

Governor was Sir William Phips, a Negro boy," etc., did you not?

Answer: I did.

Question: You know that the statement has caused a controversy and has been vigorously denied?

Answer: I do.

Question: You stated in your footnotes that the extracts were taken from "Commonwealth History of Massachusetts" by Albert Bushnell Hart, of Harvard?

Answer: I did, but since then I have carefully re-read the History in question and find no such statement there. (The history was lying on the principal's desk at the time. He passed it to the reporters for their perusal; I was in error.)

Question: Mr. Hart has denied that he made the statement but he made no further comment as to his knowledge of the truth or error of your statement of Sir William Phips's race, but did you not take extracts from other books and histories to compile your work in the Bulletin?

Cannot Recall Histories

Answer: I did, gentlemen, but strange as it may seem, I cannot recall from what history I got the particular information.

Question: You do, however, recall all the histories which you read to collect your data?

Answer: No, I cannot but I have a vague memory of reading some book that told of Sir William Phips's Negro blood. I can't recall at the moment.

Question: Have you the manuscript or copy which you sent to the printers of the publication?

Answer: No, I have not. I asked my secretary for it a short time ago and she informs me that it has been destroyed.

Question: Of course, Mr. Willard, you understand that so important a document as the Tercentenary Bulletin to be used as subject matter in the schools, would be most carefully proof-read and re-read before final publication and distribution to the public and that a glaring mistake such as has been claimed is herein made would have been detected and rectified?

Let Them Prove It

Answer: Your question is most plausible, gentlemen, but why worry about to what race Sir William Phips belonged? I said he was a Negro, and you, acting upon my authority, say he was a Negro. If others say he was not, let them prove it. Isn't our word as good as theirs? Who can deny that he was a Negro?

Very well, Professor Willard, but you must know that we should have historical fact on which to base our claim, else we become the laughing stock of the civilized world.

Won't Tell Authority

At this point the erudite principal of the Lynn English High School grew impetuous, cast aside all reserve, revealing all of his Down East Yankee sincerity and honesty and in chal-

lenging defiance boldly stated that Sir William Phips was a Negro. His information, he said, was obtained from an eminent authority who knows the whole truth, but because of the man's temperament and his (Mr. Willard's) desire to avoid, if possible, incurring his enmity, he would not divulge his informant's name.

Overbearing Sot

Mr. Willard at this time said other things about Sir William Phips which are not mentioned in some of the first governor's biographies. "Phips was a rough, uncouth overbearing sot, objectionable to and severely unpopular among his governmental associates," Mr. Willard said. He added: "Phips was not of the type to whom monuments are erected."

Giving more light to the subject on which he wrote the high school principal said: "There is much history of the Puritans and Pilgrims about which we would like to forget. They lived a frontier life, a condition not conducive to a high moral standing. Naturally they were susceptible to all the frontier evils. Many of them did not know their fathers or grandfathers. As much as we should like to place our ancestors in the gentry class, they could not trace their genealogy. Sir William Phips, like the rest of them, was born in such an atmosphere."

Famous Sentence

I said that perhaps the recording of Mr. Willard's now famous sentence was not well timed. It was among other statements set down as subject material for use in the schools during the Tercentenary. The framers of this celebration program had written a laudable salutatory in the foreword of the bulletin in question. It is as follows:

"Of the gifts of the Massachusetts Bay Colony to the development of the American nation, second only to the principle of free government itself, is that of free and universal education. Indeed, so dependent are the institutions of democracy upon the diffusion of knowledge among the people that it is clear that the first gift made imperative the second one. It was not accident, therefore, that within twelve years of the establishment of the Colony a law was enacted making education compulsory, and five years later, another law was enacted making obligatory the establishment of secondary schools.

"On the walls of the Boston Public Library is engraved this inscription: 'The Commonwealth requires the education of the people as a safeguard of order and liberty.'

"Upon this principle from the beginning of the Colony, Massachusetts raised and maintained a system of public education dedicated to the proposition that so long as enlightenment prevails among the people, their rights are secure.

"It is altogether appropriate, therefore, that all schools of the Commonwealth join in the celebration of the three centuries of orderly progress of her people in self-government, and that they re-dedicate themselves to the task of securing for posterity the benefits which have come to them from the Fathers.

"That the teachers of the State may have assistance in adequately portraying the events of these three centuries and the significance of those events, the Department, generously aided by a Committee elsewhere named, has prepared this bulletin. It is hoped and believed that by the help of this and other instrumentalities, the teachers will make so deep an impression upon the youth of this generation that the observance of the Tercentenary will be of lasting good."

All Races

Another ambition of the framers of the Tercentenary program was to have all nationalities and races of the colony polyglot participate. Pertinacious dogmas and creeds peculiar to the sects were to be cast aside at least for the moment. They dreamed of Italian lyrics finding lodgement in receptive Irish ears, and that spaghetti would fill the void in the bellies of hungry Redskins, etc. For the first time the great white masses would hear and appreciate Negro spirituals. Cosmopolitanism was to run rampant.

All was serene while on dress parade. And yet, even so blithe a spirit as appeared on the surface, this Tercentenary revealed things which the promoters least expected. Deep rumbling undertones of discord escaped through crevices where star chamber sessions were held by racial, national, fraternal and even political groups, while preparing for the great day. The picture follows:

Irish Claim

The Irish claimed they had been ignored in the general scheme. The rights of Jews to certain contributions which their race made to New England and American civilization were challenged by others. Political parties strove to gain the upper hand so that their party emblem might be raised high on the mast of the forefathers' memorial with the hope that credulous converts might be attracted to their shrine. Knights of the Ku Klux Klan sulked in their tents because the clandestine hands of Catholics, Jews and Negroes frustrated the hooded order's aim to display its regalia in the great parade in common with the Celtic band and the bare-legged Scottish pipers. Every

social lady vied to become Queen of the moving caravan so that she might ride beside the high-hatted marshal or in the Royalest of the Royal floats, at the same time to be afforded the opportunity, for once, to look down in superior disdain on the proletariat—to be the panorama on the flag-draped streets, as it were. Finally there was the inevitable problem of feeding the Jews at the municipal banquets when pork chops only were available in this cuisine.

Now what chance had a Negro to be awarded much in this strife of hegemony, not to mention being placed in the vanguard as the position of First Royal Governor would entitle him to be? Being first in anything is a distinction to be reckoned

with and to which one must do homage, whether it be discovering America or first in eating salted peanuts. Americans could have no such reverential regard for first Negroes. If John Arthur Johnson were three shades lighter he would have been snatched bodily from the Negro race. But for the white man's severe cocksureness that Jack, being black, had a yellow streak and would therefore quail before the white arm flails of James J. Jeffries, he'd never have chanced to become heavyweight champion, and if Americans still maintain Americanism no Negro will ever again become heavyweight champion. Precisely so three hundred years from now if they have not transformed Johnson into a white

man, I suspect they'll conclude that "after all 'twas not Jack who really did the fighting, 'twas his white wife." And so, fearing that Mathew Bullock, Joe Wolcott, or Marcus Garvey would have to impersonate Sir William Phips in the great pageant and Sir William being First Royal Governor thus placed in the lead of the procession, they reasoned that the whole affair would be pitched in a dark cue. They howled long and loud that Phips was not a Negro.

In Boston

The obstacle hurdled, the committee proceeded with the program. I said that all nationalities and races participated. The contributions of

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