

DEFENDER READERS ENJOY 'FISK PREXY' WORD CONTEST

".....great men.....
.....departing.....
.....leave behind.....
.....footprints....."

It's all over but the shouting. The Defender had hardly hit the streets before letters started pouring in to Editor Robert S. Abbott from Defender readers throughout the United States and every letter proved to be a masterpiece. In fact the letters were so good that The Chicago Defender has decided to stretch the original promise a little. Instead of giving only one book, five will be given, and each will be personally autographed by Editor Abbott.

Now here comes another proposition: From the great pile of letters were selected 14 which stood out as the best of the group. Because of the difficulty in deciding just which of these 14 should claim the five books, we are printing each of them, and asking you to pick the winners. Five of these 14 letters are prize winners— which ones? All you need do is to read these letters carefully and write on a postal card which ones (using the number under which they appear) you think are the best of the lot, mail this card to Editor Abbott. In other words, you are to be the final judges.

You remember, of course, what it is all about, don't you? To refresh your memory here are a few of the facts on what happened: Two weeks ago Editor Abbott visited Fisk university at Nashville. Upon returning home he found that he had left his bedroom slippers at the home of Dr. Thomas Elsa Jones, whose guest he was. Dr. Jones immediately forwarded the slippers to him, writing on the outside of the wrapper the lines which appear at the top of this story and which, we now learn, came from one of America's famous poems, "The Psalm of Life," by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Mr. Abbott decided that he would give a book of Longfellow's poems to the first person who wrote in, telling the name of the poet, the name of the poem, and explaining just what Dr. Jones meant when he used the lines as he did.

The 14 letters here represent some of the best answers. By the numbers, which do you think should win the books, now increased from one to five? Here are the letters:

No. 1

Answer No. 1: Longfellow's "Song of Life."
Answer No. 2:—
"Lives of great men oft remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."
Answer No. 3: Dr. Jones spoke clearly and truthfully in the paraphrase, "Great men departing leave their footprints behind." Longfellow's version is figurative; Dr. Jones' literal. The man's greatness is unquestioned. His temporal departure leaves behind footprints in slippers of tinsel. However, it is quite evident that long ere physical departure this man of sublime life has well impressed his footprints on the sands of time.

No. 2

The words on the clipping above are from Longfellow's "Psalm of Life."
"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."
Having served the public faithfully and earnest for 25 years, Mr. Abbott is, in Dr. Jones' estimation, a great man. Mr. Abbot has left "footprints on the sands of time," which others may emulate, but which very few will equal. Indeed he has done a work of which he may be justly proud; such work that none other than a truly great man could do. Dr. Jones certainly found excellent words for the compliment.

No. 3

Question 1: The words referred to had their origin in Longfellow's "Psalm of Life."
Question 2: The missing words are:
"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."
Question 3: Dr. Jones probably meant by the above words that Mr. Abbott was really a great man in his field; that he is doubtless the foremost man in Negro journalism; that he had gone to Fisk university, delivered a very appropriate address and departing had left behind him footprints, impressions for good, on the minds of all those who were fortunate enough to hear him. Further, Dr. Jones merely wanted Mr. Abbott to know how he regarded him as a man among men.

No. 4

The words printed in the article were taken from the seventh stanza of Longfellow's poem, "A Psalm of Life." The forgetfulness on the part of Mr. Abbott to leave his bedroom slippers at Fisk university led to the origin of these words.
The following stanza of Longfellow's poem is involved:
"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."
In my opinion Mr. Jones had some suggestive ideas in mind that do not cope with these words in the true sense of the terms. There was something in the foreground which could not be seen from the outer surface. When Mr. Abbott made his addresses in Fisk university during commencement exercises he left an impression there that will cause him to live forever upon that campus. Without a doubt, Mr. Abbott is one of the great men who leaves footprints on departing.

No. 5

I beg to enter your "Fisk prexy" contest.
Dr. Jones' thought and lines, exemplify the character. Editor Abbott, whose "footprints" remain though he has departed (Nashville) and who is "up and doing."
Editor Abbott's life and work have reminded thousands and as he had left the slippers behind we, when departing, can make our lives stand out and "leave behind us footprints on the sands of time."
The origin of the words: The words are from a poem, "A Psalm of Life," written by Henry W. Longfellow, born Feb. 27, 1807, and died March 24, 1882. The poem was written to show a time when our existence was meaningless.
"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."

No. 6

The original lines are found in Longfellow's "Psalm of Life."
The verse as follows:
"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."
I think Dr. Thomas Elsa Jones meant simply to call attention to the fact that Mr. Robert S. Abbott is a great man; since all great men must leave some sign of their having "passed this way." The bedroom slippers were a fitting

symbol of Editor Abbott's "footprints," indeed!
Mr. Abbott, being a great man, inspires us to lives sublime. Wherever he goes he leaves for us his footprints on the sands of time.

