

FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A Freeman Correspondent Sends us the "Notes" of a

Recent Eloquent Lecture upon the American Negro, by Rev. E. T. Demby, Colored A. B. D.

"America is one of the foremost, if not the leading country on the globe. The progress that she has made since the Colonial days is a wonder to earlier nations. The people of the states were always boastful in their ideas of freedom and independence, even in their infant days. It was not a surprise to England when she heard the trumpet blast of independence, freedom and liberty in 1776, though but thirteen states of a small population threw off the British yoke which had held them so tightly, and before the Revolutionary war was ended, the British lion was glad to take a sneak and refused to make his usual noise.

"America has her free institutions, primary and high schools, seminaries, colleges and universities of all kinds and grades, the graduates of which compare with those of any other country. She has her asylums and hospitals for the wounded and afflicted, which have no equal in the land. Her authors in art, science, history, literature, philology, theology, rhetoric, grammar, mathematics, music, geology, botany, natural history, metaphysics, fiction, poetry, essays, medicine, law, mechanical and mercantile investigation, and in telegraphic and telephonic science, compare with any nation. In agriculture, manufacturing and machinery, America holds her own.

"America boasts of her laws and constitution and the freedom of speech and press, and her noble ideas of christianity, but oh! America, while thou art great, while thou hast caused the whole civilized world to look toward thee, while men from everywhere come to thy domain, while thou hast outdone the world in many useful implements, while thou canst boast of the Columbian Exposition, the grandest fair of all others given since the world, while thou boast of your political institutions and government in Washington city, like other nations thou hast thy evils, thou hast a crime—a crime that has alarmed the whole christian world—the crime of crimes; a crime that shall sooner or later bring the vengeance of a just God upon you; a crime that shall finally flood thy soil and more with precious blood; a crime which makes the hearts of just men bleed within them! I mean the crime of taking innocent Negro men, women and children's lives, which are just as precious to God as yours. The blackman every since his freedom (as well as before) has been looked upon and treated in some of the states as a mental and a scullion, not because he is a murderer and practical highway robber; not because he is lazy; not because he is an enemy to the whites; not because he is quick to insult those who are in power, but because he is industrious, honest and true; because he is becoming more and more intelligent and educated like they.

"We are authors of books in art, science, music, literature, history, theology, poetry and classics. We are inventors, professors and presidents of colleges and universities; we are doctors of divinity, medicine and philology; we are lawyers, merchants and mechanics, and are learning how to keep money. If the Negroes of the states will be satisfied to be slow and degrading and lose all taste for refinement in any shape or form, and look up to the white man as their master, we will not be lynched. There is no justifiable ground upon which our people are so barbarously and ignorantly treated. The whole trouble is, the black man is making progress and advancement too rapidly for the Caucasians and they wish to stop him in his onward and upward march in christian civilization, but I am here to say the civilization and christianization of the black man must move forward, and those of the race that are advancing tell their adversaries to get back, get out of our way, for we are coming to the front. If industry, economy and education raised the Caucasian from idol worshiping and humble conditions of life to a high standard of civilization, why not raise us?

Thirty years ago our people were bond slaves, with no future before them as they could see, but the long looked for day did come, and they were emancipated in 1833; but with no protection, but homeless, ignorant, penniless, churchless, landless, nameless, countryless and friendless. What a miserable condition our fathers and mothers were left in! Worse than the serfs of Russia, for when they were made free every one was donated one or two acres of land and agricultural implements with which to commence his career of liberty and independence. Notwithstanding our poor conditions in which we were left, we have made such advancement, educationally, religiously and financially, that it might rightly be called the "eighth wonder" in the march of civilization. America is ungrateful to the colored

man who cultivated her soil, felled the trees of the forest and fought in the Revolution to bring to the American white man independence and liberty; side by side did we fight in the Civil war with the whites and spilled our blood for national liberties, and others took care of their master's interests—the loved ones—their wives and daughters, and on their return they found them well secured. Since 1852 to 1893 there have been 1241 of our people lynched. What crimes! No tongue can express the horror, no pencil can delineate the scenery, and if the waters of the mighty deep, above and below, were ink, it would not be sufficient to write a document to justify the crimes committed; but right will finally triumph.

