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THE COLOUR QUESTION IN AMERICA.

Nearly fifty years have elapsed since popular American feeling against slavery resulted in one of the most sanguinary civil wars in the world's history. The slaves were indiscriminately liberated, and anyone with sufficient temerity to suggest that the ever-increasing free negro population might introduce very serious complications was regarded as inhumane or a rebel sympathizer. The slaves have now been free for half a century, and there is nothing to show that racial antipathy between the white American and his, so-called, black brother has diminished. On the contrary, the frequent reports of lynchings, outrages, riots, and murder indicate that the tension is increasing, and create the fear that an appalling climax must sooner or later be reached. It is almost impossible for Europeans who have never had experience of the American negro to appreciate American views on the matter. Every ghastly story of a lynching is generally held up as sad evidence of the retrogression of civilisation in a country claiming place among the enlightened nations of the earth, but in many cases a knowledge of the facts throws quite a different light on the matter. The animal qualities so strongly developed in a negro, however disguised by a thin veneer of Western civilisation, remain unradicated after several generations of education and culture. There are, of course, many notable exceptions, but these do not affect the rule in general. Especially in the Southern States of the Union is the coloured man looked upon by white citizens as an inferior being, over whom a strict surveillance must be exercised in the interests of the community. It may be argued by humanitarians that the one atrocious crime considered peculiar to the Southern negro is only perpetrated by the lowest type of the race, and that it is possible to eliminate such tendencies by a display of tolerance and appropriate educational methods. This argument is doubtless worthy of consideration, but it signally fails to appease the just fury of a man whose most sacred instincts have been ruthlessly trampled upon by a representative of the coloured race. While it cannot be denied that the methods of a mob blind with hatred towards some negro who has invaded the sanctity of a home and blighted several lives are terrible in the extreme, Europeans should endeavour to appreciate the mob's point of view before indiscriminately applying the epithet "barbarians" to Southerners as a whole. In those parts many thoughtful men deprecate the excesses which unfortunately too often characterise the execution of summary justice, though they are of the opinion that an occasional occurrence of this nature exercises a healthy influence on the negro population and acts as a strong deterrent. Whether the terrible means employed justify the end in such cases, we do not feel qualified to decide.

It is worthy of note that racial hatred appears to flourish quite as vigorously in the Northern States as in the South; indeed, one of the bitterest racial riots of recent times occurred in the neighbourhood of Boston not so many years ago, and Boston was formerly regarded as the stronghold of negrophilism. Desperate conflicts between negroes and white citizens have also occurred in the city of New York. But the riots at Springfield, Illinois, appear to have been the most serious yet reported. Dozens are said to have been killed on both sides, and over a hundred wounded are undergoing treatment at the hospitals. That Springfield should have been the scene of such a murderous affray between white and black is a bitter satire on the expectations of fifty years ago, for within the confines of that town is the grave of Abraham Lincoln, the greater part of whose life was dedicated to the vindication of the rights of the coloured man.

The colour question is perhaps the most serious problem with which the people of the United States stand face to face today, and it is not engaging the earnest attention which its importance merits. A very shadowy Yellow Peril receives infinitely more consideration from the Press, owing to its possibilities of sensational copy, but sooner or later the negro question must be faced by every American citizen having the welfare of the nation at heart. There is no lack of suggestions based for the most

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part on hypotheses; Mr. Booker T. Washington, for example, steadfastly maintains that education alone can redeem the members of his race, and it is undeniable that his noble work at Tuskegee supports this contention to a marked degree. But elsewhere the results of the educational system as applied to negroes are discouraging in the extreme. Certain bold individuals do not hesitate to recommend a widespread system of deportation, but here again the question arises as to where the vast number of coloured undesirables are to find a suitable colony. So far the American negro has evinced no particular enthusiasm over the Liberian Republic, which at one time it was thought would serve as a most potent factor in elucidating the problem created by the phenomenal prolificacy of the coloured race in America.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

IRISH UNDER-SECRETARY KILLED.
London, August 19.
A tragic occurrence took place in Dublin yesterday afternoon. Mr. E. H. Ennis, the newly-appointed Assistant Under-Secretary for Ireland, was driving from his residence in Fitzwilliam-place to the Castle, and when passing through Fitzwilliam-square the horse stumbled and fell. Mr. Ennis was thrown heavily on his head, and he was taken in an unconscious state to St. Vincent's Hospital, where he died about an hour later, without recovering consciousness.

