

A Challenge to Negro Citizens

Every negro citizen should consider well the menace of the Klu Klux Klan to men and women of their race. With sheet and pillow case for a disguise they are a constant menace to colored people as evident from brutal conduct in every place they have strength.

Listen to Governor Allen of Kansas as quoted in the Kansas City Star of Sunday, October 29, 1922:

“They have introduced into Kansas the greatest curse that can come to any civilized people, the curse that arises out of the unrestrained passions of men governed by religious intolerance and racial hatred.

It brings chaos and hatred and menace to every law-abiding citizen who may fall victim of the private quarrels and animosities of men who hide their identity behind a mask.

It is dangerous * * * to the negro, because it exists only when the authority of government has been broken or destroyed.

Think of the pioneers of Kansas, who for five long years preceding the Civil War, fought the battle of freedom of this state. * * * Then think of the crowd of men who put on masks and robes and took the chief executive of an organized community out into the night, stripped him, tied him and lashed his body with whips.

* * * Does anybody believe that we are going to allow a lot of organizers to be enriched by the collection of membership dues and by their sale of hoods and skirts to men who have unfortunately listened to the appeal to their racial and religious antipathies?”

Then read that pitiful but true to life story of the Klan in the SATURDAY EVENING POST. You will find it in the issue of September 23, 1922. The title is:

“TAR AND FEATHERS”

The author, George Pattullo, described this terrible attack on the colored man. A prominent judge had in his home an old and beloved negro known as “Uncle Daniel.”

Here is a part of that moving story which is a true picture of thousands of like cases:

“Where was uncle? The judge could not discover him in any of the cars; but, try as he would, it was impossible to get near them. The crowd was so dense, and surged and

barged so wildly as they pressed to get a view of the prisoner that he had all he could do to keep his feet. Nobody had time to look at whom he was shoving; nobody paid any attention to queries. They pushed and shouldered, bellowing into one another's flushed faces without recognition, heedless of everything but the terrible business in hand.

He persisted in his efforts. Man after man he asked about Uncle Daniel; had he seen a very old nigger in any of the cars? At last he won close to a man in a hood. To him he put the question also.

'What business is it of yours?' was the answer. Then the fellow turned to look at him, and seeing who it was, edged closer and tapped the judge on the chest.

'We've had about all we want to hear from you, Gudger,' he said with deliberate emphasis. 'If you're looking for trouble you can get it right now! I choose you!'

The crowd swept them apart. Realizing the futility of coping with this horde of men gone mad, this flood of human passions let loose, the judge went home. Thereby he escaped the sight of the dreadful ceremonies which followed. * * *

With that they tied Uncle to the court house fence, took off his shirt and lashed him across his bare back until the old man hung senseless. Then they cut his bonds, placed his limp form in a car and drove to the Gudger home. Arrived there, they dumped him out onto the lawn and sped away."

Another portion of the story giving a conversation about the Klan is as follows:

"They are putting fear into the niggers and teaching 'em where they belong and about time some of the niggers 'round this neck of the woods were getting, mighty uppity. * * * Encouraged by their strength and success in gaining new members—it was reported that the sheriff and all the peace officers belonged, * * * and the Klan acted vigorously. One night a party of them in seven automobiles took out two colored bell boys from the Hotel Alamo, drove to a secluded spot, and there tied them to trees and whipped them. What the darkies had done to bring down this punishment was never made public, but various rumors went 'round. * * *"

WHAT THE KLAN STANDS FOR

Endorsed by Republican Candidate

Congressman E. C. Ellis, Republican candidate for Congress, says in the Star of October 27, 1922:

“I understand that recently a huge meeting was held in Convention Hall. I don’t know what organization was at that meeting, but I understand the hall was packed to the doors. If what is said about the organization is true, it stands for about the same things I do. I don’t know anything about the inner workings of the organization, and I don’t know whether it is for me or not, * * * but some of the things it is reported to approve meet my approval also.”

Can any self-respecting negro vote for Ellis after such a speech? He who has been the recipient of the votes time after time of our people, to now give his endorsement to the infamous Klu Klux Klan. Let every member of our race do his duty as a free born American should.

If there is no Republican Party in our midst and what pretends to be is a mere annex of the Klu Klux, then let us vote against them or refrain from voting at all. Let no member of our race disgrace it by giving his vote as an endorsement to this infamous organization.

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