

OUR NEGRO TROOPS.

A Correspondent Objects to a Recent Letter.

To the Editor of The Courant:-

Will you please give the following space in your next edition?

I would like to commend to "The Hartford Courant" and other dailies, the example of "The New York World" in announcing that henceforth it would not refer to our negro troops fighting in France in derisive and humorous epithets.

In today's edition your headlines, together with an extremely long letter from J. Allen Wiley, Y. M. C. A. field secretary in France—reeking with "darker" and "nigger"—are very objectionable to us. It would seem that white Americans, especially religious workers, would refrain from spreading American prejudice in France. These are inopportune times for the white press of this country to be offending its black millions. They are not satisfied with their lot in this democracy which is going forth to make the world safe for democracy. There are many parts of this country that are not decent places for them to live in—yet they are dying and going to die to "make the world a decent place to live in." They have more to forget and forgive than any racial group beneath the Stars and Stripes.

Under such circumstances the Caucasian newspaper that sows this sort of discord and dissension among the brave and badly-needed black fighters of America at this time is doing a wicked, seditious, unpatriotic thing. We want to inform these dailies that colored citizens do not enjoy being made fun of. They would do not only a welcome but a wise thing to let their negrophobe readers forego for a while the pleasure of being amused at the expense of our people—for the sake of winning the war.

Respectfully yours,

Mary Townsend Seymour.

420 New Britain avenue, June 30.

"The Courant" readily prints this letter, but it does not hesitate to declare that the writer is too sensitive. Mr. Wiley's letter, as we read it, did not make fun of the negro soldiers. It did quote their peculiar dialect. Had the story related to an Irishman, he would as surely have quoted "Pat's" familiar brogue. If one reads in a paper, "Wa'al neow, whar be ye goin'" he says at once that there is the down east Yankee. So when he reads "massah" he says there is the southern negro with his inheritance from the days of slavery from which his race has, thank the Lord, been liberated at enormous cost of precious life and treasure. "The Courant" does not want to make any race ridiculous and will not be found doing so, but an honorable colored citizen should be no more indignant at "massah" than a white man born in Connecticut at "Wa'al neow." If the word "darkey" offends colored people, as it may, they can be assured that, if it appears again in "The Courant" that will be by accident and against the rules of the office.