Newspapers.com by Ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/323496494

Jan 12—Oct 25, Nov 2

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR AND KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF HONOR OF THE WORLD

VOL. VII BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1918. NO. 48

The Emancipation Celebration Was A Wonderful Success

Southern White Judges and Leading Negro Clergymen Are One In Their Advice To The Returned Negro Soldiers

A Great Day For The New Negro And The New South. All Daily White Papers Give Very Prominent and Clever Mention In Their Columns

THE GREAT EMANCIPATION ADDRESS DELIVERED IN ST. PAUL A. M. E. CHURCH BY REV. W. H. MIXON, D. D., P. E.

Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 1, 1919.

Mr. President, Fellow Countrymen and Fellow Citizens;

I am charmed above measure to see this great concourse of free people today. We have the honor of witnessing and participating in the Jubilee and closing of the greatest international conflict known in history. This brings me to consider a subject I have styled:

THE GIANTS OF NATIONS.

Yesterday we stood at the grave of 1918; today we stand at the cradle of 1919. We have great reasons for rejoicing. Without multiplying words we shall claim your attention on the subject, "Giants of Nations."

I shall not deal with the Bible giants like Ishbibenob whose brass spear weighed 300 shekels or 12 1-2 pounds. In antediluvian world, there were giants, mighty men. The sons of Anax were giants. King Og of Bashan was a giant. He was 12 feet high, 6 feet broad, a mighty man. His bed was made of iron. It was nine cubits in length and four cubits in breadth.

The ancients believed the first inhabitants of the earth to be produced from the ground because of their statue and enormous size; they were known as giants.

I want that you walk with me today with the giants of intellect. The giants of mind rather than the physical giants. King Alfred said, "There is nothing in the world great but man, and nothing in man great but mind."

Adam and Eve the father and mother of the human family, lived in Eden or Paradise. Because of disobedience, they were ejected, driven out of their habitation. Men lived in the antediluvian as well as the postdiluvian world. The ship called Ark rescued or saved by special dispensation of Providence, eight persons Noah, his wife, three sons and their wives. The first nations were formed in Shinar near the borders of the Euphrates, south of Mount Ararat. This became the center of the populaton of the universe. The decendents of Shem distributed themselves over the country near the Euphrates. The descendants of Japhetta settled in Greece, and thus laid the foundation of several European nations. The descendents of Ham took a westerly direction and went into Africa. They settled in Egypt and laid the foundation of a great nation, a great race.

Nimrod the mighty hunter built the great city of Babylon. In the year 1775 Ashur built the city of Nineveh. Athens, Rome and other great cities were built by master minds, gigantic intellects. Abraham founded the Hebrew nation.

In sacred and profane history, victorious accomplishments and achievements have been gained by master minds. Who would dispute the giant intelect of Cicero, Caesar, Demosthenes, Socrates, Plato and Pompey? Who would dispute the military tactics of Alexander, Napoleon, Charlemagene, Hannibal and Toussant L'Overture?

We have watched the current of thought advanced by Newton, Archimedes, Galileo, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison. The student is inspired by the brilliant mind of Shakespeare, Milton, Hawthorne, Holmes, Longefellow, Tennyson, Dante and our own Paul Lawrence Dunbar.

The sweeping eloquence of a Talmage, Beecher, Spurgeon, Hall, Ward and Abraham Grant has lifted nations and caused them to look and live. Beside dealing with the giants of nations, we may deal with a giant race. The Negro was brought here not by his own volition, but as a cargo of freight in 1619. He was kept in abject slavery for 244 years. January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation which was a death blow to slavery. Well might we make this a day of jollification. Men desired to see the things we see today, but died without the sight. More than four million slaves were set free. They were without culture, scholarship and money. A green race, a raw race, a race without a family record; indeed, without a name, depending upon others to think and act for them. A race without the knowledge of an Almanac, Calendar, or numbers. The personal records and important events were dated from rain, storms, floods, planting and gathering time, when the stars fell, the dark day, wars and the time they moved from one plantation to another. In those days of gloom, doubt and fear were born gigantic minds. A few like Frederick Douglass, Henry Highland Garner, Henry McNeal Turner, Daniel Alexander Payne, Frances E. W. Harper, Phyllis Wheatly, Fannie Jackson Coppin. Today our leaders are numberless. Leadership is recognized. No agencies today can keep the Negro race down or keep him back. Seal him up in a dungeon, his mind will break out. A few brief years have passed since we left the auction block where mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers were sold to the highest bidder as a commodity. In after years that auctioned brother and sister met and were united in wedlock without knowing that relationship existed between them. Slavery was degrading, a curse and abomination. John Westley said: "Slavery was the sum of all villainy."

