

African-American Presbyterian

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."—John viii:32.

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THE PASSING OF GEORGE FOSTER PEABODY, PHILANTHROPIST

By Dr. Kelly Miller

The name of Peabody looms large on the horizon of American Philanthropy. George Peabody was born in Massachusetts in 1795 and died in 1869. Among his many other philanthropies, in 1866 Mr. Peabody established the fund of three million five hundred thousand dollars for education in the South, applicable to both races. Though George Peabody and George Foster Peabody, who recently passed away, bore the same name, they were not related to each other. These two homonymic Americans, though unrelated by blood, evinced a close spiritual kinship and were both philanthropists after the same pattern.

George Foster Peabody was born in Columbus, Georgia, in 1852, and went North after the Civil War where his career became interwoven into the industrial, business, religious, educational and civic fabric during the past fifty years. While achieving remarkable success in the business world, he became keenly interested in all forms and phases of philanthropic and charitable activities and gave generously of his time, service and substance as well as his sympathy to every worthy cause. Indeed philanthropy or a love of one's fellowman must be bred in the bone. Perhaps no man of his day and generation showed a livelier interest or a wider range of sympathy and altruistic devotion. His broad-gauged philanthropy envisioned the varied and many-sided interests and activities of American life, without regard to race, class, creed, or sectional division of States. As a son of the South, he remained loyal to the best traditions of his native Southland. He was a member of the Southern Society of New York City, and was a life-long member of the Democratic Party, serving as Treasurer of the National Democratic Committee for twelve years; nevertheless, he insisted that the Negro should be permitted to enjoy the full measure of his rights guaranteed by the Constitution, not for the mere sake of abstract enjoyment, but because he needs these rights for self-protection. If his broad, human sympathies and humanitarian impulse had any special field of application, it was exerted in behalf of the Negro race. He was not actuated by any maudlin sentimentality but he was convinced that the Negro, as the man farthest down, stood most deeply in need of his sympathy and benefaction.

In this day of mammoth fortunes and worship of wealth we are in the habit of extolling those so-called philanthropists who magnify their own names by endowing colleges, universities, art galleries and libraries or establishing foundations out of their surplus wealth for which they could have no personal need. But in the truer and more exalted sense, the true philanthropist, like the apostle Peter, says to the needy, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have, give I unto thee." As Walt Whitman puts it, "When I give, I do not give lectures or a little charity. When I give, I give myself." When we learn to appraise moral values in terms of motive rather than munificence, the mere money giver will be deemed least worthy of the name Philanthropist.

General O. O. Howard and the Northern missionaries who followed in the wake of the victorious Army to start the beginnings of a better life among the benighted Freedmen, whose souls needed to be enlightened with wisdom from on High, embodied the highest expression of philanthropy which the Christian centuries have produced.

George Foster Peabody was a philanthropist in the truest

sense. He was interested in the souls as well as the bodies of the handicapped Negroes struggling upward from darkness towards the light.

Mr. Peabody gave to the colored young men of his native city, Columbus, Ga., the first Y. M. C. A. building in the history of that organization. He believed in the moral and spiritual as well as the material and intellectual phases of life. He was a Trustee of Hampton, Tuskegee and Howard, and contributions came to these institutions largely because of his connection with them.

Mr. Peabody was a close friend and firm believer in the work and worth of Booker T. Washington, whom he admired for his merit as a man as well as for the role of race statesman, which enabled him to bring about peace and harmony, cooperation and good will between the races. George Foster Peabody was endowed with a noble nature, simple, kind, generous and genial. He was courteous and courteous; his humanity and kindness beamed upon the highest and humblest alike.

In his death the American people have lost a great soul, a genuine philanthropist. He was a true and sincere friend of the Negro, if there ever was one.

SAVED FROM DRINK BY HEARING TEMPERANCE TALKS ON RADIO

By Ethel Hubler

Scarcely a generation has passed since the establishment of the first commercial radio stations in America. In those few years, the power of this new medium of expression to accomplish great good for humanity has been demonstrated in millions of American homes. It has brought education, enlightenment and contact with the outside world to isolated sections many miles from other means of communication. It has cheered the lonely hearts, bringing entertainment and amusement to while away long, idle hours. It has brought strength and healing comfort to the sick bed, courage to the shut-in. It has narrowed the far-flung borders of a great nation, and welded its people closer than any other development of modern times.

