

# This Democracy Of Ours

Copyright 1947 by Mrs. A. H. Thorpe

The white man has carried his prejudice  
Wherever he has gone.  
In trying to democratize the world,  
He forgets that democracy, like charity, should begin at home.

Why do we think that our form of government  
Is the best for all other nations,  
When every where the whites have gone  
They have carried their brutality and segregation?

Just think of four hundred million dollars  
Sent abroad to prevent communism!  
When here at home they cannot control  
Their practices of Jim-Crowism.

Upon entering public conveyances  
We behold a sign (with letters bold and clear)  
Which says that whites must occupy the front;  
Colored passengers must occupy the rear.

A sheriff putting out a soldier's eyes,  
A mob taking the jailer's keys and lynching a Negro,  
And saying in court, "Yes, I did."  
And the judge and jury saying, "Let them go."

A senator of the United States Congress  
Vituperating his colored brothers over the air.  
To retain such a senator at the colored citizen's expense  
All fair-minded people will agree is unfair.

The poorest of foreigners may enter this country  
And to the mayorship of her largest city rise;  
But the American-born colored citizen  
Can look forward to no such clear skies.

Just imagine, if you can, in this country and day  
A woman for forty years held a slave!  
It is enough to make those early fighters for freedom  
Turn over in their long-forgotten graves.

There are many, many other things  
That I have not the space to mention;  
But I hope steps will be taken to remedy them  
As from time to time they claim our attention.

How one drop of Negro blood can make a person colored  
Is beyond my power to understand.  
Is it determined by mathematical, or biological science?  
Please answer this question, any one who can.

If we should trace family histories,  
It would be interesting to see  
Just how many pure whites there are  
In this our prejudiced country.

Then why be so hard on the Negro —  
At every opportunity showing a slight —  
When in so many cases we know not  
Whether a person is colored or white?

It is said what a person doesn't know doesn't hurt him.  
I suppose this applies to race relations;  
For, just let the whites learn that you have colored blood,  
And that will certainly change the situation.

In many cases we have been mistakenly  
Accepted for members of the opposite race;  
But somehow they feel that to openly accept us  
Places them in real disgrace.

They will give a job to a German or a Jap,  
Who, at the first chance, will knife them through and  
through;  
And at the same time say to the Negro,  
"There is no opening for you."

Oh, yes, we can cook for them, take care of their homes,  
And even help their children to rear;  
But for filling a vacancy wherever it occurs — lo the  
Unwritten law — Colored citizen, you can't work here.

Some seem to think we crave the right to marry them,  
And they fear amalgamation.  
They don't stop to consider that in our race  
We have every kind of flower of the Master's creation.

So it is not intermarriage we seek,  
But such rights as belong to the free —  
To work, ride, eat, and live where we please,  
For these things are a part of liberty.

To be paid for a job according to one's merits  
Rather than the color of skin;  
To be allowed to be proud of our race,  
Instead of made to feel that to be born black is a sin.

It is said that Ethiopia shall stretch forth her hands.  
Yes, she shall rise out of her distress.  
The Father will not permit one group of his children  
Forever another group oppress.

The Hebrews in Egypt for over four hundred years —  
Yes, God's chosen people made slaves;  
But in His own good time God delivered them  
And led their oppressors to watery graves.

Then, United States, why not set our own house in order,  
And by our example other nations teach?  
Lest they be heard to say of us,  
"Your deeds are so loud, I can't hear the words you preach."

Why wait for other nations to force your hand,  
Making you to all citizens be just and true?  
For, "White America", all other countries  
Surely have their eyes on you.

Said Jesus, "He that sayeth he loves Me whom he hath  
not seen,  
And hateth his brother whom he hath seen, is a liar."  
If some people get past Saint Peter to behold us in the  
Heavenly Estate,  
I suppose they will leave Heaven to us and depart for the  
lake of fire.

But even there they will find some of us,  
And there will likely be eternal strife.  
So let us live the Golden Rule and work together here,  
And all enjoy a richer, fuller, more beautiful life.