Proud America.

America is the proudest nation of the world. It is our home. We are citizens of this commonwealth. Blackstone says: "The strongest claim to citizenship is birthplace." The stars and stripes are ours. This is our birthplace, this is our native soil. It is our duty as well as a Divine privilege to claim an equal place among the American citizens. The Negro is identified with the American interests. We are property owners, tax payers, builders of churches and schools, dealers in stocks and bonds. Our habits are commercial, industrial, educational, religious and social. America has been an open door for immigrants. It has a wide territory wherein the genius of man may be developed. The color of my race has been a badge for criticism and proscription. Character, intellect, wealth, culture and refinement should be the equalizer of races and nations.

Prejudice.

Prejudice is an element of hate. It is out of place when it lodges in the breast of the human family. The Golden Rule should be, "You For Me and I For You." Prejudice blights the hope of a race, damages the prospects of a nation and crucifies the ambition of manhood. It overlooks the fact that under a black skin is a lofty mind. This race with which I am highly identified has had to wade the deep waters of prejudice, swim the rivers of criticism and climb the mountains of opposition. But because of our giant intellects, we have been considered and called upon to help dethrone autocracy and enthrone universal Democracy.

Soldiers.

Ancient and modern time will prove the valor of the Negro soldier. He has been a soldier from the earliest times. He served in the Egyptian army long before the Christian era. The run-away slaves fought in Trinidad, British Guana and St. Domingo. The unmixed Negro in Hayti rose to the full dignity of a modern soldier. It is said that the martial spirit is born on the Negro. He can well be classed with Napoleon, Cromwell, Washington and Pershing. The rejected soldiers of color fought in the Revolutionary war. Crispus Attucks was first to christen the earth with human blood for human liberty. But when the dense smoke cleared away and the firey balls ceased to rain, the black soldier found himself shackled and chained by the demon of slavery. He fought in the second war with Great Britain, and at the close found himself a slave. Thirty-six thousand eight hundred and forty-seven Negro soldiers sacrificed their precious lives in the war of the "Sixties." At the close of that great struggle he was found a free man, a citizen.

The Negro soldier has a history. Trace him at Bunker Hill, Ft. Wagner, Ft. Pillow and battle of New Orleans. Do you remember? Can you forget the battle of San Hill?

When it was necessary to protect the American citizenry and trade in the recent conflict, the Negro volunteered his service, and when drafted, none went more willingly and readily to the battle field than the black man. The words of Patrick Henry inspired him to greater heights. Listen! "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death."

Watchman.

Watchman, what of the night? What will the Negro soldier find at the close of this war? What will be the result when the white soldier and black soldier return to this country? While the war last we met as brothers and citizens. We rode in the same automobiles, spoke from the same platform, bought Liberty Bonds from the same windows, conserved food, labor, and time alike, endorsed every measure suggested by the Government. Now that the war is over, are we needed in the council of consideration as a race? Will that friendly hand of fellowship remain the same? Will the giants of this nation give the Negro his franchise as a reward for obeying when obedience was hard? Will the railroad system and electric car authorities remove the boards of proscriptions or lengthen the space for Negro traffic? Why charge a helpless race a first class fare and give them second, third and no class accommodation? Is it just? Is it right? Will it stand We answer: "No, no! ten thousand times no!" The days of Reconstruction are here. New conditions are arising. The things that satisfied the fathers will not satisfy the sons. This is a Reconstruction period with individuals, families, races and nations. President Woodrow Wilson is a giant. He handles the nations like play things. It was said of William E. Gladstone, he can take his seat any where and call the world to order. President Wilson has planned a league of nations and I trust a league of races. At the Peace Table in Versailles he will be more than the space he occupies. Today we have a Government of all the people, by all the people and for all the people. That is universal Democracy. All wars are cruel. Yet the colored man has received out of this war more than he put into it. Some of the soldiers will return home hale and hardy, others will be maimed for life with the loss of one or both eyes, an empty sleeve and an absent leg. It is to be regretted that the Government is discontinuing the schools for military training. I believe the training should go on so that the nation will be prepared for any emergency. Notwithstanding the war has closed, I believe the wage earner should still receive due consideration for his labor.

Distribution.

