of the white devils under Lynch laws none of the hideous
murders or butcheries of Nero to make a Roman holiday ex-
ceeded the some if these burnings alive of human beings by
white men who controlled all the forces of law and order &
had legally punished rapists and murderers, especially those
who had no political power or financial strength with which
they have availed any justice deservedate.

The more I studied the situation, the more I was convinced
that the South had never gotten over their resentment that the Negro was
no longer his chief source of income and vice playingthing. They had
made the federal laws for Negro protection a mockery. Where they had
not secured their rights, they had secured political control of
their several states and made playingthing of Negro life and
property. They still were not enough above the neger down
with lynch law to stifle negro manhood which defended its
self and burning alive for Negroes who were weak enough to ac-
ccept favors of white women. The unspeakable and unprintable
tortures to which negro rapists? if white women were subjected
were for the purpose of striking terror in the hearts of other negroes
who might be thinking of consortings with willing white women.

I found that in order to justify these horrible atrocities
of the world, the Negro was being presented to the world as a race
of rapists who were especially mad after white women, and
that they, the white men who had created a race of crybattes
by ravishing and consortings with Negro women, were forced
to lynch, rape, and torture Negro men to punish their crimes
against white women, even tho the women were willing victims.

It seemed the horrible fate of death in its most terrible form
of death meted out to the negro who was weak enough to take
chance when accepting the invitations of white women, but
that the entire race was stigmatized, and the stigmatized as moral monsters, and the daftness of white women of
childhood, not of all the friends we bad audience any protest they might make for us.

For all these reasons it seemed a stern duty to give the
facts I had collected to the world. The Negro race should forever be grateful to T. Thor, Fortune and Jerome D. Peterson of the New York Age for the great work of the first six inside stories of Negro lynchings of so-called rebels. These men printed ten thousand copies of that issue of The Age and they were sold in the streets of Memphis. Four thousand copies were sold in the streets of Washington to tell me what the people of the Southern States of the United States thought of this revelation of existing conditions. The article had been

He had been troubled by increasing accounts of lynchings and had believed them because of increasing laziness of the press of Negroes. He wrote a strong preface for the pamphlet, afterward published embodying these same facts. This was also the beginning of a friendship with the age of Anacostia which lasted until the day of his death, three years later. I have never ceased to be thankful for the opportunity to come in personal contact with this the greatest product of our race that yet produced in this land of the free and home of the brave.

As a great many times in his home afterward, and with chance to know him and his lovely wife Helen Pitts Douglass, my admiration and love for him as the biggest and boldest American our country had produced deepened and strengthened.

He and his wife had suffered criticism from another angle of the color question. He a colored man and she a white woman had loved each other and married as they might live together in the holy bounds of marriage rather in illicit relationships that were the cause of as many of the lynchings I had noted and protected against. The friendship and hospitality enjoyed at the hands of these two great people are among my most treasured memories. After my first visit, as Mr.

...
Douglas was driving me to the train on which I was to return to my work on the age in New York, he said something which gave me an insight to another angle of the color line. After saying the visit had given them pleasure and that he hoped I would come again soon. "I want to tell you," he said, "that you are the only colored woman able Mrs. Grimes who has ever come into my home as a guest. Who has treated Helen as a hostess and a right to be treated as a guest. Each of them to my sorrow has acted as if they expected my wife to be brąght, or distant, and they began to be on themselves." "But why," I asked in my youth and inexperience, "will they see fit to resent her being at the head of my household and the fact that they call her their friend. Others were cordial and made much of me, but kept Helen out of the gate, because she was white and had committed the crime of marrying me?"

"In other words," her white friends resented her marrying me, and my colored friends resented me marrying her," he said.

"And you tell me they had the bad taste and poor breeding to come into Helen Douglas's home and ask so boorishly? Oh, Mr. Douglas, I do so sorry. I hear that any woman of my race committed such a breach of good manners."

"Well, my dear, I am not critical. I am only telling you why we enjoyed your company so much, and want you to come again. Helen appreciated the courtesy and deference with which you treated her, and"
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The West Side Civic Republican League.
William W. Taylor, Pres.
R. A. Armstrong, Sec'y.
Walter E. Rogers, Chairman, Ex. Com.
The way you try to influence Anne to do the same."

(...) Sproule was Mr. Douglas' grand daughter who lived with them.

"But Mr. Douglas was my hostess and old enough to be my mother. I certainly deserve no credit for what I have been taught in ordinary good manners. The fact that the Douglas was white had nothing to do with it."

