TEACHING THE NEGRO

His Education in Jamaica Is Principally Devoted to Telling Him How to Be Honest—His Queer Traits of Character.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

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Washington, July 28.—So serious has the evil of stealing become on the island of Jamaica that the authorities, after consultation with the English government itself, decided to reverse one of the very earliest and most rigidly adhered to principles of English law. That law assumes a man is innocent until he is proven guilty. They have decided down here, when a man is accused of stealing, to assume that he is guilty until he proves himself innocent. There are 800,000 negroes on this little island and only 15,000 white people. The negroes are, as a rule, illiterate, and the commandment that prohibits stealing lies very lightly on them. They are so poor that it is little wonder they steal, a negro laborer getting only 25 cents a day. But their thieving has reached a point where only the sternest repressive measures will secure respect for movable property.

Sir Sidney Olivier, the present governor of the island, is responsible for the new order of things. He went to England and laid the matter before the colonial office, which approved it. After the new law goes into effect possession of property proved to have been stolen will be considered a prima facie proof of guilt unless the defendant can prove that he secured it in a legitimate way. In proving this he will have to discover the party who did steal it, or at least start the chain of evidence which will finally reach the right fellow. It has been proposed to mark every proven thief on the island, and some of the leading members of the Jamaican Agricultural society are pressing the proposition, but this step will hardly be taken.

Wiping Out Racial Lines.

Sir Sidney Olivier is advocating the wiping out of the racial lines on the island. While he has never declared point blank for the amalgamation of the races, he advocates the gradual obliteration of racial distinction, and believes that social standing should be a matter of merit rather than color. This view of his is not shared by a great many people, yet on every hand one sees the color line much less tautly drawn than in the United States. The average Jamaican negro does not care about it one way or the other. He is almost as completely deprived of the right to vote as the American negro is in the most ultra-southern state. Having never been entitled to vote, he does not object to not having the right today, so he is a very easy-going, indifferent and satisfied individual where matters political are concerned.

The digging of the Panama canal has been a great boon to the Jamaican negro. There he clears about 60 cents a day. Here at home he has to be satisfied with 25 cents, or, if he is an exceptional hand, 31 cents a day, out of which he must pay for his living. In other words, he makes about three times as much at Panama as he gets at home. There are many thousands of them on the isthmus, and new ones are constantly going. Those who have been there a while come home, build little shacks for themselves, and become plutocrats in their small way.

Trouble With Stowaways.

The steamship companies have no end of trouble with stowaways to Colon. The fare is $5, deck passage, but many a Jamaican negro cannot raise even this small amount, and so he stows away. One ship recently had over 200 stowaways from Jamaica when she landed at Colon.

The Jamaican negro is not as economical as the Barbadian. The island of Jamaica is densely populated, but not nearly so much so as Barbados. There they have a population of nearly 200,000, while the island is only 15 miles wide and 21 long. They have to save everything. Even the leaves that fall from the scattered trees are gathered. Every little scrap of wood, every little twig, and every piece of paper is carried home. The Jamaican is under no such necessity, and is therefore not so thrifty. This shows in the reports of the director of posts for the canal zone. Although there are almost two Jamaicans to every Barbadian on the zone, records of money orders show that the latter send home a great deal more of their earnings than the Jamaicans do.

There is an intense feeling between the Jamaicans and the Barbadians. Sometime ago an English ship called at Kingston with a crew of Barbadian deckers aboard. No sooner had the ship come alongside the dock than there was one of the finest pitched battles that you ever saw. Every sort of missile to be found on the dock, from lumps of coal to cocoanuts, was sped back and forth with a fury worthy of a better cause. It took the ship's crew and the police a long time to quell the disturbance.

Negro Proverbs.

The Jamaican negro, with all his ignorance and superstition, is something of a philosopher, and he has a stock of proverbs which are pretty wise, even if they are homely. These are fair samples: "When negro t'ief, him t'ief half a bit, but when buckra t'ief him t'ief de whole estate." "When cockroach give dance him nebber invite fowl." "When yo' nose de rubber nebba call alligator 'long mosh' till you pass him." "Hog, him run foh he life, dog him run foh he reputation."

The worship of Obi is a species of heathenism which is affording the government no little trouble. All sorts of crimes are committed in its name, though stringent laws have been enacted to check it. When a man has the spell of Obeah upon him, he is a doomed man; if he does not die from sheer fright, a way is generally found to put some ground glass in his food. In the remoter districts of the island one hears a constant beating on tom-toms, and if he inquires what it means he will be told that it is negroes at Obi worship. The witch of Endor is called in the Hebrew language Obi, and Obi has come to Jamaica via Africa. The high priests of Obi are known as Obeah men. They are upon all occasions looked upon as oracles. They are considered able to heal diseases, and to discover crime. For the bribe of gold they will, through risk and danger, find means to satisfy the applicant's wildest desire for revenge. The uglier, the dirtier, and the more forbidding in aspect the Obeah man, the better one he is taken to be. He practices all sorts of hideous, weird, horror-giving incantations calculated to deceive the gullible inquirer.