Now comes news of a new humanitarian and merciful service being performed by radio—a new achievement accomplished through man's benevolent use of the air waves. In recent months more than five hundred men and women, boys and girls, have written letters of profound gratitude expressing their thanks for learning the truth about liquor from temperance broadcasts now being heard over a number of radio stations throughout this nation.

Excerpts from just a few of the letters offer a most interesting sidelight on the tremendous possibilities of radio as a power for good.

A mother writes: "My sons drank frequently, but since we have purchased a radio and listened to the temperance talks, they have not touched the rotten stuff. . ."

A wife writes: "My husband drank liquor but he has been listening to temperance talks on the radio. It has been about two months since he came in drunk. We enjoyed Christmas this year for the first time in thirty-five years. . ."

The only hope of ultimate peace lies in religion. Knowledge is not sufficient; law is not enough; bulwarks of steel and of armament are extravagantly expensive and many fail in the crucial hour. Nothing suffices but the law and Spirit of God.—Selected.

BETTER PARENTHOOD WEEK

A movement of unusual interest to ministers and all other church and Sunday school workers is being launched this Spring. Better Parenthood Week is being inaugurated the first week of May to link Child Health Day, May 1st, and Mothers' Day, May 8th, in a new, intensified observance. It will make an intensive drive to impress parents forcibly with their duties to their children in the realms of spiritual, moral, mental and physical development.

Better Parenthood Week has the cooperation of the United States Children's Bureau. Katharine F. Lenroot, Chief of the Bureau, endorsing the week said: "It seems to me that this week will offer additional resources for bringing before the mothers and fathers of this country helpful suggestions for improving the health and welfare of their children. It should also serve to bring to the attention of parents the developing services for promoting the health and welfare of children which are being made available under Governmental and private auspices."

The week is being sponsored by The Parents' Magazine. George J. Hecht, its Publisher, is Chairman of a nationwide committee in charge of the observance. Associated with him are such leading parent educators as:

Dr. George D. Stoddard, Chairman of the National Council of Parent Education; Mrs. Jacob Schechter, President of the United Parents' Associations of New York City; Dr. Lillian M. Gilbreth, Vice Chairman of the Girl Scouts; Dr. Grace Langdon, WPA Specialist in Parent Education, Homemaking and Nursery Schools; Dr. E. A. Gilmore, President of the State University of Iowa; Dr. Louise Stanley, Chief of the Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Miss Hazel Corbin General Director of the Maternity Center Association; Dr. H. H. Riley, President of the State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America; Mrs. Sidonie M. Gruenberg, Director of the Child Study Association of America; Dr. Flora Rose, College of Home Economics, Cornell University; and Dr. John E. Anderson, Director of the Institute of Child Welfare, University of Minnesota.

A number of famous parents are also on the committee including: Mrs. Herbert H. Lehman, wife of the Governor of New York State; Faith Baldwin, novelist; Giovanni Martini, Metropolitan Opera singer; Mrs. Irene Wicker, the Singing Lady of radio; Mrs. Elaine Sterne Carrington, creator of the radio feature, "Pepper Young's Family"; Carl E. Milliken, ex-Governor of Maine and Secretary of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, and Kathleen Norris, authoress.

Child Health Day falls annually on May 1st, Mothers' Day on the second Sunday of the month. This year May 1st is also the first Sunday, making the intervening period unusually appropriate. An effort will be made to have Child Health Day moved from May 1st to the first Sunday in May so that Better Parenthood Week may become an annual event.

Churches, Sunday schools, Parent-Teacher associations, women's clubs, schools and similar groups are being urged to observe Better Parenthood Week.