"For right is right, since God is God,
And right the day must win;
To doubt would be disloyalty,
To falter would be sin."

The great lesson that America wants to learn is the oneness of the races, or the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God. There are a great many already who accept this teaching, with certain restrictions, but there are no restrictions in this; the whole hog or none. Limitations are not justifiable nor defensible, neither are they based upon scientific principles, nor in harmony with the word of God. Paul says: 'Of one blood (nature) all nations of men were made to dwell on all the face of the earth.' This is the truth men need everywhere to receive, but some have creased to cloud this great truth with justifications. The physiologist has complicated his mind and cognition with the subject and has gone so far as to say that the wonderful diversities among men and their external structure and complexions are not theories of 'physical development nor atmospheric influence,' hence to this theory, just as many complexions, just so many originals have mankind. We see, however, at once, the fallacy of such an argument, which is unphenological, unphilosophical, unacclimatizational, unphysiological and not in keeping with common sense, and all such arguments are argumentum ad populum, or argumentum ad ignorantiam, and is unethnological and unanthropological, and without a knowledge of these sciences no one can say anything on the subject intelligently pro or con.

"We are all one, come from the one common origin. Well did Edward, the confessor, say in the dark days of the world's history, that 'We have all one Heavenly Father, and one spiritual mother, which is called Ecclesia, that is God's church,' therefore are we brothers. [Loud applause]. If this Biblical truth of the unity of the race be not accepted among mankind, sooner or later disintegration will take place and the high tower of civilization will crumble and fall. Every Afro-American is seeking knowledge, to know something, save a few pumpkin heads, who are resting in the arms of Morpheus dreaming of the rest beyond the skies—poor ignorant creatures!

"The value of the church property of the race is estimated to be \$22 570,882. The estimation of the value of real estate is said to be \$263,000,000. We have about 25,000 public school teachers among us, with at least 1,512,890 pupils. We have about 650 theological graduates, 420 graduates in medicine, 75 in pharmacy, and 300 lawyers.

"In the field of literature we have Phillis Wheatley, the poet; Williams and Wilson, the historians; W. Still, the "Underground Railroad," Embury, the theologian; Grimke, Douglass, Gregory, the biographical authors; Dr. W. S. Scarborough, Ph. D., L. I. D., the Afro-American linguist and author of classic work. We have over one hundred authors. We have at least 206 journals and four magazines, published by our own people (or black boys and girls). In the face of the advancement that we have made, why should we not be treated as men and citizens?

"Brave men and women, need we,
With dauntless spirits free,
To ask, demand true civil rights
And impartiality."

We have some noble men and women among us, among whom are Frederick Douglass, the statesman; John M. Langston, the scholar; Kelly Miller, A. M., the mathematician; Bowen, the hebrewian; Rev. J. G. Mitchell, A. M. D. D., the philosopher; Mrs. A. J. Cooper, the scholar and authoress; H. O. Fanner, the orator; Bishop Turner, Walters, Lee, Hood and Grant, the great race elevators; Edmonia Lewis, the sculptress, and the late Daniel A. Payne, D. D., LL. D., the greatest educator of the race, though dead, he needs no panegyric to make his fame, deeds and worth perpetual. 'A thousand deeds of christian heroism have written his name indelibly upon the hearts of men.' Centuries to come will keep his memory fresh in the hearts of the people.

My fellow citizens of Wellington, look up, don't get tired, there are brighter things ahead; be men, be women, of honest hearts and intentions; love intelligence and get virtue, "respect yourselves and others will respect us." Let us educate our children and train or instruct them intelligently; teach them race pride and ambition; relate to them the history

of the race, tell them of its sorrows and vexations; tell them of the dark days and bitter nights; tell them how their ancestors were brought from Africa, our Fatherland, to Virginia and sold as slaves; tell them that the first man and martyr that spilt his blood for America's liberty was a black man, Crispus Attucks; tell them of the black slave that saved Charleston from burning; tell them of the great Negro general, Toussain L'Ouverture. Some say the Negroes are the most envious of each other. This is only true when they are not intelligent, and those who preach that we hate and despise each other are ignorant, lequacious and without true erudition, highly sensitive and great for pomposity; yet more race love would assist in solving the race antipathy.