"I often wish every one thought as you do, my dear, but Mr. Douglas said rejoinder.

That conversation gave me an insight into a situation that continued until the day of death. While I too, not have preferred that Mr. Douglas had chosen one of the beautiful, cultured, charming women of my race for his second wife, but if he loved Helen Pitts and married her, I thought it outrageous that they should be crucified both by white and black people. The more I saw of them, the more I admired them both for the patient, uncomplaining way they met the keenest and discourtesy heaped upon them. Especially Mr. Douglas who lived — years after his distinguished husband passed on.

During all those years that bitterness never left us, yet Mr. Douglas continued her quiet way, living within herself, loved by the few friends who knew and were loyal to her. From the day of his death, no one ever sat in the armchair from which Mr. Douglas had arisen when he fell in death as he crossed the room. His library and seat where he wrote were as he left them, no one ever sat in his place at table, and every meal time that his plate laid, his great chair placed, just as if he were expected to return it. No woman in the world ever showed more honor to her dead husband than this silent, lonely woman all
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the days that remained to her after her passing on, it is therefore a spur I can never forget. I remember that when the first national meeting of the Women's Color League met in Washington in 1896, they asked and were granted the privilege of a meeting on the lawn of Cedar Hill, where they had pictures taken, were served refreshment by Mrs. Douglass, were permitted to go thru the house and all the relics gathered by the great man thru a half century of fight for negro rights and liberty.

As a part of these were leaving one woman a Mrs. Jackson stepped up to Mrs. Douglass and said clearly enough to be heard by all around "Goodbye, Mrs. Douglass; I want to thank you for permitting us to see Anna Murray Douglass' home."

Anna Murray Douglass was Mr. Douglass' first wife, the mother of all his children, the wife of his youth and honored by him till she died. She had been dead many years before he married again. The home now is Helen Pitts Douglass now and a deliberate in self was intended. Because white people forget Christianity, good breeding when dealing with those who belong of the dark race, is no justification for us to do the same. The truly Christian well bred person is always so, no matter with whom the contact.

I dwell especially on these incidents in order that all may appreciate the nobility of character of Helen Pitts Douglass who kept on her deadfather way and made possible the bequeathing of the Douglass Home to the negro race.

Because the will had giving her the home, had only two instead of three witnesses as required by law, the property became the legacy of all the heirs. This
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William W. Taylor, Pres.
R. A. Armstrong, Sec'y.
Walter E. Rogers, Chairman, Ex. Com.
Douglass mortgaged the home in order to get money to pay off the debts. At his death the mortgage was not foreclosed, but for the vision of Mrs. Talbert, the president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Mrs. Douglass had formed the Association and it reads as follows.

While the Negro race, led by its womanhood, rejoiced in the Douglass home in its effort to honor the memory of Frederick Douglass and Anna Murray Douglass, who helped him to freedom and inspired him to fight for his race, let them not fail to do honor to the second wife Helen Pitt Douglass, who was just as faithful and loyal, who loved her husband with an undying love as many women ever showed and who made it possible for us to have this shrine in honor of the greatest Negro this country has yet produced.

She it was greater than any

Being Anna Murray Douglass was ever
called on to endure.
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The West Side Civic Republican League.  
William W. Taylor, Pres.  
R. A. Armstrong, Secy.  
Walter E. Rogers, Chairman, Ex. Com.
Every week from that first remarkable issue, I wrote to fill my regular two columns in the Age. None of the notices of the first issue reached the South, though I had wondered at the silence of the North. I had thought it was because they did not know the facts. After my articles, all the Age was on the exchange list of members of the white press and journals. I remember, commented on the revelations I had made. Eventually, these facts did get in the white press and turn an agency little expected.

Two of our own women calling visiting remarked that the women of New York and Brooklyn had done something to show appreciation of Miss Wells. They agreed to get other friends together to talk over the idea. These two women were Mrs. Victoria Earle Matthews of New York and Miss Harriett Lyon of Brooklyn. A committee was held in the meeting where the meeting grew in members and numbers until no house was large enough to hold those who came. The slogan adopted was to raise money enough to enable Miss Wells to publish her papers again. A committee of 250 stirred up sentiment throughout the two cities which culminated in a testimonial at Lyric Hall Oct. 25, 1852.

