

# America's Tenth Man

A Brief Survey of the  
Negro's Part in  
American History

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“**A**LL the world needs all the rest of the world. Working together for the good of all, each race may have its individual life and yet live in peace and harmony—yes, in helpfulness to the other races which live by its side. It behooves every one of us to strive to know better all the peoples of the world and to help each and all in the struggle upward, envying no man his success, hating none, blessing and blessed by all.”

—W. D. WEATHERFORD.

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## A Brief Survey of the Negro's Part in American History

OF THE estimated population of 120,000,000 in the United States today, about 12,000,000 are of African descent, or approximately one in ten. This "Tenth Man" is not a newcomer or an alien. His ancestors began to arrive hundreds of years ago with the early settlers. Practically all the present Negro population has a background of one hundred, two hundred, or even three hundred years of American-born ancestry. Millions of them go back to the Revolutionary War and beyond.

For more than two hundred years the great majority of the American Negroes were in slavery, a condition which for generations was a disturbing factor in American life, culminating in the War of 1861-65. The long controversy over slavery and the difficulties of political reconstruction following the War loom so large in American life that our histories, for the most part, show us the Negro only as a semi-savage slave, or as an illiterate, dangerous freedman—in either case a liability rather than an asset.

The purpose of this study is to turn the picture round and see if there be not another side to it—to inquire whether the Negro has ever had any creditable part in America's history or made any worthy contribution to its progress.

### SIXTEENTH CENTURY EXPLORERS

Digging into the musty records of the past our initial surprise is to find that the first Negroes did not come to America as slaves in 1619, but as explorers, some free, some enslaved, a hundred years earlier. Ancient manuscripts mention Alonzo Pietro, "il nigro" (the Negro), as the pilot of the *Nina*, one of Columbus' ships. Negroes were with Balboa when he reached the Pacific, with Cortez in Mexico, and with the explorers of Guatemala, Chile, Peru and Venezuela. The territory now forming New Mexico and Arizona was first explored by a party led by Estevanico, a Negro. Menendez had Negro artisans with him when he founded St. Augustine in 1565. The second settler in what is now Alabama was a Negro member of the De Soto expedition in 1540, who liked the country and settled among the Indians.

### SLAVERY INTRODUCED

The first permanent planting of slavery in our country took place in 1619, when a Dutch ship landed twenty Negroes at Jamestown, Virginia. These were sold to the colonists as slaves, or perhaps, as many think, were bound out for a term of years as "indentured servants." It is certain that some of them became free after serving for a time, while others remained permanently enslaved. Negro slavery did not grow rapidly at first, since it was easy to get white "indentured servants" from England. When this supply was cut off in 1688, the importation of Negro slaves as a labor supply began in earnest. By 1715 there were 58,850 slaves

in the colonies, and sixty years later the number had grown to 501,000. By this time there were hundreds of ships engaged in the slave trade, importing Negroes from the West Indies and Africa, and the number of slaves rose rapidly to a million in 1800. In 1807, on the earnest recommendation of President Thomas Jefferson, Congress prohibited the further importation of slaves, but illegal importations continued on a large scale, and the Negro population reached 2,300,000 in 1830 and 4,441,000 by 1860. Then followed the war and emancipation.

In fairness it should be remembered that all parts of the country shared in the responsibility for slavery, either as importers, sellers, or buyers, and that no section had a right to lay all the blame on any other. Rhode Island, for example, built 103 slave ships in ten years and in 1770 this state alone had 150 ships engaged in the slave trade.

The conditions of slavery do not properly belong in this study, but it may be said in passing that they varied as widely as the characters of slave holders, some of whom were as humane and kindly as others were indifferent and cruel. The results of slavery, too, were mixed. With all that the slaves suffered in mind and body, there were compensations in their new contacts with civilization, with education and the Christian religion, and with the discipline of regular work.