If we are to be very great, it will come through hard times. It was hard times that produced the Washington, the Payne, the Douglass, the Price, the Geo. L. Knox, the Lee, the L'Ouverture, and hard times will develop all, that with determination, press to the goal where the prize is."

F. F. E.

Wellington, C. C., Canada.

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SOMEWHAT CRITICIZES

The Ideas Contained in Rev. C. C. Taylor's Letter of Dec 16th.

Rev. J. M. Gilmer, B. D., presiding elder of the Columbus district, was interviewed by the South Charleston correspondent as to the article of Rev. C. C. Taylor. Said he: "It is the substantial in life and not emotional that will make lasting impressions in the interest of the race. The best way to have dealers keep in stock the articles mentioned by Bro. Taylor is to create a constant demand for them. This must be done by stimulating the race to use the articles mentioned so freely as to make a profitable demand. Business men do not keep stores to satisfy sentiment, but rather to make money. If there is a demand signifying profit the objects will surely be kept in stock. If we love our own with such warmth, if all this talk is not a sentimental spell, why urge the white man to add these to his stock? Why not urge ourselves into business along mercantile lines?"

Said he: "I have learned by experience that among us there is no profitable demand for the substance which Bro. Taylor demands of white merchants. They may be worshipped by himself, but he will have a revelation if he keeps his eye wide open as he travels. He will find that the race has a propensity for white, rather than black. I have inquired of colored children relative to black dolls and have not yet found one who would consent to have one. I have asked parents why they did not buy them for their children and have been told that the children do not want them. The only black doll I ever saw a child have was in a group owned by a little white girl. I called a little colored girl's attention to it and received this answer: 'She only has it to make fun.'"

The Presiding Elder said further: "First, let us create a profitable demand among ourselves and the problem of markets will be solved. So long as we prefer white schools and white teachers to race advantages, such as give employment and dignity to the race, we may howl to no purpose. It will be like a child chasing his own shadow." In conclusion, Elder Gilmer said: "I admire the spirit of the gentleman, but think he has commenced at the wrong end of the question. We must work among ourselves as well as upon the white man."

The second Quarterly conference of South Charleston A. M. E. church was held on Jan. 6th, at 7 p. m. The quarterly meeting convened on Jan 7th, at 10:30 a. m. The presiding elder, Rev. J. M. Gilmer, B. D., preached a very interesting and instructive sermon both in the morning and evening. The pastor, Rev. D. S. Moten, was with us during the week of prayer, a week being given the student ministers of the seminary in order that they might be with their congregations. Several of the pupils of the public schools are indisposed by reason of the results of vaccination. We hope that the very liberal offer of The Freeman, which holds good until Feb 22nd, will be utilized by as many as can afford it.

The Great "Inter-Ocean."

Perhaps never in the history of modern journalism has any newspaper gained so rapidly in public favor as the Chicago Inter-Ocean. Within the past two years it has, by adopting progressive methods and injecting push and enterprise in all its departments, forced itself into the very front rank of great Chicago newspapers. That its popularity is deserved is beyond question. The publisher during this time, Mr. H. H. Kohlsaat, has spared neither expense nor effort to attain his ideal—and he has succeeded. Uncomprehendingly Republican on all National issues, the Inter-Ocean does battle for what it believes to be the true faith in a manner that at once commands the attention of the public and respect of all. It can be recommended to those who desire a clean, reliable, enterprising metropolitan family newspaper.

OLD WILBERFORCE HONORED

Lieutenant John H. Alexander Appointed by President

Cleveland, Professor of Military Science and Tactics at that Institution—A Deserved Recognition.

