

NORTHWESTERN STUDENTS HEAR EDITOR ABBOTT

Students of Northwestern university, Evanston, gathered recently at Garrott hall, under the auspices of the Race Friendship league, a body of professors and students intensely interested in race relations. The speaker of the evening was Robert S. Abbott of the Chicago Defender.

The Race Friendship league was organized on Thanksgiving day, 1922, on the occasion of a dinner in honor of a Race student, Oliver G. Williams, at the home of W. B. Waltmire. Mr. Williams interested the dinner party by narrating the problems confronting the group of 12,000,000 loyal Americans who are objects of discrimination, ridicule and hate. At the conclusion of these remarks it was resolved by the gentlemen present that a real effort be made to contribute something in a practical way toward bringing about a proper understanding. The Race Friendship league thus came into being.

Points to Evils

Dr. Abbott, as the guest at the meeting, chose as his topic, "Friendly Race Relations." By way of introduction attention was directed to the great Bahai movement that is attempting, through religious forces of the present day, to bring about the hoped-for fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man. Mr. Abbott spoke of the exchange-of-pulpits idea, fostered through the columns of the Defender some months ago. He pictured the practical results of the various interracial movements, quoted the 14th and 15th amendments of the United States Constitution and pointed out the use of the nefarious grandfather clause in the constitutions of many southern states. He told of the discriminations in railway cars, theaters, dining-rooms, schools, colleges and other places of public accommodation. Dr. Abbott paraded before the great audience pictures of the accomplishments of Henry O. Tanner, Harry Burleigh, Charles S. Gilpin, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, W. E. B. DuBois, Pushkin and Roland Hayes.

Refers to South America

In reciting his observations while in South America, Editor Abbott told of the easy, natural affiliation between whites and blacks alike in the Argentine, Brazil, Uruguay, Bolivia, Lima, Peru and Chile, where in the army and naval academies no line is drawn; where black students and white students, black officers and white officers meet on common grounds. He said the standards in governmental, public and private social life are based upon merit, culture and refinement—no discrimination being suffered to influence recognition, promotion or citizenship status.

The big audience was brought to a full realization of its duty when he said: "Northwestern university stands out head and shoulders above all other institutions of learning because of its fair treatment of its students and because of the belief expressed in every one of its departments of an equal chance for all students without regard to race, color or previous condition of servitude. A man's a man," said Mr. Abbott, "and until the great American people practice those principles laid down in the Constitution of the United States guaranteeing life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to all mankind, just until then will it fall short of its vaunted reputation as the great Christian nation which has sent to the four corners of the earth missionaries carrying the gospel of the lowly Nazarene.

Must Pull Together

"I feel," said Dr. Abbott, "that America will never take its place alongside the nations of the world until she makes up her mind that the black man and the black woman, the black boy and the black girl are sharing and sharing alike with the whites of this country in everything that makes for peace, happiness and contentment. I feel that no church has done its full duty to God and man until its doors are thrown open to all, regardless of race or color. When all races come together and serve God under one vine and fig tree, and not until then, will the blessings of God come to this nation of ours."