When Obi Is Set.

When Obi is "set" for a negro, his is a horrible existence. Poison is not often necessary to bring him to the grave. The effect of the superstition upon his mind is wonderful. If a garden or a poultry yard has been robbed, the proprietor, himself a negro, applies to the Obeah man to set Obi for the thief. It is talked among the neighbors, and as soon as the culprit discovers that Obi is after him his mind conjures up a thousand horrors, which, playing on his heart, work real physical ruin. The dread spell follows him everywhere. Obi looks him in the face wherever he goes. And so, after weeks of distressing mental sufferings, horrible visions, and soul-scaring dreams, he often goes to his grave a victim of his own vain imaginings as surely as if he had been sent there by a fatal dose of poison or by an assassin's bullet.

Obi is intensely real to the Jamaican negro. Has he not seen hundreds pursued to the grave itself by this evil spirit? Has he not beheld the fearful agony of dozens for whom Obi was set? Has he ever seen one who was marked escape the inevitable doom? He will tell you that he has not, and to him seeing is believing.

Removing Obi.

Myalism is an invention for overcoming Obi. The supporters of this faith claim it to be a disenchantment of the spell of Obi. Wherever they can discover a man with the Obi spell over him, they offer, for a price, to remove it. Sometimes, if the negro's faith in Myal happens to be stronger than his belief in Obi, the disenchantment does take place. But there are only a comparatively few who believe that Myal is stronger than Obi, so the larger proportion of the Obi spells are never cast off.

The Maroons of the island are one of its most interesting classes of people. They are the descendants of the slaves which were held by the Spanish before England took possession of the island. They look down with supreme contempt upon the other negroes of the island, and to this day enjoy certain rights and privileges not allowed to other inhabitants. A half dozen times since the British occupation they have revolted from British authority and by carrying on a bushwhacking warfare they were at last able to wrest from Britain the concessions which they now enjoy. It was only through the use of bloodhounds that the Maroons were finally run down and forced to terms of peace. But to this day they record themselves as an unconquered race. In any trouble between the blacks and the whites they invariably take sides with the white people.

Negro Population.

The negro population of the island is rapidly growing. Since 1861 it has approximately doubled. The annual number of births in the island is about 10,000 more than the number of deaths. The birth rate is upwards of 38 per thousand a year. The children are brought up indiscriminately, though efforts are being made to reach them all with a fundamental education. The white women of Jamaica have several organizations whose aim is to uplift the colored people. Boys are taught honesty, industry, as the making of fancy work and many trades, and the girls are better fitted for candidates in Paradise.

The white people and the laborers get along very well together. The average Jamaican negro will not infringe his presence where it is objectionable, and being well behaved as a rule, there is no real race friction, and everybody seems happy and contented.

I AM A MOTHER

How many American women in lonely homes to-day long for this blessing to come into their lives, and to be able to utter these words, but because of some organic derangement this happiness is denied them.

Every woman interested in this subject should know that preparation for healthy maternity is accomplished by the use of

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Mrs. Pinkham invites all sick women to write her for advice. She has guided thousands to health. Address, Lynn, Mass.

CONCERT AT CITY PARK TONIGHT

Signor De Caprio and will play in the City park this evening. An excellent program has been selected, including a baritone solo by Signor De Caprio. The overture "Zampa" and act 2 from "Madam Butterfly" are among the attractive numbers to be rendered. The concert begins at 8 o'clock and following is the entire program:

March—"Seventh Army Corps" ..... Weiden
Overture—"Zampa" ..... Herold
Intermezzo—"Rosse" ..... Franko
Waltz—"Lepanto" ..... Metra
Grand selection—"La Gioconda" ..... Ponchielli

Intermezzo
(a) "Poema Symphonique" ..... De Caprio
(b) "The Free Nubians" ..... De Caprio
Act 2 from "Madam Butterfly" ..... Puccini
Baritone solo—"Souvenir de la Suisse" ..... Liberati
Signor De Caprio.
The Famous Menuet ..... Paderewski
March—"Guard of Honor" ..... Lehnhordt
A. De Caprio, Director.

Honors to M. Marcel.