The associate press dispatches announced a double triumph for Afro-Americans. The appointment of Lieut. John H. Alexander, a brilliant and talented colored officer, to the professorship of Military science and Tactics at Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, O., is the first of its kind in the military history of the country. We give in full the order sent President S. T. Mitchell, of the University: Special Order HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, No. 5 ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, JAN. 6, 1894. "The following order has been received from the War Department: 'WAR DEPARTMENT, 'WASHINGTON CITY, JAN. 6, 1894. 'By direction of the President and in accordance with section 1225, revised statutes, as amended by the acts of Congress approved September 28, 1878, and Nov. 3, 1892, Lt. John H. Alexander, 9th Cavalry, is detailed as Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, O., and will report in person for duty accordingly.'"

"DANIEL S. LAMONT, Secretary of War.

"The travel expense necessary for the public service."

"By command of M. J. A. SCHOFIELD, 'THOMAS M. VINCENT, 'Acting Adj. General.

"WM. P. HALL, 'Assistant Adj. General.

"President Wilberforce University, 'Wilberforce, O., Ohio."

The University is to be congratulated upon its merited distinction. It is the first university for colored youth ever founded. It was the only school under control of colored men, fully represented at the Columbian Exposition, and the superior merit of its students' work, won the medal of honor from the committee on awards. There is no institution in the country more deserving the cordial support of the people it represents and the generosity of white philanthropists.

The state of Ohio gives it an annual appropriation and frequent bequests are enlarging its usefulness.

The will of the late Bishop Daniel A. Payne just probated, bequeaths to the University his library, his valuable paintings and entire real estate valued at \$20,000, and so conditioned as to develop an endowment fund of \$100,000, of which two-fifths go to the University, and three-fifths to Payne Theological Seminary, its adjunct. More than two hundred students are annually registered. It draws its patronage from between twenty-five and thirty states.

C. H. & D. Dining Car Service.

One of the first movers of D. G. Edwards after being appointed general passenger agent of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton road was to introduce both the American and European plans on the company's dining cars, and it has proved a success, the operating of the cars in this manner paying better than the old method of \$1.00 a meal. Mr. Edwards assigns as a reason for so changing the methods to a little incident which came under his observation: "I was sitting at a table in a dining car when in came a lady and her son, a great big young fellow. 'All I want,' said the lady, 'is a cup of tea and a bit of toast.' 'It will cost you a dollar, madam,' said the waiter, who naturally enough felt in duty bound to warn her. 'Well,' she replied, 'I don't care, I must have them.' And then when the waiter asked the boy what he would have, he said he did not care about anything. I thought they could not afford two dollars, but that the woman, who looked ill, felt she must have the tea and toast, and then it seemed to me that a system that made you pay for a dollar meal whether you ate it or not might be changed to advantage. And I think we will be the gainers by the change. In the first place, people who cannot afford a dollar meal, and who never entered the dining car, will now come in and get something."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

That Razor Club.

Harrisburg, Pa., Delayed Special. The razor club composed of Newton Williams, Charles Payton, John Kelly and Thomas Hall were all sent to jail for cutting eight white men. The republicans of the eighth ward mean to elect a colored alderman. George Gilbrech is the man. Joseph Fisher has opened a hair cutting and shaving saloon, corner South and Spruce streets. Misses Mary and Fanny Ingalls of Abers, Pa. were visiting friends here. The Wesley church is holding a successful revival under Rev. J. R. Johnson and Mrs. Dr. Small of York. The Bethel A. M. E. church is holding a revival under Rev. Moore. The Harris M. E. church will hold a grand entertainment on the 15th. A company composed of four colored people have opened a grocery store on Fifteenth street.

Every Man Should Read This.

If any young, old or middle-aged man suffering from nervous debility premature decay, lack of vigor and development, varicocoele, etc., will write me, I will send him in plain envelope, sealed, free, the receipt and full particulars for a genuine, certain cure. Address G. B. Wright, music dealer, box 1354, Marshall, Mich.

A BIT OF RAINMAKING.

An Effort in the Hebrides Islands That Was Brimful of Success.

Lieutenant Boyle T. Somerville of the English navy, who lived many years in the Hebrides islands, tells the following interesting tale regarding the work of a professional native rainmaker. Toward the end of the year, just after year planting, there came an unusual period of drought, so that an inland tribe in the island of Ambrym went to its rainmaker and demanded his immediate attention thereto.