### AFRICAN BACKGROUND AND HERITAGE

Did these slaves come to America empty-handed, or did they bring some heritage of native endowment and skill, and even of civilization? For answer we must look to their African background and to their early record in America. We learn, for example, that the natives of Africa were perhaps the first to smelt iron and forge instruments of usefulness and beauty. This may account for the fact that throughout the days of slavery Negroes did practically all the South's blacksmithing, wagon-making and iron work, manned its factories, machine shops and mills, and even ran its trains.

Back in Africa they had been skillful weavers, rug makers, potters and wood carvers. In America they soon developed great skill as carpenters and masons and erected many of the South's most beautiful and stately structures. By the opening of the Civil War, slaves were doing most of the mechanical work of the South. Many of them attained such skill that they were hired out profitably by their owners, while others bought their time from their masters, hired themselves out and thus accumulated enough to purchase their freedom. In 1835 there were found in Cincinnati 476 Negroes who had purchased their own freedom at a cost of \$215,000.

This well-known practice accounts in part for the fact that in 1860 there were 486,000 free Negroes in the United States, or more than one-tenth of the total Negro population. Many of these free Negroes had become property owners, and some of them had grown

wealthy. In 1860 the free Negroes of Charleston alone are said to have owned property valued at more than \$700,000, and those of Philadelphia twice as much. These facts evidence no small measure of native ability along mechanical lines. In estimating the Negro's place in American history, credit should be given him for a vast contribution of mechanical and skilled labor which added greatly to the economic development of the country.

### FOLKLORE AND MUSIC

These Africans brought also a fund of folklore and a distinct gift for music. The Uncle Remus stories about Brer Rabbit and the Wolf are only adaptations of native African folk stories of the gazelle and the lion, and express the same common sense, practical philosophy. The pleasure these stories have given us we owe not only to the inimitable Joel Chandler Harris, who put them into literary form, but also to the genial "Uncle Remuses" who brought them to us from their African homes.

The Negro's native musical gift is universally recognized. Africa has been called "the continent of music." In America this gift early began to express itself in the development of the spirituals, and in later years in ragtime and jazz. Musical critics say that these are the only distinct contributions America has made to the music of the world. The weird beauty and soul-stirring power of the spirituals has made them popular around the globe. Though composed in the days of slavery as expressions of the heartache of servitude and the longing for freedom, it is a matter of universal comment and wonder that they contain no trace of bitterness or revenge, but only the Christian virtues of faith, hope and love. As a comment on the Negro's essential character this fact is of great significance.

Some of these African slaves also manifested decided intellectual ability. There was Lahmen Kebby, for example, who, back in Africa, had been well educated and trained as a school master. There was Omar ibn Said, another North African slave, a devout Mohammedan who read and wrote Arabic with ease. It was possibly Omar himself who in the early days was taken to the University of North Carolina to confer with one of the professors about the Arabic language and literature.

### PHYLLIS WHEATLEY

There was Phyllis Wheatley, African-born slave, who when educated in America, became a poet of such note as to attract the attention of George Washington, who wrote her a letter commending her "poetic talents" and "elegant lines" and inviting her to call and see him when near his headquarters. In 1773 Phyllis Wheatley paid a visit to England, where she was received at Court and read her poems before members of the royal family. Her poems were published in 1773, with an introduction by the Governor and many other prominent citizens of Massachusetts. She was the first of many American Negro poets, who up to the present have brought out more than a hundred volumes of verse.

George Moses Horton, a slave employed as a janitor at the University of North Carolina, used to write love letters and verses for the students. In 1829 he published a little volume called "The Hope of Liberty," which he hoped to sell for enough to buy his freedom. His master, however, was unwilling to let him go.

### TEACHERS AND PREACHERS

John Chavis, a full-blooded Negro born in 1763, was sent to Princeton University where he studied privately, and later took some work at what is now Washington and Lee University. Returning to North Carolina, he opened a school and had as his pupils the children of many prominent white people—a United States Senator, a Chief Justice, a Governor of the state and others of distinction.

