuckley and Miss Nester

Nester married at the home of Joe Knuckley on College Street—Some Delay in Getting the License—Father Joseph Performed the Ceremony.

"Two Syrians are to be married at 305 South College street within the next half hour," said a masculine voice over the telephone at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. "Send an Observer man around to report it."

It was an American talking. He had seen the preparations going on and just wanted to do the boys in the Male Pen a turn.

Two scribes hurried down, one to look on and the other to make notes. Joseph Knuckley, the fat, fine fellow, with round face and black mustache, who runs a store at 209 East Trade street, lives at 305 South College. His brother, George, formerly of this city, but now of Gastonia, was going to marry Miss Nester Nasser, of this city. The priest, the groom-to-be, bride-elect, guests and newspaper men were there but no license had been procured.

"A license, my life for a license," everybody was saying. No license, no marriage, the State law declares. "Where is the register of deeds?" inquired the reporter.

"Gone to camp meeting," said Joe. "Well, why not get his assistant?" "He's gone to camp meeting too." There they were with a wailing bride and groom and no license. In Syria no license is necessary. The Catholic ceremony is all that is required. Therefore, the license was overlooked Saturday, and Bud Moore and his assistant, Mr. Sing, went to Hickory Grove and it is against the law for any other person to issue the papers.

TO HAVE CENTRAL OFFICE HERE

Standard Oil Company Will Open Up

Standard Oil Company Will Open Up in Charlotte Saturday as Only to Do the Clerical Work For the Two Carolinas—Made Necessary by Increase in the Field Work and the Fact That Charlotte is Centrally Located.

The Columbia State of yesterday contained an interesting local story to the effect that the Standard Oil Company will open up an office of consequence in this city next Saturday. The clerical force of the Columbia office will be transferred to Charlotte.

"The increase in the field work of the Standard has rendered this change necessary and there will be consolidated at Charlotte the work now being done for South Carolina and that being done for North Carolina by the Wilmington office. The reason given is that Charlotte is close to the border of South Carolina and consequently is a more central point than any other city that might have been selected to handle the business of the company."

"The Standard Oil Company's office in this city at present is located on floor 11 of the National Loan and Exchange Building and is under the management of Mr. E. S. Player. Mr. Player will go to Charlotte on August 29th and be in charge of the consolidated office. In the office here are employed about 15 clerks and these will be given the opportunity to go to Charlotte to enter the office there. The offices of the Standard in Charlotte, it is understood, will be in the 'skyscraper' that is now being completed in the North Carolina city.

"It is not now known which members of the Columbia office force will go to Charlotte. There are several popular young men and women of Columbia in the office and these will be missed if they should decide to go to Charlotte. Among those who are employed in the local office are: Vedder Zimmerman, Jack Morrison, Will Rison and Alfred Taylor.

"The warehouse of the Standard Oil Company will remain as it has heretofore been in this city and there will be no changes except the clerical force will be transferred to Charlotte. Columbia has been the logical center of the company's business in South Carolina and the reports from the various stations have been sent in to the local office. This work was carried on by the clerical force in the skyscraper office. This work will now be done in Charlotte for both of the Carolinas.

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