

bring no votes from that source, for they are already "brought"; but its publication in Republican papers may easily drive away from Mr. Taft a good many democratic Republicans. Among the latter a recommendation from Mr. Cleveland is not likely to be a very valuable one for Mr. Taft to campaign with.

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A Laborious Task.

In campaigning for Mr. Taft as the representative of the people as against the privileged classes, the Springfield Republican (p. 459) begins to show signs of physical exhaustion.

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THE LESSON OF SPRINGFIELD.

Among the numerous comments on the horrors recently enacted at Springfield, Ill., every moral is drawn except the one most obvious and most important of all.

The Southern papers find their grief considerably mitigated, owing to the fact that this outrage took place in a Northern State.

The Northern papers talk wisely about the rigid and impartial enforcement of law, and then fold their hands with an attitude of duty fully performed.

Not one of them dares to tell the plain truth, which is that the present villainy, like so many in the past and so many more yet to come, is the strictly logical sequence of national indulgence in the perilous luxury of race prejudice, and the constant fomentation of evil passions in the ever receptive mob.

It is high time to put the guilt where it belongs.

Men who are continually fanning the flames of racial antipathy are undoubtedly sincere in their abhorrence of such crimes as that of Springfield; yet it is certain that without the race hatred inspired by their teachings, these things would speedily cease to be.

Whatever the immediate cause or provocation of such outbreaks, it is noted that the inflamed mob quickly extends its cowardly attack to such members of the hated race as can readily be reached.

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The cure for these evils can easily be named, inasmuch as it is identical with the cure for most other national sins.

In brief, it may be designated as fundamental right thinking.

When the principle of equal human rights, regardless of race or color, shall leaven all society,

from the highest to the lowest, we shall not be obliged to apologize for such outrages as that of Springfield. It is only in the United States, Russia, and a few odd corners of Europe, where a bitter race or religious animosity prevails, that lynchings and mob massacres are possible in the twentieth century.

Kill race prejudice, and we shall have no cause for humiliation over the existence of such fiendish barbarism in our country as cannot be even comprehended in England, France or Germany. Let this vicious principle live and spread, and we shall still be compelled to see the United States justly ranked as low in the scale of civilization by the nations of the Old World.

There is no other remedy, and no excuse for not adopting this one.

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Race prejudice is a Moloch, which ever demands to be fed with blood.

It is antithetic to all the higher ideals of our civilization, and in strict opposition to every fundamental principle of democracy. All real progress tends at least in the direction of human brotherhood; race prejudice aims to annihilate the spirit of fraternity in mankind. Civilization breeds gentleness and courtesy; race prejudice stimulates roughness and violence. Democracy opens wide the door of opportunity to all men; race prejudice slams the door in the face of those who are victims of a mere accident of birth.

It is despicably mean in its repudiation of the common decency of fair play.

It is a liar from the beginning, falsifying the plainest facts of science, repudiating the most obvious lessons of history, hypocritically trampling on the clearest teachings of the religion its apologists falsely pretend to accept and obey.

It is uniformly a persecutor. Knowing its own inherent vileness, it lives in perpetual dread of exposure, and uses the approved weapons of villainy in all ages to stifle the voice of truth. In the centers of race prejudice, free speech is a thing unknown. Tar and feathers, the scourge and the arms of the midnight assassin, are its appropriate means of enforcing its decrees. Being an evil tree, it inevitably brings forth evil fruit.

There can be no compromise with such a pest. For our foolishness in truckling to its insolence, we have already paid dearly. The time has come for a radical change of attitude.

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The dinner of the Cosmopolitan Society, which brought together in fraternal fellowship a number

of members of the white and colored races for the earnest consideration of great national issues which concern both races (p. 153) may now be seen to have been no false move. The malignant comments aroused in the organs of race prejudice in the South and the still meaner trucklers to a false sentiment in the North, proved this.

To draw the fire of the enemy and learn his actual location, is often of vital importance in military strategy. We now know, beyond a peradventure, that race prejudice is shamelessly and brutally invasive; that its essence is virulent hate; that it demands absolute and humiliating surrender of principle from all who cherish a nobler human ideal; that its loud-mouthed pretence of seeking to safeguard racial purity is merely a mask to hide the hideous visage of oligarchic despotism.



The enemies of mankind have always found their account in setting human beings against one another by means of race and caste divisions. It is a very old game, and one that has often been successful.

As long as it prevails, a fearful stumbling-block lies in the path of all social and economic progress. We must fight our reform battle consciously for *all*, of every race, color, creed and social station, before we may hope to win it for any. To begin a campaign for human rights and handicap ourselves at the outset by narrowing our interest to the welfare of one race alone, is to invite and deserve defeat.



It is not sufficient, however, to support legislation which shall open equal opportunities to all races. Such legislation already prevails in Illinois, and yet the Springfield outrages took place. The seat of race prejudice is in our own minds; until it is thoroughly rooted out there will be no lack of Springfields.

True democracy demands that we rate every individual in strict accordance with personal merit, entirely ignoring all accidents of birth and color. As long as we lump together as necessarily inferior, socially or in any other respect, all the members of any given race, regardless of individual development, we have not grasped the rudiments of democratic ideals. This ought to be a platitude so obvious as to render its repetition unnecessary; but unfortunately it is recognized only by the tiny handful who have evolved to the point of doing their own thinking.

The cultured snobbery, which merely puts on airs of conscious superiority, and coldly disparages the efforts of members of the Pariah race

to aspire to honorable recognition, is the same spirit which, slavishly copied by less cultured classes, filters down from stratum to stratum, until in the coarser-veined mob it eventuates in violent outbreaks at the slightest pretext.

To cure this evil we must begin at the top. This is the one remedy which has never been tried, and which alone is fundamental.

It lies within ourselves to begin.

The enemies of race prejudice must take the aggressive, and fight the monster wherever it rears its ugly head. Let us quit truckling and apologizing, and stand for human brotherhood in the full sense, whether it gives offense or not. The spirit of Garrison and Phillips is needed today, to complete the work left half done when their mighty spirits passed on.

Remember Springfield!

JAMES F. MORTON, JR.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE BRITISH "SUFFRAGETTES."

London, August 10.—Mr. Asquith, the Prime Minister, was speaking. It was at a banquet given by the Cobden Club in honor of the delegates to the International Free Trade Congress. The place was the large banqueting hall of the Hotel Cecil, which the Cobden Club had engaged for its members and guests for the occasion, and the floor was full of banqueters from many countries. In the gallery were lady guests, who, according to one of the barbaric conventionalities of our time, had been invited to overlook their lords and masters at their "feed," and listen to their post-provender speeches. Mr. Asquith, who was on the program to propose the toast to free trade, had made an admirable opening, in which he led up to a rhetorical question intended to introduce the reply from himself which he afterwards made with impressive effect. "And now," he asked, in this introductory manner, "what is to be done?" The last word had hardly escaped his lips when a thin but penetrating voice from the ladies' gallery carried to every ear in the hall the disturbing response, "Give votes to women!"

An exploding bomb could have been but little more disconcerting. The Prime Minister paused in his speech, and from the floor of the hall there came some hisses and some cries of "shame;" but there was no "guying," no laughter, none of the ridicule with which such an interruption from such a source in such circumstances would have been received in the United States.

Looking in the direction from which the voice had come, I saw a small woman, elegantly gowned, standing rigid as a marble statue conspicuously against the gallery rail. There was little chance of mistaking her. Simply from her manner she was evidently the interrupter; and she quickly left no room for doubt, for once more vibrating through the hall came the words, "Votes for women!" this time obviously from her lips.