

THE ADVOCATE

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IMPORTANT.

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A CONFESSION OF AN EX-OFFICE HOLDER

Speaking to an ex-office holder, in Portland, the other day, we asked the question why, during his administration, he did not give any recognition to the colored voters. The question at first seemed to daze him. "Do you know," said he, "that I permitted your people more liberty and privileges than any other people in the city, for instance, some of your business men and leaders asked that the games in the social clubs, pool rooms and bar rooms, be not molested, nor those places selling booze on Sundays and after hours and they were not, to my knowledge, and by my instructions; besides I knew that gambling was going on in one or two saloons, rooming houses and in all of the clubs, but they were not raided as were the places conducted by Greeks, Chinamen and Japanese, and again, did you ever hear of a colored house of ill-fame, being raided by my men? No, you did not. It was not because there were no houses of that sort run by your people for there are many of them that that are being openly conducted in the North End and of the many fights, cutting and shooting scrapes among your people, you rarely ever heard of any arrests being made; now, don't you think I showed your people much consideration? I was brought up among the colored people and always sympathize with them and there is no man living who thinks more of his old "black-mammy" than I do." As the interview was a private one and not intended for publication, we withhold the name of the ex-officer. This man we sincerely believe was firm in the

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thought that he had not only done the whole colored population of Portland a great favor but had shown them undue recognition. We had not the heart to argue the question and even now it pains us to write it—just think hundreds of respectable, law abiding, men, women and their children in this city classed and made to stand sponsor for the beastly sins and moral depravity of the very scums of the race, and that by the minions of the law. Who knows but what that same demoralizing policy is still in vogue? No wonder that a number of men and women whose method of living and business conduct are questionable, openly boast of being immune from arrest. What a terrible price the moral and industrious part of the Afro-Americans in this city are paying and have been paying for years for their indifference to racial betterment along social, moral and political lines. Why wonder that graft and immorality run riot in this

city and our respectable men and women insulted and humiliated. Men and women of courage, will you arise and come to the front and help save the boys and girls from the awful calamity through which we have been forced and are still forced to pass?

COLORED CLUB IS RAIDED

Officials Will Face Charge of Illegal
Liquor Selling.

The Union Club, at 91 Park street North, noted rendezvous of colored society in Portland, was raided by Police Lieutenant Harms and Officers Wise and Martin yesterday, and J. H. Reed, president of the club, and Benjamin Chandler, manager, were arrested on the charge of selling liquor on Sunday. Both will answer to the charge before Municipal Judge Stevenson today. Mayor Albee will be asked, possibly, to revoke the club's liquor license.

Lana Greene and J. D. Webster were arrested in the raid and cited to appear as witnesses against Reed and Chandler.

107 North Broadway,
Portland, Oregon.
February 8, 1915.

RECEIVED
FEB 11 1915
ALBEE,
MAYOR

To the Mayor of the
City of Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:-

In reading the Morning Oregonian of the eighth instant, I find an account of a colored Club that was raided on Sunday afternoon by Police Lieutenant Harms and Officers Wise and Martin. This Club is known as the Union Club, at 91 North Park St., in this city.

From a later account in the Evening Telegram I find that the Attorneys for the organization have demanded a jury trial and that the same will take place on Friday.

This so-called Club is owned and operated by Jim Reed and Ben Chandler. It is not a Club, but a rendezvous for undesirable people of that section of the town. It is frequented by criminals and vagrants. It is a detriment, not only to the city of Portland, but especially to the colored community, because of the fact that it poses as a respectable organization, when in truth and in fact it is not.

As proof of this fact, I refer you to any of the respectable colored people of this city and you will find that they will not vouch for this organization. Neither will any of the preachers, Rev. Magett, or Rev. Craw, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Flowers, or Dr. Merriman, or any of the respectable element of the city.

I am taking the liberty of herewith enclosing an editorial from the columns of the Advocate, a newspaper published in the city in the interest of the colored people, along the very line of this letter.

For the past five years this Club has been run as a gambling Club and has been so conducted, although repeated convictions have been secured in the Police Court against this same Jim Reed. He has for some years been a professional bondsman among this class of people and has been protected and encouraged by the Police Department, and even now very little detection will bring to light the fact that officers eat, and drink in this Club daily, when they are in uniform and on duty.

This is not the first time on Sunday or any other day, that liquor has been sold in this place. It is sold publicly to anyone. Especially is this so of course, among the

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colored people.

Referring you to this editorial in the Advocate, to which I called your especial attention, I am

Yours very truly,

J. Thrale.

P.S.--I hope that you will receive this letter in the spirit in which it is sent. I have only the best interests of my people at heart and while I am placing this matter before you in a personal way, more in a confidential way, yet I would be glad to further support the statements made here if you deem it necessary. In my position as a railroad porter I do not wish to be publicly known as taking an interest in public affairs--its none of my business, yet I hate to see a gambling institution passed off as a CLUB for the better element of Negroes. If they wish to sell whisky let them get a saloon. Take the "drinks" out of the place and there will be no Club.