A Southern writer tells the story of Jack of Virginia, "an African preacher whose services to white and black were so valuable that a distinguished Southern Presbyterian felt called upon to write his biography." Kidnapped from idolatrous parents in Africa, he was brought to America as a slave and was converted under the preaching of Dr. John Blair Smith, President of Hampden-Sidney College. Taught by his master's children to read, he became a preacher, was licensed by the Baptist Church, and preached from plantation to plantation over a wide area. His freedom was finally purchased with funds contributed by white friends, who presented him also with a home and a tract of land. Dr. William S. White says of him: "He was considered the best preacher in that county. Many of the most intelligent people attended upon his ministry and listened to his sermons with delight. Yet he never betrayed the least symptoms of arrogance or conceit."

"Black Harry," whom Dr. Benjamin Rush pronounced the greatest orator in America, was often taken along by Bishop Francis Asbury on his evangelistic tours because of his forceful preaching and popularity. John Stewart, a free-born Virginia Negro, went as a missionary to the Indians and thus became the founder of the mission work of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Of Henry Evans, another Negro preacher of that time, Bishop Capers wrote that he was "confessedly the father of the Methodist Church, white and black, in Fayetteville and the best preacher of his time in that county; so remarkable that distinguished visitors hardly felt that they might pass a Sunday in Fayetteville without hearing him preach." About the end of the 18th century Jacob Bishop, a Negro, served as pastor of the First Baptist Church (white) in a Virginia city, while Andrew Bryan, William Lemon, Lemuel Haynes and others often preached acceptably to white audiences.

### ASTRONOMER AND ALMANAC MAKER

Benjamin Banneker, a Negro astronomer and philosopher, born in Maryland in 1731, was the grandson of an African king. Sent to school, he learned rapidly, being especially fond of mathematics.

In 1770 he made a clock which struck the hours—the first clock constructed in America. George Ellicott, a white man of culture, opened his library to Banneker and gave him astronomical instruments. These Banneker used to such good purpose that he was able to predict eclipses. He prepared an almanac annually, which was published by Goddard & Angell of Baltimore, who called it “an extraordinary effort of genius which has met the approbation of several distinguished astronomers of America.” His work was commended by Thomas Jefferson and he was invited to assist the commissioners sent to lay out the lines of the District of Columbia.

These were exceptional cases, but should be sufficient to indicate that many of these early Negroes, even though African-born, possessed real intelligence and ability, sometimes in remarkable degree.

### VAST ECONOMIC ASSET

The persistence of slavery in the South, while it declined and ultimately ceased in the North, was due to the fact that the South was primarily agricultural, while the North and East were not. Slave labor was particularly profitable in the production of tobacco, cotton, rice and sugar, which increased at a tremendous rate and soon was pouring into the country millions of dollars annually. Beginning with the exportation of twenty pounds of tobacco in 1619, the Virginia planters exported 1,500,000 pounds of tobacco in 1639, and more than 53,000,000 pounds in 1773. The production of cotton, which was 85,000,000 pounds in 1810, doubled every ten years for the next three decades, and by 1840 the South was producing two-thirds of the world's cotton supply. It is estimated that in 1850 the agricultural products of slave labor amounted to \$136,505,000, cotton leading with \$98,000,000 of this amount. In the light of such figures it would be hard to overestimate the vast contribution which Negroes have made to the material development and prosperity of their adopted country.

### REVOLUTIONARY HEROES

In devotion to the flag the Negro has not been found wanting. Crispus Attucks, a Negro, was the first American to fall in the Boston Massacre of March 5, 1770. With the other victims of the massacre, he was buried from historic Faneuil Hall, the “Cradle of Liberty,” and is commemorated by a statue on Boston Common. Peter Salem won distinction at the Battle of Bunker Hill and is credited with the death of Major Pitcairn, the British commander. In the same battle Salem Poor manifested conspicuous bravery and his colonel and other officers petitioned the legislature to give him recognition as a “brave and gallant soldier.” Speaking of the Negro troops who took part in the battle of Long Island, Dr. Harris, a veteran, says that they successfully repelled three desperate assaults and thus saved the American army from capture. In 1771 when Colonel Green was attacked at Point Bridge, New York, Negro troops sacrificed themselves to the last man in his defense.