NOT GOOD GOVERNMENT

(From the Danville, Va. Bee, Feb. 23, 1938)

The triumph of the filibuster in preventing the Wagner anti-lynching bill from coming to a vote in the Senate is another demonstration of the ability of organized minorities against the majority. After 47 days of speechmaking, the proponents of the bill who sought its submission to a vote yielded and the

Southern bloc joined by some others marked up a temporary victory which must be attributed not to logical discussion of merits, but to sheer wind-power. It is not, we hold, the democratic way of determining legislative issues. The Senate has got behind in its work in this tour de force during which wild and exaggerated statements were made for and against the bill as senatorial tempers became frayed. Generally speaking, however, the filibusterers clung more closely to the actual subject matter than they usually do.

It remains now to be seen if the South will make good on the asseverations of several of the anti-lynching bill supporters that lynching is now under control and that the situation so long complained of is improving. Upon what authority this is based is not altogether clear as mass killings share with passion all the elements of uncertainty.

But no matter what the character of the legislation is, the lameness of an administrative situation which permits any measure to be held indefinitely from a vote on account of the combined whims of a minority, runs, as we have said before, contrary to the concept of government by the majority.

REPORT ON HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE STATE

Raleigh.—The January report of the State Board of Health's Vital Statistics Division, of which Dr. R. T. Stimpson is the Director, shows that the upward trend in the number of births in North Carolina, which was maintained throughout 1937, was holding its own the first month of 1938. The number of deaths, however, was also greater than in January last year.

The first month of 1938 was marked by the birth of 6,395 little Tar Heels as compared with 6,103 a year ago, while deaths numbered 3,098 against 2,796 reported the first month of 1937.

There was a slight decrease in the number of deaths among babies under a year old, however, the number this January having been 411, as compared with 420 last year, but an increase of four in the number of maternal deaths. "We always keep an eye on these figures," said Dr. G. M. Cooper, director of the Division of Preventive Medicine, who gives much attention to maternal and child clinics. "It is gratifying to note," he continued, "that there was a decrease in the number of pellagra deaths in January, the total having been only 15, against 25 last year."

Increases were noted in deaths from several causes, especially pneumonia, the January, 1938, total having been 404, as compared with 333 in January, 1937.

There were ten more homicides last month than a year ago, the report shows, and two more suicides. Deaths from cancer continued on the upgrade, with 173, as compared with 151 last year. Tuberculosis deaths were up three while there were 14, or twice as many, from firearms and 19 more from accidental burns. One death from smallpox was reported, this being an unusual occurrence in this day and time, while measles took the lives of 16 children, as compared with none a year ago. Syphilis deaths dropped one, while diphtheria was up five. "Pneumonia has continued to be one of our greatest problems," said Dr. Cooper, but he expressed the hope that as the result of the appointment and activities of the State Pneumonia Control Commission, of which Dr. Hubert Haywood, of Raleigh, member of the State Board of Health, is chairman, "a brighter day lies ahead."

The telephone is a wonderful invention. A few deaf people can hear over it and a whole lot of dumb ones can talk over it.

MUCH SUFFERING AND GREAT PROPERTY DAMAGE CAUSED BY FLOOD

By Rev. Warren C. Jones

When I was a boy around home in the backwoods of South Carolina, three miles from a store and more than a mile from the nearest neighbor, I would have to work very hard during the long, hot summer days in the corn and cotton field, but I bore my burden cheerfully because I well knew that when the noon hour would come then I would be free for a short time to go down to the little stream that ran near our home and take a swim. Well, just somehow I have always loved water. I guess this special liking for water can be traced back to the time when I was a baby. The story goes something like this: My mother, who was a lover of people and who was a very zealous worker among the unfortunate people of York County in South Carolina, started one day to go in a buggy into a community near Turkey creek for the purpose of organizing a Woman's Missionary Society. I, as it happened, was the baby at that time, so naturally I don't recall this, but I am sure that I had the pleasure of accompanying her. Well, she attended the meeting and started home, but before she had gone very far on her homeward journey a heavy rain came up and she was forced to stop under some trees until it had let up a bit before continuing her journey. When she reached Turkey creek the water had come out of its banks and was all over the place around about. What must she do? It was growing late and the rain was still falling. After a minute spent in prayer she pulled up the lines of old Maud and started through the water. When old Maud got right at the bridge something made a noise in a tree near her and she made a leap forward, thus throwing me from my mother's arms into the swollen creek. After some very quick action on the part of my mother and sister (who was in the buggy with her) I was rescued, the water forced out of me, and without any other serious happenings we reached home late that night.

