may see how difficult it is to suppress
lynch law."

"The power and the influence of
the interests which are protected by
lynch law!" There you have the
whole modern government of the
black belt with the South in its naked
nastiness. Small wonder that the
President of the United States is
"protesting" against the Armenian
atrocities of the Turks. We trust
that A. Rustem Bey will answer that
protest.

\*

FROM A FRIEND

N enclosing a check for one hun­
dred dollars for the work of
the National Association for
the Advancement of Colored
People, Helen Keller, the wonderful
blind girl, herself born in Alabama,
writes us as follows:

"It has been my intention to write
to you every day since I received your
letter—an appeal which smote me to
the depths of my soul. In fact, I
have started several letters while
traveling from place to place, but was
interrupted so frequently that I lost
the thread of thought between lec­
tures. We are speaking every night,
and changing trains constantly.
These conditions are not favorable
for correspondence.

"I am indeed whole-heartedly with
you and the National Association for
the Advancement of Colored People. I
warmly endorse your efforts to
bring before the country the facts
about the unfair treatment of the col­
ored people in some parts of the
United States. What a comment
upon our social justice is the need of
an association like yours! It should
bring the blush of shame to the face
of every true American to know that
ten millions of his countrymen are
denied the equal protection of the
laws. Truly no nation can live and
not challenge such discrimination and
violence against innocent members
of society as your letter describes.
Nay, let me say it, this great repub-
ic of ours is a mockery when citi-
zens in any section are denied the
rights which the Constitution guar-
antees them, when they are openly
evicted, terrorized and lynched by
prejudiced mobs, and their persecu-
tors and murderers are allowed
to walk abroad unpunished. The
United States stands shamed before
the world whilst ten millions of the
people remain victims of a most
blind, stupid, inhuman prejudice.
How dare we call ourselves Christi-
ans? The outrages against the col-
ored people are a denial of Christ.
The central fire of His teaching is
equality. His gospel proclaims in
unequivocal words that the souls of
all men are alike before God. Yet
there are persons calling themselves
Christians who profit from the eco-
omic degradation of their colored
fellow-countrymen.

"Ashamed in my very soul I behold
in my own beloved southland the
tears of those who are oppressed,
those who must bring up their sons
and daughters in bondage, to be serv-
ants because others have their fields
and vineyards, and on the side of the
oppressor is power. I feel with those
suffering, toiling millions. I am
thwarted with them. Every attempt
to keep them down and crush their
spirit is a betrayal of my faith that
good is stronger than evil, and light
stronger than darkness. I declare
this faith every day to large audi-
dences, and in my heart I pray that
God may open the eyes of the blind
and bring them by a way they know
not to understanding and righteous-
ness. My spirit groans with all the
deaf and blind of the world. I feel
their chains chafing my limbs. I am
disenfranchised with every wage-
slave. I am overthrown, hurt, op-
pressed, beaten to the earth by the
strong, ruthless ones who have taken
away their inheritance. The wrongs
the poor endure ring fiercely in my
soul, and I shall never rest until they
are lifted into the light, and given their fair share in the blessings of life that God meant for us all alike.

“Let all lovers of justice unite; let us stand together and fight every custom, every law, every institution that breeds or masks violence and prejudice, and permits one class to prosper at the cost of the well-being and happiness of another class. Let us hurl our strength against the iron gates of prejudice until they fall, and their bars are sundered, and we all advance gladly towards our common heritage of life, liberty and light, undivided by race or color or creed, united by the same human heart that beats in the bosom of all.”

SEN. CLAPP OF MINNESOTA

The term of Moses E. Clapp, United States Senator from Minnesota, expires on March 4th, 1917. Already his enemies are laying plans to defeat him for renomination and re-election.

With one possible exception, Senator Clapp is the only member of the Senate who can be absolutely relied on to support every measure in the interests of colored people, and to fight prejudice and injustices without cessation.

He has never failed us on a single occasion. Whenever this Association wants something done for colored people we write to him. We have never asked him to speak at a mass meeting, to write a letter to some high official, to introduce a good bill or fight a bad one, and received a refusal from him. He has fought “Jim Crow” and anti-intermarriage bills tooth and nail. He fought for favorable amendments to the Smith-Lever and other unfair bills. It was he who induced the Secretary of War to send an official representative of the War Department to our Spingarn Medal meeting in Boston.

We do not know if he desires re-election. But if he does, every colored man and woman, every friend of the Negro, every lover of justice and fair-play should rally to his support. And if he does not, we should all do our best to persuade him to alter his mind. For we need him just where he is. Senator Clapp must continue to represent the interests of Colored people in the Senate of the United States. J. E. S.

INTERMARRIAGE

Here are those who from time to time suggest that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and The Crisis go far afield in opposing laws to prohibit intermarriage between white and colored people. They argue that neither race desires intermarriage; that it is a matter “purely social,” and that legalizing the prohibition simply puts stern custom into law. Every now and then, however, there come cases which show the utter blindness of the persons who thus argue and prove that anti-intermarriage laws are simply cloaks for wrong and injustice.

In Evansville, Ind., just across the river from Kentucky, Clifford Yarborough, a wealthy white man of Pulaski, Tenn., came into the Circuit Court the other day and asked permission to adopt a seventeen-year-old mulatto girl. The girl might easily pass for white; she is strikingly beautiful and talented in music. Yarborough willingly admitted that the girl’s mother was colored, and that he was the father. He said, “I feel like I should rectify a wrong.” There is no law against intermarriage of races in Indiana, but there is in Tennessee. Judge Givens, therefore, refused to permit the adoption. He said that “if he legitimatized the daughter he would be taking a step which would in practice have the same results as permitting the intermarriage of races.” Therefore let us piously ruin the life of an innocent girl!