

The Messenger.

A WISE NEGRO INSTRUCTOR

Booker T. Washington, president of Tuskegee Industrial School, in Alabama, is generally regarded by the press as about the foremost man of his race now living. Unlike Fred Douglass he is not "gingercake" in color nor one-third or more white. He is a negro. He has no little ability and wisdom and is doing an excellent work for his race in his state. He is also showing his breadth of vision as well as accuracy of racial study by his utterances from time to time. He lately wrote an article for the New York Independent, the old, famous abolition organ of the past. What he says is worthy of public attention, and particularly of the ignorant north that neither understands the negro question nor the southern whites. We find the Washington Post saying (we do not see the Independent) that his article is "most interesting and significant," and that "it is worthy of note that he does not find the negro improved after more than thirty years of freedom. On the contrary, he finds the race, taking it as a whole, less respectable and less efficient than it was under slavery. There are cases in which colored men have acquired a showy and more or less useful education, but the masses of the colored people have not advanced in any important respect." Not having seen the original article we are pleased to copy the following part from the Post of the negro president's article: "I would be the last to apologize for the curse of slavery, but I am simply stating the facts. Before the war if a southern white man wanted a house or a bridge built he consulted a negro mechanic about the plan. If he wanted a suit of clothes or a pair of shoes, it was to the negro tailor or shoemaker that he talked. Every large slave plantation in the south was, in a limited sense, an industrial school. On these plantations there were scores of young colored men and colored women who were constantly being trained, not only as common farmers, but as carpenters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, plasterers, brickmasons, engineers, bridge builders, cooks, dress-makers, hush-keepers, more in one county than now in the whole city of Atlanta.

This comes from the educated, observant negro man who has come into active life since the war. He is not of the old kind, but in respect to the education and age of the new. What he says is certainly correct and yet it is a view no northern man ever took or ever dreamt of. The intelligent white men in the south know well that the education thus far has done but little for the elevation of the negro race, making them more honest, more truthful, more reliable, more self-reliant, better citizens and of higher morals. Doubtless some have been uplifted and made better in many ways. But as the Post, edited by northern men, says "the negro is not bettered by a shabby smattering of the classics and by just enough knowledge of the higher branches to make him impudent and discontented. He can do nothing with his half-way education after he receives it." The industrial school at Tuskegee is doing an excellent work in behalf of the negroes who attend. They get a practical education that makes them skilled workman and fits them for further usefulness and success. President Washington shows his independence of mind and wise observation in this remark:

"One of the saddest sights I ever saw," he says, "was the placing of a \$300 rosewood piano in a country school in the south that was situated in the midst of the black belt. Am I arguing against the teaching of instrumental music to the negroes in this community? Not at all, only I should have deferred those music lessons about twenty-five years."

The fact is that Mr. Sambo had the ballot and the offices and the flourishes and trimmings to soon. He needed the experience of freedom, the benefits of discipline, the results of education before being so entangled in his borders and being made such a dominating political factor. The practical and industrial were too much lost sight of. It was all a fourth of July oration with him with Christmas fireworks thrown in. Booker Washington is a safe, sound teacher of his people.

HOME FOLKS.

It is quite probable that Lieutenant Jenkins, lost on the Maine, was a native of Granville and half brother to Captain R. A. Jenkins, of Salem, and brother of Mrs. Cicero Harris, known in Wilmington. She obtained a place at Annapolis for a brother, and the unfortunate lieutenant was doubtless the one who perished in the sinking of the Maine. Granville lost another man—Mr. Morse.

Captain Buck Kitchin, of Halifax county, is out in another letter on the political situation. He is clearly desirous to defeat the rascals. The last paragraph is this and it is good reading as well as truthful. Coming from one who was a year or so ago identified with the populists and united against the democrats with the old radical thing, it is significant and hopeful.

If a republican of his principles are any better now than they were in the days of reconstruction I have not discovered it. They are any better qualified to govern this country now than they were in the days of Jefferson and Jackson, they have not made so manifest a Mark Hanna and company. But, Russell and company have conclusively proven their incapacity, incompetency and unfitness to govern either state or nation.

The opinion is almost universal

among North Carolina democrats that the democratic party must have no offensive and defensive alliances, but make a square, open, hot fight against all enemies of the state in whatever guise or under whatever combinations they appear, inviting all friends of good government to unite with them in saving North Carolina from injury and in restoring to power the people who love the state and would have it to prosper. All true and patriotic North Carolinians should unite against the vandals. The most disgusting, disgraceful pages of this country are those that record the results of the combine in the last three or four years of legislation in this state. Let the honesty and intelligence of the State get together to put an end to such depravity and prostitution of power—such wrong doing and corruption among officials.

EDITORIAL ENTRIES

The Messenger gave not long ago a very amusing anecdote concerning Bishop Wilmer, of Alabama, who is gifted with both wit and humor. We see in the New York Times another anecdote that illustrates the Bishop's facility in happy repartee. The Force bill was a very hostile bill to the south. It gave deservedly great offence to all southern white men who had character and self respect. The story below turns upon the Force bill and the very obnoxious federal officials that measure of repression and oppression in hand. The bishop said:

"I was written to some years ago by an editor of the north, who wished to know the reason for the solidarity of the south. * * * The weather at the time was cold beyond precedent, and our waters were frozen over. I replied to him in one sentence. 'The solidarity of the south is due to the same cause that just now makes our water solid—friendly breeze from the north.'"

