

especially of the anniversary of John Brown's execution.

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A full set of officers were elected, with Bishop Alexander Walters as president; and an address which condemns President Taft for his Southern policy, styling him the "Presidential apostle of the disfranchisement and the color line in Executive appointments," demands of Congress reduction of representation under the Fourteenth amendment, urges that lynching be put under Federal jurisdiction, commends Justice Harlan and ex-Senator Foraker and the "carpet-bag" statesmen, advocates agitation and the independent organized use of the ballot by Negro Americans to stop the new slavery, and ends with an appeal to all Americans to rise and put an end to the color line iniquity, was adopted. The chairman of the convention was William Monroe Trotter of Boston, editor of the *Guardian*. A women's auxiliary aid association was voted, and a bureau for labor statistics established.

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Conference on the Status of the Negro.

The national conference on the status of the American Negro (p. 492) opened in the assembly hall of the Charity Organization Society on the 31st, with addresses on the relation of science and prejudice to the general subject. The speakers were Dr. William Hayes Ward, who presided; Prof. Burt G. Wilder of Cornell University, and Profs. Livingston Ferrand, E. R. A. Seligman, and John Dewey of Columbia. "The purpose of this gathering," said Dr. Ward, "is that justice be done to every man, whether he be a Negro or whatever his color." He demanded for the Negro "the social, civil, and political rights which we ourselves enjoy." Professor Wilder, who is the author of a "Form of Bequest of Brain," brought from Cornell several brains, including those of an orang-outang, an unscrupulous politician, an illiterate colored janitor and an eminent mathematician. With these exhibits as a basis he is reported to have made deductions leading to the conclusion that the "brain of the average American Negro seems to be about two ounces lighter than that of the average white man, and probably there occurs more frequently than in the white man a less development of the prefrontal lobes," indicating that "the whites will remain the dominant race." "But," he observed, "there are exceptions to these general conditions of both kinds and among both races."

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At the afternoon session Mrs. Celia Parker Woolley, a Unitarian minister and the founder of the Frederick Douglass Center at Chicago, who presided, is reported to have said that "if race mixture, particularly the mixture of black and

white, is of such injurious effect," as is urged by white men, we should "address our arguments and appeals, our warnings and rebukes to the guilty party—the white man of the South and of the North." With the same allusions Mrs. Woolley continued: "The attitude of the average mind, learned or unlearned, on this phase of the question is as shameless as it is cruel, in its open connivance at crime and social misdoing. The majority of people care little about race mixture so long as it keeps itself safe from polite observation under the dark cloak of illicit practices. It is only when seeking to lift itself from the level of passion and shield itself in honest marriage, graced and upheld by the moralities and amenities of the home, that the sense of moral outrage is aroused." In another connection she explained that "the present greatest need of the Negro in this country is the discriminating friendship of the white man. The Negro suffers from a wholesale judgment that makes no distinctions or exceptions." "We are in less danger today," she continued, "from the crass barbarities of the Tillmans, the Dixons and the Vardamans, than from the super-refined and highly intellectualized utterances of certain distinguished scholars."

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Judge Wendell Phillips Stafford of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, who presided at the evening meeting on the 31st at Cooper Union, is reported to have made an impressive plea for justice to the Negro. "It will not do," he is quoted, "to shut our eyes to the real causes and results of the war, especially now when Northern influence and Southern injustice strike hands to keep the black race in a new bondage as helpless and hopeless as the old." John E. Millholland, Jenkyn Lloyd Jones, Prof. John Spencer Barrett of Smith College, and Clarence Darrow were among the other speakers at this meeting.

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Three notable declinations to participate in this conference were reported on the 29th. They were from Seth Low, Francis Lynde Stetson and Thomas Wentworth Higginson.

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The British Budget.

In the British House of Commons the budget (p. 510) is still under discussion in the preliminary or resolution stage. Under the ancient rules of procedure which prevail as to form in the Commons, the consideration of the budget is likely to be long drawn out. The present or resolutions stage is intended to secure the expression of the House by resolutions, on the general principles involved. The next stage will be the consideration of the finance bill, framed in detail upon the general principles or instructions