And so it was that I grew up with this fondness for water. But little did I dream that I was soon to be placed so near the banks of the famous Red river. This river, as you know, is the lowest Western branch of the Mississippi. It rises near the Eastern border of New Mexico, flows eastward through Texas, forming the entire Southern boundary of Oklahoma, thence Southeast below 31 N. latitude. It is 1500 miles long and its drainage area is estimated at over 95,000 square miles. The chief affluents are the North Fork, Washita, Peace, and Big Washita.

The Presbyterian Parish located in McCurtain and Choctaw Counties, and made up of Oak Hill, New Hope, and Beaver Dam churches, lies along this river in Oklahoma. Heavy rains, snows, and freezes in Western Oklahoma caused the river to rise and by the time the water had reached Southern Oklahoma, the local creeks and streams added their water to the already swollen stream, causing it to leave its banks and extend many miles out on both sides. The distance it extended depended on the slope of the land and the depth of the bed at that point. This mad, rushing stream left the river bed, flooded many thousand acres of farm land, bringing the greatest destruction in McCurtain county where the writer lives. The river in this county began to spread out over this low land late Friday, but the people thinking that it would not spread very far, did not go out of this bottom land. It continued to rise and late Saturday water had forced those nearest the river out of their

homes. By Sunday morning the river had covered many thousands of acres and the people living six and seven miles away had to flee to higher ground, leaving all behind them. 99 per cent of these refugees were Negroes.

Things grew worse and the CCC boys came with boats and brought these people out as swiftly as possible, but as they were not familiar with this section, rescuing was slow, and as the day grew older the weather grew colder, the water continuing to rise. By nightfall more than 600 had been gotten out and carried to the nearby town where they found shelter in the homes of friends, and those without any friends were cared for in the Armory.

I went down to see this water and although I was more than seven miles away from the river itself the water was more than 40 feet deep. I could not keep back tears from my eyes as I stood on the banks of this rushing river, watching the boats bringing out these refugees, wet, cold, without shoes and coats, and hearing the sad stories as told by those caught by the water. I wish here to relate a few of them.

One man told of his going to bed on Saturday night and early Sunday morning he was awakened to find that the water had come up to his bed. As soon as he could get out of bed he went for his clothes and found them soggy wet. But as there were no other dry ones he put them on and began carrying his wife and fourteen children out of the house. They were poorly clad but went up into the trees in the yard and stayed there until they were rescued some hours later. The father could not get into the boat as the wife and fourteen children had filled it to overflowing, so he had to carry out the same spirit as men at sea: "Ladies and children first." But the boat did not return for this man. He waited all night in the cold tree but on one came. Early the following morning, after praying that God would save him, the man took off his half dry clothing and with them tied about his waist jumped into the icy water, swimming for two miles to the dry ground.

Another story is that five people started to higher ground in a small boat. The water was swift and deep and there were many logs and other drifting things in the route. When the boat had gone about a mile from the house, something upset it and the five people were thrown into the cold water. As it happened the water at this point was not over their heads. The two men climbed up into a tree, leaving three girls there in the water, where they stood for more than six hours. The water came up to their necks. They were rescued and rushed to Idabel to the Armory and as a result of this experience one of the girls has pneumonia.

As I returned that afternoon I stopped by the Armory to see just what the conditions there were. Well, this is what I found. The Red Cross had taken over things and as best it could, under conditions, was making a fine go of caring for these 500 or more people there. But as the place was overcrowded, and with so few conveniences, many hardships were undergone by the people. There were eight or ten sick women on cots in one of the rooms. Several of these had gotten wet and had taken pneumonia. There were others there who had been sick before the flood came. There was one woman in this sick room, very sick, caused by worry over her husband. She had left him several days before that in the

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