This testimonial was caused by the ability in habit and to be the greatest demonstration ever attempted by women for one of their number. New York then was now had the name of being cold. Blooded and selfish, in its refusal to be interested in anybody or anything that was not to the minor born, whose parents were not known to be did not belong to their circle. Yet the whole New York looked down on Brooklyn even, yet the heat womanhood of the two cities led by the two women named above, responded wonderfully to their appeal, which resulted in the most brilliant ad selfish affair of its kind ever attempted in those 45.
The hall was crowded with them and their friends. The leading women of Boston, Philadelphia had been invited to join in the demonstration and they came—a brilliant array. Madam Josephine D'E Pierre Ruffin of Boston, Mrs. W. C. Maxwell of Philadelphia, Mrs. Henry Highland Garnett, widow of one of our great men, Dr. Susan McKinney, the leading woman physician of the race and many others were there on the platform—a solid array backed by the lonely home-sick girl who was an exile because she had tried to defend her race.

The arrangements were perfect. An electric light spelled "Dola," at the back of the platform. The program were miniature copies of "The Free Speech." The historical Earl Matthews preceded and after a beautiful program of speeches, resolutions and music, I was introduced to tell my story.

Then the committee told me I would have to speak. I was frightened. I had been writing both as a correspondant and editor for several years. I had some little reputation and had faced in public as an escapee from schoolgirl days. But I had never before faced an audience without the shield of paper between us and myself. Although I knew every detail of that horrible affair was imprinted on my memory, I had to commit it all to paper and do my best to read my story on that memorable occasion.

As I described the causes of the trouble, my mind went back over the scenes, the struggle, to the thought of friends who were gone, and those who were scattered throughout the country, a feeling of loneliness and homesickness for the days that were gone came over me and I felt the tears coming. A panic seized me for fear I was...
West Side Civic Republican League

OFFICERS:
WILLIAM W. TAYLOR, PRES.
REV. WILLIAM CLARK, 1ST VICE PRES.
EDMOND A. SIMMONS, 2ND VICE PRES.
W. A. ARMSTRONG, SEC.
FRANK HANLEY, TREAS.

HEADQUARTERS: 1504 W. 14th STREET
Chicago, Illinois

PHONE CANAL 7496

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
WALTER E. ROGERS, CHRM.
WILLIAM W. TAYLOR
PETER JONES
ALBERT AUSTIN
WILLIAM HAY
D. E. WILLIAMS
H. J. JACKSON

Registration and representation for all the people.

Dear Friend:

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William W. Taylor, Pres.
R. A. Armstrong, Sec'y.
Walter E. Rogers, Chairman, Ex. Com.
At all these years I have not been a truly deep admirer of the
architects favorable to the cause and me. The C. S. A. magazine
always makes me feel a little inferior. I have the
tendency to exalt the virtues of the past, and of the true view of
the art and the work of the Americans. The present is
the greatest of all time, and of the true view of
the past, and of the true view of
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the art and the work of the Americans. The
present is
West Side Civic Republican League

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Rev. William Clark, 1st Vice, Pres.
Edmund A. Simmons, 2nd Vice-Pres.
R. A. Armstrong, Sec.
Frank Handy, Treas.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
Walter E. Rogers, Chrm.
William W. Taylor
Peter Jones
Albert Austin
William Ray
H. E. Wilson
R. J. Jackson

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"REGISTRATION AND REPRESENTATION FOR ALL THE PEOPLE"

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anything more effective. Since I had no knowledge of stage business, and was relieved to know I had not spoiled things on this my first public appearance before a New York audience.

The result of this effort were manifold.

The women gave me $500 in money and a solid gold watchpin, made in the shape of a pen, an emblem of my chosen profession. The money was placed in the bank against the time when I will be able to start another paper. The pen I wore for the next 20 years on all occasions.

2nd, I determined the women of New York and Brooklyn to continue their organizations, and the Women's Equal Union were the first strictly women's clubs of those two cities.

3rd, it was the beginning of the women's club movement.

And it was the beginning of the women of the order. The Josephine of Pierre Ruffin among our women of the order, who came over for that testimonial, invited me to be her guest in Boston, and held a meeting for me there. The women who organized that meeting, organized themselves into the Woman's Era Club of that city. Mrs. Ruffin had been for years a member of the foremost clubs among white women, but that was the first effort she had made to form one among the colored women. Mrs. Ruffin also made dates for me among the near by cities and visited with me in New Bedford, Providence.

Several years later on a return visit to New England, I helped the women of New Haven, Conn. organize their first woman's club.

It was during my visit to Boston that I had my first opportunity to address a white audience. Joseph
West Side Civic Republican League

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