God is distributing the Negro all over the world. At first, they were in a few countries. Today they are in South America and the British islands where white and black are treated alike. In Central, South and North America they are coalescing.

The colored man can be depended upon. In the hours of danger he protected the White House. As giants of the race, Major R. R. Moten and Dr. Dubois have been selected to represent the Negroes across the sea.

Think of Ralph Tyler being sent as a newspaper representative to France.

During the National Strife, Four-Minute Men and Women of this race have been heard on every mountain, in every valley, village, town, hamlet and city. Their voices have been heard in every pulpit, school room, theater, shop, mine, mill, the open air and on the platform.

Progress.

The strength of intellect promoted Mr. Emmet J. Scott to the position of Assistant Secretary of War. The race has advanced. In the last election, J. V. Coleman, H. J. Capehart and T. G. Nutter were elected to the Lower House of West Virginia State Legislature. William Riley of St. Louis, Mo., to the Lower House of the State Legislature. A. E. Johnson as an Assemblyman in New York.

Preparedness.

Our race must prepare to meet the new conditions. (1) by honesty; 2(2) by industry; (3) by frugality; (4) they must have confidence in themselves and their leaders; (5) they must know the value of a dollar, be economical; (6) buy, build and beautify homes; (7) live out of home products; (8) educate your children; (9) encourage race unity and race enterprise by patronizing each other in business; (10) observe the laws of sanitation; put cleanliness next to Godliness; (11) work every day in the week; average 100 per cent in your daily occupation; (12) don't spend your money before you make it.

The time has come for the Negro to set up his kingdom. Stop wandering from nowhere to nowhere, but from nowhere to somewhere.

England and her Gladstone, Germany her Bismark, France her Carno, America her Blaine, but the Negro race her Booker T. Washington. These were men with gigantic minds. They eclipsed any and every leader in their day and generation.

Suffrage.

The demands of the age and reconstruction will settle the knotty problems and difficult measures of Woman Suffrage. The day is at hand when the mothers, sisters, wives and daughters must be given at greater latitude. In every instance where they have been privileged by legislative, judicial or executive authority, they have proven serviceable and efficient.

Education.

I call upon the men to make your wives your partners. As you advance see that they advance. Wherever they have been considered in business, office, banks, schools or even the pulpit they have been the equal and many times the superior to men.

I call upon the parents to see to your children being educated.

Let the teacher take ignorance by the throat and choke it to death.

Let the ministers in the pulpit drive the shining steel of education through the head of ignorance.

Mob Violence.

As civilians, we call upon the giant minds and rulers in proud America to protect us from mob violence and lynch laws. I firmly believe that there are governors like our own Governor Henderson, sheriffs and deputies as well as some of our white friends who have and will exercise every means to protect the human life and see that the supposed guilty party has a fair and impartial trial. Every man is innocent until he is proven guilty. When they are forced to leave this world for the unknown by the rope route or by the report of guns, they have no chance for vindication. Stop mob violence. You make and execute the laws. We do not make them.

When an angry mob of one hundred or more shoot, cut and burn and flay one helpless being, it engenders hatred and ill will between the races. The Negro's suffering for better protection has caused them to change quarters. The cooler brains have tried to keep them in the South, but their efforts have proven fruitless. They continue to go. Our friends can help settle this unsettled condition and stop this unrest.

The greatest advantages for the Negro are in the South. His friends are here. Some of the best white friends in the world are here.

The question of social equality has staggered this nation. I want the friends to know that we lay no claim to social equality with other races. It is not our desire, nor our purpose, and not our plan to impose ourselves socially upon other people. We are not cringing. We are not begging. We only urge a fair chance in life. We need more friends like ExGovernor Emmett O'Neal.

Unity.

This nation will testify that we have been loyal and patriotic. While the peace conference is going on where the different nations will confer with each other, I call upon the colored race to plan well and let's have a National Conference of Negroes. Let us hold conventions, debate subjects, pass resolutions and memorialize state legislature, congress and the United States senate for better protection of our race.

We have many friends who sympathize with us in our weakness. They are willing to lend a helping hand, but we must prove ourselves worthy of their confidence.

Men, women and children who are able to accomplish something will always be in demand. A woman is a better cook if she is educated. A servant is a better servant if he is educated. The farmer is a better farmer if he is educated.

Take these great shipbuilding plants, foundries, furnaces, steel corporations, factories, the authorities need prepared persons. Service and efficiency are in demand.

Confidence.