CUNARD LINE AND PLYMOUTH.
London, August 19.
The *Central News* Queenstown correspondent telegraphs that Mr. Vernon H. Brown, the agent of the Cunard Line at New York, arrived at Queenstown on Tuesday morning on board the "Mauretania." Asked was it a fact as cabled that the two fast Cunard liners were going to abandon Queenstown and call at Plymouth and Cherbourg instead, Mr. Brown replied: "That is a question I cannot answer. I never said such a thing, and could not say anything of the kind, as I saw no reporter in New York before starting. I am at present on my annual vacation, and am journeying to Liverpool with my daughter. I shall return again to America in about a fortnight. Probably I shall see the general manager and perhaps the directors in Liverpool, and most likely the matter will be discussed, when they will decide what will be done, but at present I cannot say what their intentions are."

WORKING MEN'S DEPUTATION TO GERMANY.
London, August 20.
The *London News Agency* understands that the visit to Germany of the deputation representing British working men, with a view to assuring the working classes of Germany of British goodwill towards them, will be made after the Trade Union Congress has taken place. The deputation will be of a thoroughly representative character. Among those who have already accepted an invitation to take part in the visit is Mr. W. C. Steadman, M. P., secretary of the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress.

BERLIN ROMANCE.
London, August 19.
At Bow-street yesterday George Hannes, a slim German youth, was brought up on remand charged with being in possession of property supposed to

be stolen abroad. Upon the application of the police the magistrate now allowed this charge to be withdrawn, and the prisoner was then re-charged on an extradition warrant with the abduction of a girl named Charlotte Seeliger, aged 15, and with participation in the crime of larceny in Berlin. It was alleged that the accused came to this country with the girl about a week before the arrest, and the couple lived together in Howland-street, W.C. When taken into custody the prisoner said the girl had told him that she was 16.—Detective-Sergt. Sanders mentioned that the girl had since returned to Berlin in the company of her mother.—A further remand was ordered.

NO HOPE FOR ENTOMBED LANCASHIRE MINERS.

London, August 19.
It is reported from Wigan that all hope of saving the lives of the miners entombed in the Maypole coal-mine has been given up.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S AFRICAN EXPEDITION.
According to a *Globe* correspondent, over 7,000 applications have been received at the White House up to the present for permission to accompany President Roosevelt on his African hunting trip. They come from big game hunters, camp cooks, guides, boatmen, and from sporting goods firms in all parts of the world.

Secretary Loeb declares that if all the volunteers were taken along, the President would be able to enter Africa with a great army, and proceed to the conquest of the interior. If Mr. Roosevelt was willing to take with him all the patent fly dope, guns that will almost shoot without human aid, hunting knives that will pierce sheet armour, and other traps offered by enterprising dealers, he would need the army for bearers. Photographers who are certain that their services cannot be dispensed with are especially persistent. None of them will get the job, since Kermit Roosevelt, the President's son, has already been appointed photographer-in-chief to the expedition.

PRESIDENT CASTRO STILL OBSTINATE.

New York, August 19.
According to a telegram from Caracas, President Castro declines to permit the Brazilian Minister to take charge of French interests. The Venezuelan Minister of Foreign Affairs declares that the French-Venezuelan dispute is closely connected with the American Venezuelan question, and that the arrangement proposed would endanger the continuance of friendly relations with Brazil.

THE PHILIPPINE AND HAYTIAN QUESTION.

New York, August 19.
An Oyster Bay telegram quotes Mr. Roosevelt as predicting the grant of self-government to the Philippines twenty years hence. It will be interesting to see how this "time-limit" statement is received by the newspapers, which a little while ago were assiduously conducting an anti-Philippine campaign. Mr. Taft, in his acceptance speech, as may be remembered, dismissed the subject in a few words by declaring that the islands would not be ripe for self-government for some generations to come.

Meanwhile the Washington newspapers state that the Government is steadily preparing for intervention in Hayti. Haytian opinion, as expressed by the Minister in Washington, is not enthusiastic on the matter, and his Excellency suggests, not without reason, that the United States might help his Government best by ferreting out the cosmopolitan conspirators who hatch their plots in New York. At the State Department the officials refuse to confirm or deny the report that sanitary experts are to be sent to Hayti to decide on the best camp sites for troops.

NEW YORK MANSION DESTROYED.

New York, August 18.
The magnificent residence of Mr. H. B. Hunkins, the well-known bank president, at Lake George, the summer resort in the Catskill Mountains, was completely destroyed by fire last night. Mr. Hunkins was entertaining a large house party at the time, and the outbreak of fire caused a panic among the occupants of the mansion.
(Continued on page 2.)