Recently the Messenger contended that as a general thing the refined and merciful game of foot ball (as "she is played") was not favorable really to proficiency of students in colleges and universities. There might be some rare exceptions. One was given but with intimations of doubt on our part. President Eliot, of Harvard University—one of the oldest and largest, with over 2,000 students—a distinguished official among such officials, and with opportunities of large observation of the workings of the foot ball game, in his last annual report to the overseers of the great university, expresses the opinion that athletics and high scholarship do not harmonize. The Messenger for years has discouraged this view. The Chicago Tribune says:

"It has taken President Eliot some time to find out what has long been apparent to outsiders. If he had pursued his investigation a little further he might have discovered also that athletics as practiced in colleges and humanity and gentlemanly conduct do not harmonize. This latter view of the situation has become apparent in several western colleges, which are making a manly effort to humanize slugball and other games, but it is not on record yet that the movement has received any encouragement from eastern colleges, notably from President Eliot's institution."

Stealing other people's money is a great crime on the part of officials whether the sums purloined be small or large. They call it "breaches of trust," "rascals—rogues. How can there be imbezementments." The true old word stealing, correctly describes the acts and puts the right brand on the rascals—rogues. How can there be improvement in public morals, in the standard of official probity, in even private honesty when the stealings of officials are larger year by year. The New York World publishes the compilation of statistics in the "defalcation" line as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Includes Federal and State (\$2,176,832), Municipal (1,418,271), Transportation companies (1,681,692), Savings and building and loan associations (879,791), Insurance companies (321,069), Banks (1,538,508), Court trusts (728,998), Commercial corporations and firms (1,478,918), Miscellaneous (653,159). Total: \$11,154,530.

This total is between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000 greater than similar stealings for 1896. And yet in the face of such figures bankers and ministers of the gospel in New York city say that the "standard of honesty is higher." If that is so it is limited as to number.

"TOTE."

"The recent controversy over the word 'tote' failed to determine satisfactorily its origin. The general opinion is that it is a southern colloquialism. This is wrong. 'Tote' has been longer in use in the woods of Maine than in any part of the south. Even now, the foresters of the Pine Tree state are dissected with 'tote roads.' These are narrow paths through swamps and over mountains, used by lumbermen for dragging or 'toting' timber to the main logging roads. The phrase 'tote' has been employed in lumber camps ever since the Maine forests were cut over the first time, and it has wandered away to the northwest, to Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota, following the transcontinental

Hood's Pills. Are gaining favor rapidly. Business men and travelers carry them in vest pockets, ladies carry them in purses, housekeepers keep them in medicine closets, friends recommend them to friends. Etc.

trend of the lumber business."—New York Press.

By referring to "Our Living and Our Dead" for 1875, you will find a brief discussion of the word "tote" by this writer. We said it was in Chaucer and had the meaning that is given in the colloquial speech of the south. It can be found in Chaucer, but not in the sense we stated. Some years ago we became satisfied of our error. Webster long years ago spoke of it as a word used in the south. It is not used in the north correctly. We once saw this: A man told the servant to "tote" his horse around to the gate, meaning to lead him there. "Tote" is used in the sense "to carry," and "to tote fair," a very common expression in the south, means to "carry" your end of the log fairly, or to conduct an argument fairly. We have heard the word used for more than half a century. The old English word was not used in the modern sense.

THE ENORMOUS PENSIONS

It is not surprising that foreign newspapers should be amazed at the huge pension outlay of the United States. It is so vast, so unheard of, so corrupt that public journals everywhere might well stop to consider the monstrosity of the business. It is indeed most wonderful pension law that can tax the country from \$145,000,000 to some \$180,000,000 yearly, and that too thirty-four years after peace, and with an upward tendency in spite of fleeting years. It is the monster of all legislation, and a constant raider upon and robbing of the public treasury—of the people who do not draw a cent of the pensions, but have to pay it. It is the wicked, unprincipled politician who have this wrong and thus burdened the tax payers. Think of the pensions aggregating the great sum of \$33,077,383 in 1871, six years after peace. That was then regarded by honest men as quite enough. Even Generals Grant and Garfield said emphatically that the pension outlay should never exceed \$1,000,000. It began to fall for awhile—continued to fall until 1878, at the rate of \$1,000,000 annually. Suppose this steady reduction had continued until now, 1898, a period of twelve years, what would be the size now of the pension? The total outlay would not exceed \$7,000,000, for in 1878, the expenditure was \$26,844,415. But instead of a trifling \$7,000,000 thirty-four years after the war ceased, it is some \$144,000,000 appropriated for current year, and it will require not less than \$150,000,000, it is believed in Washington. The able Toronto Globe, seeing and studying this taxation iniquity most intelligently says:

"There are now more names on the pension rolls than there ever on the army rolls at one time during the war, and the number threatens to increase. The chief influence maintaining this ridiculous distribution of public money is the protective tariff. If the revenues were raised by direct taxation the pension swindle would have a short and anything but a merry life. But the protective tariff compels the taxpayer to contribute both to the revenue and the protected interests, these latter being consequently desirous of keeping taxation as high as possible. To keep taxation is a simple matter. All that is necessary is to waste public money."