London, July 28.—M. Marcel of Paris, the inventor of the style of hair-dressing, to which he has given his name, was the guest of honor at a great banquet at the Holborn restaurant today. The affair was given by the hairdressers of London.

ALBANY SUMMER SCHOOL CLOSES

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Albany, Or., July 28.—The Albany college summer Bible school came to a close last evening. The members of the school at a recent conference on the subject decided to make the institution a permanent one and will adjourn to meet a year hence at the same place and under the same management. The sessions throughout have been remarkably successful and a higher plane of thought and Christian fellowship has prevailed among the members of the various churches during the past 10 days.

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$4.00 and $5.00 Values

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MISS LAUNER STILL LEADS RACE

Robnett Second in Journal's Spirited Educational Contest.

The Oregon Journal's scholarship contest goes merrily on, becoming more and more interesting from day to day. The contestants are becoming more enthused as the votes pile higher and higher.

Miss Launer still leads with a good majority over her nearest rival, Ralph Robnett, who is gradually reducing the leader's margin. Dallas seems to have a close affinity to the choice of The Journal's scholarships and unless other districts make a more determined effort the honor will again find its way to that city.

But the contest is young yet and many surprises will be sprung before it is over. Some contestants have not as yet sent in reports of their work. They are requested to do so without further delay.

Royal H. Cross, whose name does not do justice to his nature, is St. Johns' representative in this year's contest. Young Cross, who is not so, is 15 years old and was born away back in Wisconsin and has lived in St. Johns two years. He graduated from the St. Johns central school and is anxious to secure a first-class education. His father being dead he realizes what a sound education means for a young man and he will work faithfully to win a Journal scholarship.

His mother, Mrs. Mary Cross, belongs to Rebekah and Relief corps and young Cross is sure to get good support. He carried papers and was always prompt and obliging and has many friends who will assist him in the good work. Roy is a first-class piccolo player and belongs to The Journal Carriers' band.

Another youth who knows the value of a good education is Charles W. Hilbert of Silverton, Or. He has entered the Oregon Journal's third annual scholarship contest and will make a determined effort to win. His choice is the scholarship in the Portland Business college.

Charlie was born in Silverton and is well and favorably known and should make a good showing at the end of the contest. He attends the Silverton public school and has many friends who no doubt will be glad to assist him in securing subscriptions for The Oregon Journal.

His father, J. E. Hammond, is a member in good standing of the Eastern Stars and also of the Masonic order and many votes will likely come to this ambitious student through these sources.

The next score should see this contestant higher up in the list as he did not make any returns for the last record. Contestants should not hold their orders back, as subscribers are anxious to get The Journal as soon as possible after subscribing.

NEW RESORT TO OPEN NEXT SEASON

Idlewild to Become Home of Clatsop Beach Chautauqua Association.

Negotiations have been going on for several months for the purchase of about 200 acres of land adjoining Delaura beach, the new resort lately acquired by the Moore Investment company. O. L. Ferris, secretary of the Columbia Trust company, has completed them and the extensive arrangement of details for the improvement of the property will be prosecuted without delay.

This new beach resort will be known as Idlewild. The Astoria and Columbia railway runs through the property and it is said the Astoria, Seaside and Tillamook railway will also run through it, thus giving good transportation facilities.

Idlewild will be the home of the Clatsop Beach Chatauqua association and the Northwest Conference and Training school of the Y. M. C. A. The first session of the Clatsop Beach Chatauqua will be held at Idlewild in August, 1909. Fifty acres of this new beach will be reserved for community property and the balance will be platted and sold. Some of the features planned are a new sanatorium—a health resort, not a hospital, an administration building, two hotels, an auditorium to seat 3,000 people, and an athletic field of 20 acres to be in charge of Robert M. Grilley, physical director of the Portland Y. M. C. A.

It is expected that everything will be ready for the season of 1909. The new beach resort will be conducted under Chatauqua principles and will be a most desirable summer resort, as all questionable amusements and business will be barred.

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The best of all teachers is experience. C. M. Harden of Silver City, North Carolina, says: "I find Electric Bitters does all that's claimed for it. For Stomach, Liver and Kidney troubles it can't be beat. I have tried it and find it a most excellent medicine." Mr. Harden is right. It's the best of all medicines also for weakness, lame back, and all run down conditions. Best too for chills and malaria. Sold under guarantee at Skidmore Drug Co. drug store. 50c.

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In Pendleton in 1909.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Pendleton, Or., July 28.—The next annual meeting of the Eastern Oregon Medical society will be held in Pendleton. No meeting of the state association will be held next year, because of a large gathering at the Seattle exposition, and in consequence the session to be held here will be the only gathering of Oregon medics for 1909.

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