

# AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

Memphis, the county seat of Shelby county, Tennessee, founded in 1826 and chartered as a city in 1849, called the Bluff City, 109 miles west of Nashville, is one of the chief commercial cities of the south and one of the most important cotton markets in the United States. The growth of this city, both in population and commerce, has been remarkable. The population has grown from less than 9,000 in 1850, to 131,105 in 1910. There are only five cities in the United States that have larger negro populations than Memphis. The last census shows negro population in six cities as follows: Washington, D. C., 94,446; New York, 91,702; New Orleans, 89,262; Baltimore, 84,749; Philadelphia, 84,459; Memphis, 82,441. There are in Shelby county, however, between 90,000 and 100,000. The new union depot which cost five million dollars, with equal accommodations for both races, the imposing sky-scrapers, the beautifully shaded and paved streets, the costly residences, the 1,000 acres of lovely public parks, the junction of several great railroads, the trolley cars threading the avenues in every direction, the numerous factories, public buildings, costly and spacious churches, add to the charm of this most wonderful southern city, situated on the great "Father of Waters." The spirit of progress is contagious. The colored people of this city have caught the spirit. Many of them have made good. They have been helped and encouraged by their white neighbors. This is very gratifying. As evidence of the material advancement, it is interesting to note that the value of the output of the various manufacturing establishments in Memphis has grown from a little more than one and a half million dollars in 1850 to over thirty million dollars in 1912, an increase of two thousand per cent.

The negro's best friends are found in the south. Here is an instance: In Judge Miller's court room the other day a negro youth was tried on the charge of theft. His employer, a well-known Dallas woman who is prominent in social circles, believed him innocent. The evidence was entirely circumstantial. She saw that the boy had a good lawyer and she appeared as a witness in his behalf. The jury heard her story and promptly acquitted the negro, for the 12 men were fair-minded southerners who believe in giving the negro with a good record the benefit of the doubt. There is no blind prejudice against the black in the south. There is no race problem here, because the south is not careless in its social relations. The negro finds his real haven of refuge in Dixieland where he can always get a job, a square meal and a square deal. He knows the people are not his pretended friends when he tries to do right, and that they will fight for him when he is unjustly treated.—Dallas Times-Herald.

Christian philosophy was designed from the beginning to keep the children of the woman and the sons of the man in their proper relation to one another in the home, the church and the state, so that the human race might be perpetuated, as the races before the Christian era were not. The thoughtful women of the negro race should study this matter. What the race needs are men, and it can't have them if the negro women keep their white sisters out of the home, family making into the world of affairs where they must cease to be women and cannot be men.—New York Age.

The ancient Guild of Spectacle Makers is numerically one of the strongest of London companies. Its charter dates from the year 1629, and though the exact date of its origin is lost, there is ample evidence that the calling of spectacle maker was extensively followed at a very early date. An old book of 1563 mentions the spectacle makers among other traders, and the biography of Carl Zeno, an illustrious Venetian, who died in 1418, mentions that even at the age of eighty-four he needed no artificial aids to his sight. So presumably spectacles were common in Italy five centuries ago.

At Seattle Doctor Crichton has ordered the use of Puget sound sea water to lay the dust and flush the streets. "Salt water is one of the best germicides in the world," says Doctor Crichton. "Sea water contains several grains of chloride of sodium to the gallon, and within a few days the city's streets will become white with sodium chloride and the action of the sun's rays on this will produce chloride gas, one of the very best disinfectants known to science."

The Philadelphia Traction company has been experimenting with women conductors, in order to minimize the trouble it has with men and to reduce the cost of operating expenses. If the experiment succeeds the men conductors will have to go, as the ticket sellers have gone, and the motormen will be in danger of losing their jobs. After a woman has been a trolley car conductor for a month who would have her for a wife? The ages of woman masculinity and rule have always been the death ages of man femininity and rule.

Lieutenant Mortenol, a negro, who is a native of Guadeloupe, has just been promoted captain in the French navy. There are several Chinese officers in the French army, but Captain Mortenol is the first negro to attain high rank in the navy.

Some women are so changeable that they never wear the same complexion twice.

