

Portland New Age

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SPIRIT OF THE NEGRO PRESS.

The new register of the treasury, William T. Vernon, who succeeded Judson W. Lyons, after taking official charge of the office a few days ago and acquainting himself with his duties and making the acquaintances in the official circle around him, left Washington last week in response to an invitation to attend the fiftieth anniversary and golden jubilee of Wilberforce university at Xenia, Ohio, where he delivered an address to the faculty, students and a large gathering of scholars and educators from all over the country.

Wilberforce is a connected school under the supervision of the A. M. E. church. All of the bishops and general officers of the connection and bishops and elders of various religious denominations were in attendance, as well as the most of the state leaders of Ohio and other states. Dr. Booker T. Washington and Bishop Geo. W. Clinton were among the orators from the South. Rev. Dr. Oscar J. W. Scott, of Wichita, Kas., was also present. Wilberforce university paid a high honor to William T. Vernon by conferring on him the degree of L. L. D., which had been secretly reserved as a surprise to him.—Ex.

Professor N. Clark Smith, of Chicago, a composer of note and the director of the Eighth Illinois Regiment band, is soon to start upon a lecture tour, lecturing on the origin of Negro melody.

Penitentiary Guard C. C. Guant, of St. Joseph, Mo., shot and killed Richard Smith, a Negro porter in the Pacific house saloon at Jefferson City, Mo., because the Negro asked him to move so that he could sweep.

Hon. James W. Johnson (colored), United States consul to Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, has been nominated by the governments of France and Panama to serve them as consul at the same port. Mr. Johnson has accepted the nomination.

Hon. Charles J. Bonaparte, secretary of the United States navy, has given an order that Negroes are to be employed as servants hereafter instead of Japanese. The cause of the order is that Japanese have been discovered making drawings of the vessels on which they were employed and sending them to Japan.

THE VOICE OF THE NEGRO FOR JULY.

In the July number of the Voice of the Negro the editors have discussed very ably all of the significant tendencies of the world, whether literary, political, social or religious.

In a charming editorial entitled "The Voices of the Woods," Max Barber invites us to take to the woods for rest and refreshing shades during these summer days. In this summer dream of the beauties of the woodland Mr. Barber says:

At this season of the year, in particular, the woods are full of great, mystic soul-songs. A few months ago we had nature breaking in song and we called the new burst of music Spring. We have come now to the vital beauty of the summer, with all its dazzling pageant of life. The shimmering glare of the sun makes life uncomfortable in the houses and cities. Listen to the voices of the woods. The dainty flowers, the shady dells, the spicy whispers of the winds, the musical ripple of the brooks, and the quivering notes of the birds, all invite you to the woods. In all the glens and woodways there is a reposeful splendor utterly unknown to the city.

The contributed articles this month are particularly timely. Daniel Murray writes on "The Overthrow of the Jim Crow Car Laws"; Mrs. Adrienne Herndon gives an account of the production of Shakespeare at Atlanta university; George W. Harris contributes a lengthy and instructive article on "The Negro's Part in the Discovery and Exploration of America"; Reverdy C. Ransom writes on "Boston's Inheritance," and P. James Bryant answers a white preacher who has advocated Negro disfranchisement. There are many other interesting features to this number of the Magazine.

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NEGRO EDUCATORS.

Negro educators are attaining a degree of proficiency that is winning for them places of distinction and honor.

The Baptist Home Mission society that spends nearly three hundred thousand dollars annually on its eight great universities for Negro education, not more than five years ago said it would be twenty-five to fifty years yet before a Negro president could be put in charge of its schools, giving as a reason that the professors, and that colored and white teachers alike, would not respect a president of color and that discipline and order among the student-body would not be satisfactory with a colored president. This is the same argument that is made for not appointing colored officers in the army. This great educational society, however, has altered its argument and as an experiment has made a beginning by appointing Professor John Hope, one of the teachers, as president of Atlanta university. This is the first time in the history of Freedmen education by Baptist that a Negro has occupied the president's chair in the exclusive Home Missionary schools. If Professor Hope proves a success at Atlanta we expect very soon to see Negro presidents at Richmond, Shaw, Bishop and Roger-Williams universities, the largest and best schools for Negro education conducted by the Baptist denomination. Here again is evidence that the Negro who is prepared to do the best work will sooner or later find the doors of opportunity opening to him.

HARD RAP

Given Supreme Court by Bishop Turner at the African Methodist Conference.

New York, July 2.—Bishop Alexander Walters, of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion church, was the principal speaker in this morning's session of the African Methodist conference. In introducing him Bishop Turner said Bishop Walters was the only man in America before whom he always took off his hat. "I talk even to President Roosevelt with my hat on," he continued, "but since Bishop Walters went before the great ecclesiastical world in London and made a great plea of defense of his race I have always honored and respected him."

Bishop Turner, who has been presiding over the conference, made another speech. Referring to the supreme court of the United States, and the adverse decisions upon questions affecting the Negro as a citizen, he said that whenever he went on his knees to pray he had a hard struggle with his conscience to refrain from asking God to condemn the supreme court.

Bishop Walters offered a resolution that the conference indorse the efforts of the National Afro-American council to raise \$50,000 to test in all the courts the illegality of the disfranchisement of the Negro. He said that the council purposed to put a man in Washington to look out for the interests of the Negro.

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