The historian Bancroft says that "more than seven hundred Negroes took part in the battle of Monmouth," and Lecky says "they proved excellent soldiers in a hard-fought battle against the Hessians." General Lafayette praised the Negro troops who served under General Green. Austin Dabney, a Georgia Negro serving under Elijah Clark, was severely wounded and in recognition of distinguished service received a pension from the Government and a grant from the State legislature. A South Carolina slave rendered such service in the Revolution that the legislature of 1783 passed a special act liberating his wife and children. Altogether about three thousand Negroes saw service in the Revolution.

In the War of 1812 Negroes fought gallantly with Commodore Perry at the Battle of Lake Erie and with General Jackson at New Orleans. Perry spoke highly of "their bravery and conduct in the battle on the lakes," and Commander Chauncey wrote in 1813, "I have nearly fifty blacks aboard this ship and many are among my best men." After the battle of New Orleans, General Jackson publicly praised in highest terms the conduct of the two Negro regiments which took part in that battle.

### UNPARALLELED DEVOTION

It has been noted repeatedly that history records no more remarkable illustration of loyalty to trust than that manifested by the Negroes of the South during the Civil War. Often left behind as the sole support and protection of the families of Confederate soldiers, not an instance is recorded in which one violated his sacred trust. Of this remarkable record, Georgia's matchless orator, Henry W. Grady, says:

"History has no parallel to the faith kept by the Negro in the South during the war. Often five hundred Negroes to a single white man, and yet through these dusky throngs the women and children walked in safety, and the unprotected homes rested in peace. Unmarshaled, the black battalions moved patiently to the fields in the morning to feed the armies their idleness would have starved, and at night gathered anxiously at the big house to 'hear the news from marster,' though conscious that his victory made their chains enduring. Everywhere humble and kindly; bodyguard of the helpless; the rough companion of the little ones; the observant friend; the silent sentry in his lowly cabin; the shrewd counselor; and when the dead came home, a mourner at the open grave. A thousand torches would have disbanded every Southern army, but not one was lighted. When the master going to a war in which slavery was involved said to his slave, 'I leave my home and loved ones in your charge,' the tenderness between man and master stood disclosed. And when the slave held that charge sacred through storm and temptation, he gave new meaning to faith and loyalty. I rejoice that when freedom came to him after years of waiting, it was all the sweeter because the black hands from which the shackles fell were stainless of a single crime against the helpless ones confided to his care."

## EMANCIPATION

On January 1st, 1863, President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation became effective, setting free all slaves held in territory at that time at war. Emancipation was made inclusive by the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which became effective December 18, 1865. By this amendment more than four million Negro slaves were set free, nearly all of them illiterate, without training in self-direction or self-support, and without property. Imagine their helplessness and uncertainty! Picture the dangers inherent in such a revolutionary situation! Then compare the results with the "reigns of terror" that have so often characterized revolution. With unbelievable facility, former slaves and slave-holders adjusted themselves to the new conditions and to one another, and speedily set to work together to repair the ravages of war. There were no outbreaks, no disorder of any consequence, no efforts on the part of the former slaves to get revenge. General John B. Gordon, one of the great Confederate leaders, when asked how the Negroes had conducted themselves after the War, replied: "They have behaved so well that the remark is not uncommon in Georgia that no other race on earth relieved from servitude under such circumstances as they were would have behaved so well."

## RECONSTRUCTION

There has been criticism, and with reason, of the injustices and political mismanagement which characterized the "reconstruction" of the Southern States. In fairness to the Negroes, however, it should be remembered that in those critical days they were led by designing white men upon whom must be placed the greater responsibility for whatever wrongs were done. Tragic blunders were made by those responsible for the South's reconstruction, but for the most part, they were the blunders of white men who used the newly freed Negroes to carry out their own purposes. However, it is interesting to note that these "reconstruction" governments established the free school system in the South, the most progressive and important step ever taken in this country. It is worth remembering, also, that the state constitutions framed and adopted in reconstruction days were in most cases retained for many years after reconstruction ended—in Florida till 1885, in Mississippi till 1890, in South Carolina till 1895, and in Virginia till 1902.