No. 7

"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."
—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.
Mr. Longfellow was inspired to write that beautiful verse by men like Lincoln and Booker T. Washington, who,
"While their companions slept
Were toiling upward in the night."
Dr. Thomas Elsa Jones meant that you had left a pair of casings for the great understandings. You have. College mirth. He meant that Col. Charles M. Young had left an enviable record hard to rival; that Paul Lawrence Dunbar's work is a marked success; that Tuskegee, Booker T's work, is an outstanding achievement that inspires men from all corners of the earth to follow therein; that the late Dr. Hall has left a monument to his people and his work shall live; and last, but not least, that the Hon. R. S. Abbott has paved the way for Negro pressmen to follow.

No. 8

This verse was taken from the poem, "The Psalm of Life."
"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."
Footprints that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's sullen main,
Some forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, may take heart again."
In my opinion it seems to me that Dean Jones was evidently comparing Mr. Abbott to the man or men whom the poet had in mind.
Great men always leave something, or rather a path, for those who are to follow to tread in.
Hence, Mr. Abbott is one of those men who, in crossing the chasm deep and wide, built a bridge for those who are to later follow.

No. 9

This stanza is taken from Longfellow's "Psalm of Life."
"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."
A man's greatness is measured by his ability to serve mankind. Mr. Abbott, beginning with only 25 cents and today owning the World's Greatest Weekly newspaper, symbolizes greatness.
Figuratively speaking, Mr. Abbott's bedroom slippers were his footprints, which if followed by any aspiring youth would serve as a stepladder. Dr. Jones could have selected no passage which would have better expressed the sentiments of those who know Editor Abbott or who read his paper.

No. 10

The origin of those words was created by Longfellow's famous poem, "The Psalm of Life."
Dr. Jones alluded to the following verse:
"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."
In my opinion, when Dr. Jones wrote those words he meant for them to serve the dual purpose of containing a figurative meaning and a literal meaning. Dr. Jones acclaimed Mr. Abbott as a noble person who left behind his slippers in Nashville. Hence, the literal interpretation shows that Mr. Abbott, an admittedly distinguished character, left behind in Nashville a favorable impression by the great service he had rendered there.

No. 11

The origin of these words is: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, an American poet of national fame, wrote these words as the seventh verse of his poem entitled "A Psalm of Life." This poem expresses what the young and earnest heart of Longfellow said to the psalmist, David, after reading David's works.
I can fill in these missing words: The complete verse reads as follows:
"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."
Dr. Jones meant this as a compliment. I think he smiled as he posted that package, not in fun, but in anticipation of how you would receive his compliment. From past association with you he knew you would understand him perfectly, and took this opportunity to express his opinion of you. By his act he wished to tell you that you are a great man and had left your footprints or fine works behind.

No. 12

The original of these words are found in Longfellow's poem.
"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."
Mr. Robert S. Abbott, one of our great men of today, has success by showing how our people are treated by the white, and our progress. He was gladly received at Fisk, one of our outstanding universities. Mr. Abbott upon leaving left behind something that reminded Dr. Jones of him. Longfellow's poem was used in a very suitable place, I think.

No. 13

"Lives of great men oft remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."
This poem, "The Psalm of Life," from which the following lines, "Great men departing leave behind footprints," were taken, was written many years ago by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the poet laureate of the common "human heart," and there can be no better expression of prose or poetry that so nobly befits Editor Abbott than these lines do. On the firing line for more than 25 years, 25 years of hard work, many trials and earnest endeavor, he has won his place in the hearts of countless thousands, and the name of Robert Sengstacke Abbott shall go down in history as the greatest Negro journalist of the 20th century.

Others may come but few will have the courage to start as he did, from the very bottom, fighting his way alone excepting for a faithful few, who kept the faith with him that generations of today and tomorrow might not be disillusioned in understanding a great task and accomplishing greater things.
Many of those faithful friends of Editor Abbott are now sleeping the last sleep and could they return but for a moment they would be more than gratified to see such a wonderful achievement made by an humble boy with the determination to do things and win out.
And to the dear friends living: I know that you are proud of him, and to know that you have helped him to success. He did not betray his trust to you, and worked un-

ceasingly through adverse circumstances, many of which you do not know of, that your faith in him might be justified.

Editor Abbott, yours has been and still is, a noble life, one that has been spent in the interest of your brother man. From an humble beginning you have achieved honor and success, and your footsteps are firmly planted in the sands of time.

To Editor Robert Sengstacke Abbott Dr. Thomas Elsa Jones, president of Fisk university, rededicated this little poem:

"Lives of great men oft remind us,
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.
Footprints that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.
Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still pursuing, still achieving,
Learn to labor and to wait."

No. 14

Those words originated from one of Henry W. Longfellow's poems. The missing words are as follows:

"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."
In my opinion, when Dr. Jones wrote them he was thinking of the life of Editor Abbott, and realizing his greatness among his fellow men, he thought of the works and deeds that made him great, then after finding the pair of bedroom slippers Mr. Abbott had left when he attended the commencement exercises held on the historic campus of Fisk university, this made him think of Mr. Abbott in the words of Longfellow, because all great leaders leave behind them "footprints on the sands of time."