BREVITIES

The business part of the country need a general bankrupt law. After years of delay the enactment of one is in a fair way to success. The house has passed a bill that we hope will prove to be best possible.

At last the country has begun to awaken to the responsibility of killing men just for fun in games of football. That English judge may have put a force in motion that may reform the game as to make it tolerable and not more obnoxious and dangerous than Spanish bull-fighting. A man was charged with manslaughter and convicted for killing a player in a game.

The morality of Yale University is under public suspicion and censure. Too much drinking among the students is the charge.

Italy expends \$4,000,000 on its army. Austria expends \$20,000,000; Great Britain \$90,000,000; Germany, \$120,000,000; France, \$138,000,000; Russia, \$142,000,000. United States expend on pensioners alone \$150,000,000, or more each year. What fools the Americans are. A Paris mob has again attempted to take the life of M. Zola on trial. He made a very narrow escape. His case becomes stronger. A fall trial is what he cannot obtain in France.

The Maine had a deserter. Did he have any hand in the devility? He is under arrest in New York for stealing \$2,500. While good men are destroyed this wretch lives.

THE GREAT FIGURES FOR 1897

The report of the Bureau of Statistics, published two or three weeks ago, will be examined with interest. It shows a remarkable exhibit for 1897. Altogether it is phenomenal, the most extraordinary in the history of the United States. Here are the figures for two years:

"Merchandise—Exports, 1896, domestic, \$886,830,080; foreign, \$19,007,161. 1897, domestic, \$1,073,822,856; foreign, \$19,298,563. Total, 1896, \$1,005,837,241; 1897, \$1,093,121,519.

"Imports—Free of duty, 1896, \$322,952,457; dutiable, \$358,627,099. 1897, free of duty, \$377,372,792; dutiable, \$365,528,063; Total, 1896, \$681,579,556; 1897, \$742,900,855.

grade. Of course, the conditions abroad—in Europe—as to bread stuffs, has had no little to do with the swelling of the exports. If the United States had all the trade they might have with the South American countries, and those south of us on this continent, the foreign trade would be greatly enhanced. The increase of exports for last year was \$93,292,278 over the year 1896. What was the showing for December last? The present republican robber tariff tax had failed to produce as much revenue as expenditures needed up to December. The robber advocates insist that the new tariff will produce all the revenues needed. That is a false pretense. They have already increased the internal tax so as to enlarge the returns. The New York Evening Post gives this as to the December operations and a candid consideration will conclude that they are rather ominous for the new drastic tax measure:

"The total imports for that month decreased \$7,465,000 from December, 1896. This decrease happened in the imports free of duty; but in the dutiable imports alone the gain over 1896 was only \$1,248,000, and it will be remembered that in December, 1896, such importations had fallen to by far the lowest level in a dozen years. December was the fifth month since the enactment of the Dingley tariff; it would appear, therefore, that if the reasoning of the tariff-builders of 1897 was accurate, anticipatory importations ought by this time to have been in a reasonable degree consumed. Yet here is a wholly insignificant increase during December, supplemented, during the opening fortnight of January, by foreign merchandise receipts at New York city smaller by 20 per cent, than those of the same period in 1897."

Hints for Smokers

Generalarzt Dr. Scholer publishes in the Centralblatt zur Gesundheitspflege a collection of "Hints for Smokers," which are founded, as the Doctor states, upon his professional observations for many years of the mouth, teeth, stomach, lungs, heart, and skin of the devotees of tobacco. The first and foremost rule is never to smoke before breakfast, nor, as a rule, when the stomach is empty; this custom is the worst possible foe of digestion. Never smoke during any exertion of great physical energy, as dancing, running, cycling, mountain-climbing, or rowing, and especially if in a contest. Never follow "the bad custom of the French and the Russians" by allowing the smoke to pass through the nose; never inhale it through the nose.

Keep the smoke as far as possible from the eyes and nose; the longer the pipe the better, the use of a short pipe during work is to be avoided. A pipe is the most wholesome form of smoking, a cigar the next, a cigarette the worst. Always throw away your cigar as soon as you have smoked four-fifths of it; the last end of it is the most hurtful, in cauda venenum, or roving, and especially if in a contest. Never follow "the bad custom of the French and the Russians" by allowing the smoke to pass through the nose; never inhale it through the nose. Keep the smoke as far as possible from the eyes and nose; the longer the pipe the better, the use of a short pipe during work is to be avoided. A pipe is the most wholesome form of smoking, a cigar the next, a cigarette the worst. Always throw away your cigar as soon as you have smoked four-fifths of it; the last end of it is the most hurtful, in cauda venenum, or roving, and especially if in a contest. Never follow "the bad custom of the French and the Russians" by allowing the smoke to pass through the nose; never inhale it through the nose.

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