

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

IN enclosing a check for one hundred 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 lectures. 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 colored 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-

lic of ours is a mockery when citizens in any section are denied the rights which the Constitution guarantees them, when they are openly evicted, terrorized and lynched by prejudiced mobs, and their persecutors 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 Christians? The outrages against the colored 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 economic 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 servants 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 audiences, 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 righteousness. 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, oppressed, 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 col-

ored 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

THERE 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 Yarbrough, 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. Yarbrough 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 Indianá, but there is in Tennessee. Judge Givens, therefore, refused to permit the adoption. He said that "if he legitimized 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!