## PROGRESS IN SIXTY YEARS

Since the Civil War the progress made by Negroes has been phenomenal, more rapid, according to Ambassador James Bryce, than was ever shown by any other group in an equal length of time. Some of the high lights of the story are found in the following paragraphs:

### PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

When set free in 1866, Negroes owned about 12,000 homes and were operating some 20,000 farms. Today it is estimated that they own 700,000 homes and 200,000 farms, and operate a million more farms as renters and tenants. In Georgia in 1923 Negroes owned

1,632,863 acres of land, with an assessed value of \$20,179,465. The total assessed value of their property in Georgia was \$48,233,541. In Virginia they owned 1,920,485 acres of land, and had total assessment values of \$165,354,407. In North Carolina their landholdings were 1,652,389 acres, and their total assessed values were \$102,435,004. In the entire country Negroes own more than 22,000,000 acres of land, a greater area than the five states of New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. It is estimated that when freed the Negroes of the United States had aggregate wealth amounting to \$20,000,000, which in sixty years has grown to \$2,000,000,000, one hundred times as much.

## INDUSTRY

In 1910, seventy-one per cent of American Negroes ten years old and over were gainfully employed. About half of these were at work on farms; the rest were distributed through hundreds of occupations and trades. Among them were 86,380 railroad workers, including 355 engineers, 5,188 firemen, 120 conductors, 4,719 brakemen and 987 foremen.

Among the 2,500,000 Negroes in industry are found auto mechanics, bakers, blacksmiths, boiler makers, brick layers, building contractors, butchers, cabinet makers, carpenters, coppersmiths, decorators, dyers, electricians, electrotypers, engravers, express messengers, engineers, firemen, founders, furnace men, glass blowers, jewelers, lumbermen, leather workers, laundry workers, machinists, mail clerks, masons, miners, millwrights, molders, painters, paper hangers, piano tuners, plasterers, plumbers, pressmen, roofers, sawyers, shoemakers, steam fitters, stone cutters, structural iron workers, tailors, telephone and telegraph linemen, textile workers, tinsmiths, tool makers, wagon makers, wood carvers, etc., at great length. Of Negro miners alone there are 61,000.

Beginning with the World War, thousands of Negroes were employed in skilled labor and, for the most part, have made good. In 1920 there were 332,249 so employed. Of 139 Chicago employers of Negro labor who were interviewed, 118 say they have found Negroes efficient in skilled processes. During the World War 38,723 Negroes were employed in shipbuilding, of whom 8,835 did skilled work. During that time Negro crews broke two world's records in shipbuilding trades.

Elijah McCoy, Detroit inventor, has taken out fifty-seven patents in America and ten in Europe. The universally-used lubricating cup for machinery is one of his inventions.

The Negro's inventive genius, however, was evident long before the Civil War, notably in the case of Norbert Rilleaux, a Louisiana Negro, who invented the vacuum pan which revolutionized sugar refining, and J. E. Matzeliger who devised the shoe-lasting machine which is now in universal use. Altogether thousands of patents have been issued to colored inventors.

## BUSINESS

There were very few Negro businesses at the close of the Civil War, and none of any magnitude. Today there are said to be 70,000 business enterprises conducted by Negroes, in more than 200 different lines. Among these there are 67 important insurance companies, with assets of \$7,500,000, annual income of \$10,000,000, and \$250,000,000 of insurance in force on 1,000,000 lives. These companies employ more than 8,000 people. One of them, the North Carolina Mutual, of Durham, N. C., has \$45,000,000 of insurance in force and an income of \$2,000,000 a year.

The first Negro bank was organized in 1888. There are now about 70 such banks, capitalized at \$6,250,000, with \$20,000,000 in resources and annual business of \$100,000,000. These insurance companies and banks are all organized, financed, managed and supported exclusively by Negroes.

In the United States there are sixty-eight towns and many villages and settlements populated and governed entirely by Negroes. Of these Mound Bayou, Miss., and Boley, Okla., are the best known. Both are well governed and prosperous.