No woman can afford to be a moment late if she expects to be called business-like.

The average Chinaman knows how to keep silent when everybody else is talking. The average negro knows how to talk when everybody else is keeping silent. The two attitudes are not the same. The Chinaman learns a great deal by keeping his mouth shut and the negro forgets a great deal by keeping his mouth open. What a man learns and what a man forgets are not the same. Dr. Sun-Yat-Sen, who did so much to make the Chinese Republic possible, and was its provisional president, has been silent for months while the press of the world was trying to make it appear that the Chinese republic was on the verge of disruption because Dr. Sen and President Yuan Shi-kai were at loggerheads over everything. Dr. Sen now breaks his silence in a Nankin interview to the New York Sun to declare that, personally, his relations with the president are cordial, and that their differences as to public policy and questions are only such as exist between statesmen in all countries who work together for the common welfare. He says: "I believe I can safely say that upon one matter of first importance all the leaders in China are of one mind: The best good of the country. As to how this may be attained is quite another matter, but we are all striving and working for the meritorious and noble end." No one thinks of a civil war in the United States simply because Mr. Taft, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Roosevelt do not agree upon matters of public policy. Each of these gentlemen is certainly a true American and a patriot of a very high order. Yet there are—if my knowledge of American affairs is worthy—many great and vital issues upon which they disagree totally. May it not be so in China?—New York Age.

"Negro Year Book"—whoever heard of such a thing? "Annual Encyclopedia of the Negro"—whoever thought of devoting a whole volume of a year book and encyclopedia to any single race of people? Here it is, however, and it comes from Tuskegee. No one claims to have shown originality in thinking of it. It bears the name of Monroe N. Work, "In charge of research and records." Out of these records, at first only of the students and graduates of Tuskegee, and then of the negro population, this first of all race books seems to have grown. Behind a desk of the Chicago Theological seminary 14 years ago a young negro student, Work by name, sat for three years. With plodding persistence he studied and struggled his way through to graduation. Ever loyal to his race, he eagerly learned all he could from them and the whites how to help them help themselves. He began at the beginning in looking about him here in Chicago, to find out what the actual conditions of his people were. In the south he continued to look for facts on which to base the means and plans which Tuskegee and other schools for life and work were devising and carrying out. And now from his card catalogue of "case records" and race facts comes this new and valuable attempt to register the progress of a race in this "Negro Year Book and Annual Encyclopedia." Although it is but a beginning, it is creditable enough to him and his people to mark an epoch in their history.—Tuskegee Student.

A shy man will imitate the tactics of his older brother and wonder if that fellow meets with the same coolness.

Five hundred Cuban negroes captured in the late uprising in the province of Oriente have been rounded up in the jails of Havana for safe keeping, as the other jails are already overcrowded. The Latin people like to play at revolution, and those who succeed fare sumptuously for a season, while those who fail, if captured, are very sure of having their heads cut off. If the Latin-American people should spend one-half the time in building up their governments that they do in striving to tear them down they would be a great and progressive people. For example, Mexico has lost in the past twelve months of intestine war what she had gained in thirty years of domestic peace. President Diaz ruled with a strong hand for a long period of years, but under him Mexico was prosperous at home and had abundant credit abroad.

If America's annual candy supply were loaded on one train there would be over 8,000 trucks full of boxes, buckets and glass jars. This load of sweetmeats for the sweet tooth of the American girl costs the consumers about \$125,000,000 every year.

The woman's work is essentially in the home. The home is the foundation upon which the Christian church and state are builded. Destroy the Christian home by unsexing woman in her work and manners as wife and mother and daughter, and the underworld, the wolves and swine of the social order will rise up and sweep the Christian church and state from the map of the world. What then? The answer is to be found in the death of Egypt, Babylon, Carthage, Greece and Rome before the Christian era.

Solomon thought he was the wisest man, but dey is folks in de worl today who think dey could give him points in de wisdom game, an den beat him at it.

With hearts as trumps any old ray deceiver can play a never-ending game.

Nobody thinks much of the widely advertised self-made man.

Folly is what the other guys give themselves up to.