

PRESIDENT WILSON SERIOUSLY INJURED BY
FRICITION WITH THE NATION'S STUMBLING BLOCK.

Pity the President! His injuries are serious in their nature and permanent in character. The Nation is to be congratulated, however, that he has not suffered total disability to perform the functions of his high office. He is active in asking for a "larger measure of self-government" for the brown men of the Phillipines, and in calling for light on the alleged rascality of his accredited Minister to the Black Republic of Santo Domingo for the mismanagement of moneys and contracts under the government. When his strength is unequal to these tasks his enfeebled condition allows him to take mild exercise in "Watchful Waiting" on the turn of affairs in Mexico. Expert opinion is in agreement that while the President's injuries are very grave, they are not likely to prove fatal before, on or about the first Tuesday in November, 1916. We understand that such eminent specialists as Doctors W. K. Vardeman of Mississippi, Hoke Smith of Georgia, with Mc Adoo of New York and Georgia, and Burleson of Texas, have each and all assured him that his violent contact with the Nation's Stumbling ^{Block} Stone on the 12th of November 1914 when a delegation of Negroes representing the National Independent Equal Rights League called upon him, was the best thing that could possibly have happened to the ~~Stumbling~~ Block.

President Wilson should have known better. We are amazed at his quilelessness. He confesses that he innocently thought he was addressing himself to nothing more formidable than "a human problem." Woodrow Wilson, the historian, failed to remember that

so great a career as that of Daniel Webster was shattered by contact with the sharp corners of the Nation's Stumbling Block, while the Nation itself was rent asunder and spent its might in vain, through four years of bloody war, to make a highway for Union based on inferiority and inequality, while this formidable barrier barred its way. For our own part, we entertain grave fears for President Wilson's recovery. Just now, what were once the most staid and enlightened nations of Europe are being consumed by the burning fever of "friction between the races"- (English, Teuton, Slav and Gaul) Now the President showed much warmth, (temperature 106) brought on by "friction" caused by his personal contact, not with "a human problem" but the straight and clean cut issue of equal and indiscriminating treatment of all its citizens by the government. It may be that the "tone" and "manner" in which he was addressed induced the highly feverish condition which caused the President to lose the splendid poise of manner and elegance of expression usually so characteristic of him. Confidentially, we have a quiet suspicion that the alarming condition of this man, upon whom the nation's weight depends, might have been brought on by sudden fright. Russia is often referred to as "the Bear that walks like a man." Now it may be that the Americans of African descent have at last supplied the "missing link" so long sought by evolutionists, by giving us the "Ape that talks like a man," for have we not variously classified this species of American as "nigger," "darkey," "coon," "monkey," "ape." Now to have him enter the White House and come into the august presence of the President and become articulate in such words as these:"

"On investigation we find race segregation as follows: Treasury Department - In the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, separation not only in dressing rooms, but in working positions, Afro-American employes being herded at separate tables, at eating tables and in toilets; in the auditor for the Navy Department herding at desks and separation in toilets; in auditor for the Post Office Department, separation in work of colored women and men, they even being forbidden an entrance into adjourning rooms occupied by white clerks. In the main Treasury Building, separate toilets, the colored employes being forced to go to the basement; in the auditor for the Interior Department, separate toilets, which were specifically pointed out to you at our first hearing; in the auditor for the State and other departments and in the Marine Hospital Service Building, separate toilets. In the sewing and bindery departments of the Government Printing Office, herding at working positions of colored women and separation in toilets, a new segregation instituted by the division chief since our first audience with you. This toilet segregation is most degrading, most insulting of all, and for which the least occasion can be claimed compulsory, in that those colored employes are warned that if they use the public toilets they will be discharged for insubordination.

Hence we come to you, Mr. President, by vote of this league, to set before you this definite continuance of race segregation against us a year after you heard our protest and seemed to heed our appeal, to renew the protest and appeal to ask you to entirely abolish segregation of Afro-American employes in the executive departments.

"Mr. President, we did not come to the White House as delegates of the National Independent Equal Rights League protesting the segregation in the attitude of dependent wards of the nation, but as full-fledged American citizens, absolutely equal with all others, to demand our equal rights under the Constitution. It is not in accord with the known facts to claim that the segregation was started because of race friction of the white and colored clerks. The indisputable facts of the situation will not permit of the claim that the segregation is due to the friction. It is untenable, in view of the established facts, to maintain that segregation is simply to avoid race friction, for the simple reason that for five years these white and colored clerks have been working together in peace and harmony and friendliness, doing so even through two Democratic administrations. Soon after your inauguration began segregation was drastically introduced in the Treasury and Postal Departments by your appointees. Therefore, this segregation could not be because of race friction between clerks, but must have been instituted because of personal race prejudices of Mr. John Skelton Williams, Secretary McAdoe and Postmaster-General Burleson."

Shades of Jefferson Davis defend us! When in the memory of presidents, Confederate or otherwise, did ever the grinning, good-natured, patient, non-resisting creature, so address a chief executive who as president -elect, a few short months before had said:-

"Should I become President of the United States, they (the Colored people), may count on me for absolute fair dealing, and for everything by which I could assist in advancing the interest of their race in the United States.

"I shall observe the law in its letter and spirit. And this is, after all, a rather low standard. I shall do it in the spirit of the Christian religion. As president, I shall try to be a Christian gentleman. I will accord even handed justice and equal rights to all regardless of race or color."

Now we have it on no less authority than that of some of the leading journals published by white men, that "it was the bad manners of the Chairman of the delegation that so angered the President." Since this aspect of the case is so serious it is well worth while for us to ascertain in just what the "bad manners" of the chairman consisted. We have it right here, from the lips of Mr. William Monroe Trotter, of Boston, who was spokesman for the delegation:- "I spoke in measured words and with deliberation, positiveness and directness, looking President Wilson squarely in the eye, with the thought only that I had a difficult task to refute a masterful piece of sophistry on the spur of the moment, and that there was a great responsibility resting upon me to refute it, point by point, successfully."

Ah, we have it now. He did not come with shuffling gait, cringing, hat in hand; but standing erect like a man, he spoke in the tones of a man, while he "looked President Wilson squarely in the eye." And now it is to be feared that since that fateful interview our good President has been "seeing things." Being a man of letters his brilliant imagination may create some new nursery rhymes to frighten naughty children at bed time.

"De cunjah man, de Cunjah man,
O chillen run, de Cunjah man!
Me see him stan" de yudder night
Right een de road, een white moon-light;
Him toss him arms, him whirl him 'roun,
Him stamp him foot upon de groun;
De snaiks come crawlin' one by one,
Me hyeer um hiss, me break an' run,
De Cunjah man, de Cunjah man,
O chillen run, de Cunjah man!