Negro Baptists have a \$600,000 publishing house in Nashville; Negro Odd Fellows of Texas have a \$250,000 building in Houston; Negro Masons of Alabama have a \$500,000 building in Birmingham, and those of the District of Columbia have in Washington a building valued at \$385,000.

Negroes publish several hundred newspapers and magazines, many of them very creditable. One of these papers is said to have a circulation of 200,000.

## EDUCATION

Before the Civil War the education of Negroes was forbidden in many states, and very little attention was paid to it anywhere. Nobody thought Negroes needed an education, and many thought them incapable of being educated. Besides, there was a general fear that education would make them discontented and lead to slave uprisings. Consequently, when the Negroes were freed, ninety per cent of them could neither read nor write. Now only about twenty per cent are illiterate.

Schools for Negroes were begun under government auspices immediately after the Civil War and within five years there were 4,329 such schools, employing 9,307 teachers, and giving instruction to more than 200,000 Negroes. In 1924 there were 2,149,584 Negro children in the common schools, or sixty per cent of those of school age. There are 500 secondary schools and colleges, with nearly 6,000 teachers and 120,000 students, of whom about 8,000 are doing college work. Negro college graduates now number more than 10,000 and more than 700 are graduating every year.

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy has been awarded to thirty Negroes by American universities. Sixty have been elected to

membership in the Phi Beta Kappa scholarship fraternity. Many Negro students have made notable records in schools and college, among them the following:

### SOME NOTABLE RECORDS

In four years' work Eunice Hunton took both the A. B. and the A. M. degrees at Smith College, Mass., largest girls' college in the world. Very few students at Smith have ever equalled this record.

H. S. Blackstone received the degree of Ph. D. from the University of Pennsylvania at the age of twenty-three, one of the youngest students ever receiving this degree.

Frost B. Wilkinson, of Orangeburg, S. C., achieved highest honors in the senior class of Wilbraham Academy, Mass., being chosen by the faculty as the student who best represented the school in courtesy, carefulness, scholarship and athletics.

Charles W. White graduated with highest scholastic distinction in class of 220 at Harvard University, though handicapped by having to work his way through school by waiting on table.

Dr. Alain Locke, Harvard graduate, won Rhodes scholarship, entitling him to three years study at Oxford.

Negro religious denominations support 175 schools with a property value of \$4,000,000, and contribute \$3,000,000 annually for their support. It is estimated that since the Civil War Negroes have contributed \$40,000,000 for their own education, besides paying their proportion of taxes for the support of education.

In the last twelve years Negroes of the Southern States have contributed more than \$2,500,000 toward the erection of 4,000 modern public school buildings (Rosenwald schools). A number of Negroes have recently given to certain of their own colleges sums ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 each.

Tuskegee Institute is probably better known to the outside world than any other educational institution in America. It has 120 buildings, 2,000 acres of land, a faculty of 200, a student body of 2,000 and an annual budget of half a million dollars. It was founded and developed by Booker T. Washington, a nameless Negro boy, who started the school without a dollar of capital. It is managed and staffed entirely by Negroes.

### RELIGION

At the close of the Civil War there were very few independent colored churches. Negroes now have 47,000 churches, with 5,000,000 members, and 46,000 Sunday Schools enrolling 3,000,000 pupils. More than 39,000 of these churches, with 4,715,000 members, are connected with independent Negro denominations. Of these the Baptist National Convention is the largest, with 24,333 churches and 3,253,733 members. A number of independent Methodist bodies come next with 11,000 churches and 1,500,000 members. The property of the independent Negro churches is valued at \$78,270,959. In addition, there are 8,174 Negro churches which are connected with white denominations. The membership of these is 639,326.

A number of the Negro denominations carry on mission work in Africa, South America and the West Indies. One of these has 156 mission stations, 129 churches and 29,000 members in foreign lands. In the United States they support 200 home missionaries, and are aiding 350 needy churches. They contribute annually about \$550,000 to home and foreign missions.

The 332,000 Negro members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in five years contributed \$1,941,979 to the Centenary Mission Fund of that church, which was a higher percentage on their apportionment than was raised by the 3,000,000 white Methodists. The South Florida Mission Conference, colored, led the whole Methodist denomination in proportionate giving to this cause.

