

among Negroes and among Americans. As a beginning of this work for our New Year, we have the honor to announce a Christmas cover by Henry O. Tanner. And as a second step the *Delta Omega* Chapter of the *Alpha Kappa Alpha* Sorority at Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute, Petersburg, Va., offers through THE CRISIS a prize of fifty dollars for the best short story written by a Negro student.

THE ANTI-LYNCHING CRUSADERS

UNDER the leadership of Mrs. Mary B. Talbert of Buffalo and an executive committee of 15 supported by over 700 state workers, there has been started the "Anti-Lynching Crusade," the object of which is to "unite a million women to stop lynching." These crusaders are planning a short, sharp campaign beginning immediately and ending January 1, 1923. They seek to arouse the conscience of the women of America, both white and black. They are in deadly earnest and they put forward as the first fact in the lynching campaign the horrid truth that 83 American women have been lynched by mobs in the last 30 years in addition to 3,353 men. This, in part, is the prayer which the Anti-Lynching Crusaders have sent out:

"We are slain all the day long in the land of our nativity, which is the land of our loyalty and of our love. The vials of race vengeance are wreaked upon our defenceless heads. The inhuman thirst for human blood takes little heed of innocence or guilt. Any convenient victim identified with our race suffices to slake the accursed thirst. We are beaten with many stripes. Our bodies are bruised, burned and tortured and torn asunder for the ghoully mirth of the blood-lustful multitude. Whenever such atrocity is perpetrated upon any one of our number, because of his race, it is done unto us all. Vengeance and wrath are not invoked for the fit atonement of committed crime, nor yet for the just punishment of evil doer; but the sinister aim is to cow our spirit, enslave our soul and to give our name an evil repute in the eyes of the world.

"Lawlessness is weakening the pillars of the temple of liberty. Laxity of law is speeding this people to the abyss of moral

anarchy and social ruin. Thou didst set apart this nation in the wilderness of the new world to be an example unto all people of the blessings of liberty and law. May our nation measure up to the fulfillment of this high privilege. The land of lynchers can not long remain in the land of liberty. The nation that fails to destroy lawlessness will be destroyed by it. Save us from this evil fate.

"We pray Thee to enlighten the understanding and nerve the hearts of our lawmakers with the political wisdom and the moral courage to pass the Dyer Bill, now hanging on the balance of doubt and uncertainty.

"Have mercy upon any of our legislators who may be so embittered with the gall of race hatred and fettered by the bonds of political iniquity as to advocate or apologize for lynching, rapine and murder.

"Quicken the conscience of the people with the moral firmness and determination to demand and to uphold the effective enforcement of this measure and of all righteous laws.

"May liberty and law, peace and good will, prevail through the length and breadth of our beloved land, and may equity and justice be meted out with equal and impartial hand, unto the least even as unto the greatest.

"Amen."

At the meeting of the executive committee of the National Council of Women held at Fort Des Moines Hotel, Des Moines, Iowa, a body representing thirteen million American women, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "Resolved, That the National Council of Women endorse the Anti-Lynching Crusade recently launched by the colored women of this country."

Persons interested in this crusade should write to Mrs. M. B. Talbert, 521 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo, New York.

LIBERIA

THE Republic of Liberia has opened in connection with the State Department a Bureau that has for its object the collection and dissemination of all information of a kind from abroad, that will prove of value to Liberia; and such information from Liberia that will be of service to interested friends and well wishers abroad.

This Bureau was organized in May