One of the greatest drawbacks of the race is the lack of confidence in each other. I call upon the colored people of Birmingham to put your monies together and re-organize a bank.

Time.

I want to urge my people to study, learn and know the value of time. Waste of time, non confidence and not seeing 100 cents in a dollar have thrown the race back 50 years.

"On time" should be our motto.

In the days of Henry VIII, the messenger bore this kind of message: "Haste, post haste, haste for thy life."

Caeser delayed reading a letter. It cost him his life.

Colonel Rahle, a Hessian commander, was playing cards when a messenger brought a letter, stating that Washington was crossing the Delaware. He did not read it in time. The game was over. That delay cost him his honor, liberty and life.

Napoleon laid great stress on the Supreme moment or "nick of time."

The African association wanted to send Ledgard, a traveler, to Africa. When he was asked, "When he would be ready to go," he said: "Tomorrow." When they asked John Jervis or Earl Vincent when he could join the ship, he replied, "Directly."

It is said doing a deed is like sowing a seed, if not done at just the right time, it will be forever out of season.

Cobbet said: "He owed his success to being always ready."

A man asked Sir Walter Raleigh, "How do you accomplish so much and in so short a time?" He replied, "When I have anything to do, I go and do it."

Today and not tomorrow is the "day."

Daniel Webster answered 20 or 30 letters before breakfast. Sir Walter Scott would rise at five o'clock.

Horace Greely said: "If a man has no regard for the time of other men, why should he have for their money?" George Washington said: "My cook never asks if the visitors have arrived, but if the hour has arrived." John Quincy Adams was never known to be behind time. The speaker of the house knew when to call the house to order by seeing Mr. Adams coming to his seat. Once a member said: "It is time to begin." They said: "No; Mr. Adams is not in his seat."

My friends I call upon you to learn the value of time. Push and pull ahead. Let nothing but right and success attend your efforts. Do your duty, then leave the summing up—leave the result with God—when the Grand Keeper of Heavenly Records shall call the roll, see to it that you will still be going up! up!! still !!! I bid you goodday. Great and long applause.

DR. W. H. MIXON, D. D.,

Presiding Elder of the A. M. E. Church, and one of the leaders of the Negro, known and read of throughout the civilized world. He was the orator of the day for the Negro Civic League, Dr. Freeman, president. His able address is found elsewhere in these columns and one organization alone has already engaged 200 extra copies for that membership. He swayed the great audience on Emancipation Day, and caused judges of the law to stand up in the open and to declare that his equals on the oratorical platform are few. Dr. Mixon is strong in his church and race and is identified with most of the secret organizations.

One Of The Leading Judges In The South Lends A Word Of Encouragement To Our Effort At Real Genuine Racial Usefulness

Jan. 1, 1919.

Dr. M. H. Freeman,
President Negro Civic League,
Birmingham, Ala.

Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 29th, and to say your invitation for me to be present at the celebration to be had today at St. John's Church is much appreciated.

I hope the meeting will be enjoyable and that it will result in benefit to our people of both races.

Respectfully,
H. A. SHARPE.

A word of encouragement and Cheer from one of the most famous and favorably known of the Criminal Judges of the South. Judge Wm. E. Fort is also President of the Birmingham Civic Association (white), which caused the organization of the only Negro military training class that we know of.

Dec. 30, 1918.

Dr. M. H. Freeman, City.

My Dear Dr. Freeman:

Your letter of December 29th, inviting me to be present and participate with you in celebrating Emancipation Day, January 1st, was received and appreciated. It came too late, however, to enable me to accept, as other speaking engagements for that date have supervened. It always gives me pleasure to speak a word of encouragement and good wishes to your people, for they are working out a higher destiny with great rapidity and have deserved well of their countrymen in the recent struggle for the freedom of humanity.

On some other occasion I may hope to serve you. With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,
WILLIAM E. FORT.

EMANCIPATION DAY IS CELEBRATED HERE

More than 500 people were present at a Negro mass meeting held in St. Paul's A. M. E. Church late Wednesday. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Negro Civic League, Dr. M. H. Freeman president, and was to celebrate Emancipation day.

W. H. Mixon was the principal speaker of the occasion and several white men made short talks. The following were included on the program: Judge Alvin M. Douglas, B. F. Ray, C. E. Wampler, W. H. Mixon and D. C. Edmondson.

More than 200 returned soldiers were present at the meeting and gave an exhibition drill as taught at Uncle Sam's training camps.—Birmingham News.

Copyright © 2020 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.
Powered by Newspapers.com