He at once set to work to weave a sort of hurdle of the branches and leaves of a tree famed for its rain producing qualities, which, being finished, was placed, with paper incantations, at the bottom of what should have been a water hole in the now parched bed of the mountain torrent. There it was then held in place with stones. Down came the rain: nor did it cease for 48 hours, by which time it had become too much of a good thing. Soon the rain producing hurdle was quite 10 feet under water in the seething torrent, and the people, much to their dismay, saw that their yams and the surrounding earth were beginning to wash away down the hillsides.

The lieutenant continues: "Now mark what comes of fooling with the element! No man of the hill country was able to give to the bottom of the water hole to pull up the hurdle with its weight of stones, so the merciless rain still held on. At last the shore natives, accustomed to swimming and diving, heard what the matter was, and some of them coming to the assistance the compiler of the chronicle was recovered from its watery bed and the rain stopped."

It is such a coincidence as this, happening perhaps once in a decade, which causes this people, now thoroughly Christianized, to refuse to give up their rain doctors, although all other outward forms of rank superstition appear to have been freely abandoned.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Cracking of Trees.

The catalpa never shows the "saw" and yellow leaf" in autumn like the sycamore, hard maple, etc., for the reason that its leaves are caught in a green, unripened state by the first severe frosts. In one night their bright green is turned to a dingy black. This sudden check forces the cambium layer and new wood of the stem with water. An excess of water swells the protoplasm of the cells to such an extent as to rupture the elastic bark, and in trees where the cell structure of the wood is not ripe the crack will extend into the wood often with a noise like an explosion. This often occurs in the fall when it is not cold enough to stop flowing. Sometimes we have much loss in nursery in this way with varieties not fully ripe when the first frosts come. Sometimes indeed it injures very hardy varieties. In such cases the swelling of the protoplasm comes from the water absorbed at the ground surface when combined wet and cold come together in autumn. The cracking of cherries and pears comes from the same cause—that is, by absorbing water on wet days, causing an expansion of the protoplasm. With trees the best treatment is to cover the rupture with moist clay and then wrap to exclude the air as much as possible.—Iowa State Register.

The Crawfish and the Levees.

"Whenever I hear of a break in the levee down in my district, I know that nine chances to one a crawfish have caused it. The assertion may sound slightly exaggerated, but it is a fact nevertheless that the troublesome little crawfish work more danger to the levees than does the water. On a big rise, when the bed of the river is stretched from embankment to embankment, the crawfish burrow into the levees and live there in the moist earth. They multiply faster than maggots and loosen up the earth worse than moles. The levee may be completely sapped with grass and you see no external evidence of the damage going on within, but when the next big rise comes you will see it. I have frequently known the water to break through the levee two or three feet from the top, and you can attribute it to nothing but the destructive work of crawfish. This was particularly true of the break at Ottum in 1889, when a portion of the town of Greenville was submerged. The builder of the levee in the future will have to take into account the crawfish as one of his most stubborn foes."—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

Swearing.

It may be said without exaggeration that swearing forms an important factor in the masculine vocabulary of nearly every civilized nation. Great writers like Shakespeare know this. A collection of Shakespearean oaths and epithets with their etymology would fill a volume. Shakespeare realized that they were inseparable from a faithful portrayal of virile human character; that no truthful picture of common life would be possible without the use of that strong, vehement language in which men express their emotions. But conventionalists forbid to nineteenth century writers what the Elizabethan age not only tolerated, but approved.—Philadelphia Press.

Whistling on Shipboard.

If you want to see a disgusted man, just whistle on shipboard before a sailor. He will tell you all about "whistling down the wind," but he could not get up a pucker to save his ship. You remember that old story about a sea captain who refused to take aboard a woman who whistled, and knowing the old superstition feared, that with her on board he would be sure of shipwreck. I do not know how it is with the captains of vessels now, for almost every woman seems to know how to whistle and keeps up the fashion.—Detroit Free Press.

IMPECUNIOUS LOVERS

THEY BUY ENGAGEMENT AND DING RINGS ON CREDIT.

