

1.
ESTABLISHED 1868

Montgomery Fair

COMPANY

22 N. COURT ST. - 29 DEXTER AVE. - 24-32 MONROE ST.

Montgomery 4, Ala.

~~Dear Friend:~~

Daily -
Newspapers. black star Edition
Colored news separate ~~copy~~. Reason
white readers would resent reading
the title Miss and Mrs. preceding
Colored women's names.

City Bus lines. Front section
reserved for white passengers
Wash Pk. predominantly Negro, seating
space for 10 persons left vacant
for white people whether ^{or not} they
board the bus enroute to town.
The bus driver often passes
Colored passengers, ~~and~~ with
these empty seats, when he
thinks enough are standing
in the ~~at~~ aisle, this means
a larger number will be
waiting for the next bus.

The next bus driver may also not stop for Colored passengers. Sometimes, Colored passengers have to pay their fare at the front of the bus, and then go to the rear door for entrance, which is already overcrowded. ~~It is not~~ ~~un-~~ ~~common~~ It is not uncommon for a bus driver to order a Colored woman to vacate a seat for a white man to be seated in the same space. Such practices and ~~so~~ many other unjust things are regular routine.

On reaching my job, which is at Monty's largest Dept. Store, Monty Fair, there are the drinking fountains throughout the store, plainly marked: White Only - on one and Colored on the other. The Women employees rest room is

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is for white. The ladies lounge for public is known to be for ^{white} only without the sign. The ^{white} Colored women employees and ^{Colored women shoppers} ~~public~~ use the same lounge (~~Women, there is none for men~~). The Colored women employees eat their lunch in a little room next to the rest room. The door between the toilet and dining area can not be closed tightly enough to stay shut.

There is a luncheonette counter, where some Colored help is employed as cooks, dishwasher etc, but ~~no~~ Colored people are not served at the counter. They may buy the food and take it away to eat it.

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Colored people are employed ~~at~~ at this store as maids, porters, elevator operators, truck drivers, except that I work in the tailor shop doing men's clothing alteration as a helper of the tailor, who is colored. One colored man is the window dresser. I don't know what else he does.

There is a large number of Negroes shopping in this store most of the time. This thing called segregation here is a complete and solid pattern as a way of life. We are conditioned to it and make the best of a bad situation.

At the Public Library, located near the downtown shopping section, a colored person will not be permitted to come in and read a book or be given

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one to take out. ^{Montgomery 4, Ala.} The requested book will be sent to the Colored branch library, on the east side of town, if it is not already available there. Last year, some ^{N.A.A.C.P.} Youth Council members who are ^{from town.} students went to this library for reference books to use in school. They were told the books were there but they would be sent to the branch library to be issued to them there, even though these young people lived on the west side of town.

So you see, My dear, it is ~~the~~ something that seems

6.
endless. I could go on and
on and there would still
be some more to tell.

The schools are all
segregated and of course
unequal. The churches are
also segregated, white people
sometimes visit the colored
churches, but I don't know
if any colored people go to
white churches, except as
nurses to look after small
children. I don't know of any
going as guests.

I don't know how
helpful ^{this} it is to you, but I
hope it may enlighten you
a little about the way of
life in the South.

You may write again and
let me know of something

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in particular that you want
to do research work on.
Employment, housing, voting,
education and social
aspects are all fertile
fields for research based
on racial discrimination

~~I will please for~~

~~me~~ I am sure you
read of the lynch-
murder of young Emmett
Till of Chicago. This case
could be multiplied
many times in the
South, not only Miss, but
Ala, Georgia, Fla. ~~and~~
In my life time, I have

known Negroes ~~to~~ who were
killed by whites, without
any arrests or investigation
and with little or no
publicity. It is the custom
to keep such things
covered up in order not
to disturb what is called