Contract to Pay on the Installment and the Fair Sweethearts Never Know About It—An Interesting Talk with a Confidential Clerk.

An engagement ring contract on the installment plan is now as common a business transaction as the fixing up of a boarding house on the easy payment plan. There are a few New York jewelry firms who prosperous business among prospective bridegrooms on the credit system.

One of these is located on a prominent downtown street. Engagements and wedding rings are here on credit, the weekly payment being cents. At this store the other day a bashful young man asked the clerk to show him some rings, and to present to a young lady.

"Engagement ring, eh?" said the clerk in a confidential manner. "Here you are, sir, the very best. Forty-five dollars—equivalent to payment in 19 months. This is an ordinary ring. Any girl would fit over it. See that dainty thread of gold about the setting, emphasizes the gem and makes it appear worth more than it is. You better years if, sir. Pay for it, you'll get a discount of \$5."

The young man seemed impressed. He gave the clerk the little finger of his fair hand, and left his name and relations.

In his pocket as he went out he found a stipulations contract printed in ink, which stipulated that, in case of nonpayment according to the terms of the contract, etc., the ring must be forfeited.

"That's a fair sample," said the clerk in answer to a question. The fellow represents a certain class of middle class society. Most of the working young men buy rings for their sweethearts that way. The girls never get any engagement ring at all, and the money had to be paid outright. Another shy young man was in, and the clerk motioned him to a private room adjoining the main store. There they were closeted for a few minutes, and then the clerk emerged with a contract with the new customer. The necessity of the private and room, it seems, is to cause financial embarrassment, coupled with nervous anxiety, prevents lovers in the first stage of the divalizing the terms upon which they wish to pay for a ring. They prefer state their case unaided by any expert except the head clerk, who, in the course of his business, has cultivated a friendly sympathy for the entire race of sweethearts.

"Oh, they tell some pathetic stories," said the clerk. "They tell me that their secrets gratuitously. One devoted young lover told me the other day that he earned \$1 a week, but couldn't get married until he had raised to \$5. When advanced to this position of opulence, he thought he could afford to buy a diamond ring on installment payments of 50 cents a week.

"But it is in the case of lapses that I hear the most pathetic tales. As a rule, our customers are straightforward and honest. As long as a young man has work we have no difficulty in getting his money. When he loses his position he usually lets us know, and then the fellow is honest we ease up on him just a little."

"But what if the girl and the ring appear simultaneously?" he was asked.

"Oh, the young man always pays up, and if the girl has thrown him over you can bet he never tells any one about it."

"There are lots of fell to do young men who spend \$50 or \$10 in a night for pleasure and who do business with us because they prefer to regard jewelry as a luxury and pay for it in time."

"Here, for instance, is a ring used to order for a broker down town, and the clerk held up a diamond ring valued at \$250, which had been made to fit the finger of some metropolitan ball whiz, who never knew the terms of the contract."

"I don't know of a single instance where a girl has had to forfeit her ring. In case she had a dishonest man sneak for a looper the case would be rather embarrassing. But as a rule, blushing bride elect knows all about the installments, for our customers come promptly to the office and pay every Saturday."

"There are some cases where we try to unbind a trifle, as, for instance, where there has been a death in the family. When a sad, fazed young fellow steps into my private office, I tell me confidentially that he has lost his father and must help pay for funeral expenses, or that he has lost all his available capital in a stock exchange. Thank-giving or Fourth of July, the day before, then he can usually count on the sympathy of the firm."

"Of course we run great risks. We never sell to anybody without looking up their references. The investigation blank, which is filled, establishes the purchaser's integrity of character, should contain date of contract, name of applicant, home address, business occupation, business address, references, time played in present position, amount of engagement money, wedding ring and best of other details."

The firm's contract is suitably boxed, and the real tape is used to prevent the client to make a young man's responsibility and importance of the creditors.—New York World.

Considerate.

"Why don't you take me to some of those sometimes of evenings, dear? I get tired of staying at home alone."

"Because I can't afford to press you as well as myself. I don't want to be seen around with a woman dressed as you are."—Indianapolis Journal.