Olivet Baptist Church, Chicago, is said to be the largest Protestant congregation in the world, having a membership of 10,000. It carries on an extensive community program, having 53 departments and employing thirty paid workers. Its annual operating budget is about \$50,000.

Wheat Street Baptist Church, Atlanta, is probably the largest church in the South, and possibly the second largest in the United States, with an enrollment of more than 6,000.

Negro members contribute to the educational and mission work of the Northern Presbyterian Church nearly \$400,000 a year.

There are four Negro members of the National Council of Y. M. C. A., three members of state Y. Committees, and a number of colored Y. M. C. A. secretaries, national and local. Max Yergan, an American Negro, is now doing notable Y. M. C. A. work in South Africa. Negroes have contributed nearly \$350,000 toward the erection of colored Y. M. C. A. buildings in fourteen cities. The Malones, of St. Louis, recently gave \$25,000 to the colored Y. M. C. A. building fund in that city. There are now 62 Negro city associations and 110 student associations. Negroes are represented, also, on the National Board and secretarial staff of the Y. W. C. A.

Colored women are organized for mutual benefit and racial improvement in hundreds of clubs throughout the country, heading up in state, regional, and national federations of colored women's clubs. The motto of these organizations is "Lifting as we climb." They are now raising money for a \$50,000 national scholarship fund, and also for the establishment of national headquarters in Washington. In a number of Southern States these groups are supporting homes for delinquent colored girls.

In 1922 the International Council of Women of the Darker Races was organized in Washington, with representatives present from the United States, Africa, the West Indies, and Ceylon.

## MUSIC

Roland Hayes, Georgia Negro, has attained international fame as a tenor, having sung with great success before the most critical audiences of America and Europe, including the King and Queen of

England and the Queen Mother of Spain. He receives sometimes as much as \$3,000 for a single concert. Yet he is entirely unspoiled by his success.

Harry T. Burleigh, baritone, has for twenty years been soloist in one of the leading white Episcopal churches of New York.

Marion Anderson, colored contralto, appeared during the season of 1923-24 as soloist with the Philadelphia Philharmonic Society.

J. Rosamond Johnson has composed light operas for Klaw and Erlanger, and many popular songs for May Irwin, Lillian Russell and Anna Held. He has also brought out several volumes of Negro spirituals.

Mabel S. Lewis won first prize in a piano contest at Chicago College of Music.

### LITERATURE AND ART

Countee P. Cullen, of New York, in 1923 and again in 1924 won second prize and in 1925 first prize in the Witter Bynner undergraduate poetry contest open to all the colleges of America and participated in by seven hundred students representing three hundred institutions. Harper and Brothers have brought out two volumes of his poems, entitled "Color" and "Copper Sun."

For a generation the poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar have been recognized as a valuable contribution to American literature. Among later Negro writers who have produced creditable poetry, some of it of a high order, may be mentioned J. D. Corrothers, the J. S. Cotters, father and son, Leslie P. Hill, Langston Hughes, Georgia Douglas Johnson, James Weldon Johnson, Claude McKay, and George M. McClellan.

Dr. Isaac Fisher, of Fisk University, Nashville, has won five literary prizes in open national contests one being a prize of \$500 offered by Everybody's Magazine for best article on prohibition. Prof. Ambrose Caliver, of the same institution, also won a prize of \$500 in a national essay contest.

Helen Perry, of Chicago, won third prize of \$500 in \$30,000 National Scenario Contest conducted by the Chicago Daily News. There were 27,000 entries in the contest.

E. M. Bannister, of Providence, R. I., attained distinction as a painter and founded the Providence Art Club.

The French Government has purchased and hung in the Luxembourg Gallery a number of paintings by Henry O. Tanner, American Negro.

King G. Gannaway, of Chicago, won first honors in annual Wanamaker Art Exhibit in Philadelphia, in which there were nine hundred exhibitors.

Bert Williams, who died in 1922 was for many years probably the most noted popular comedian on the American stage.

Charles S. Gilpin attained national reputation on the American stage in the role of Emperor Jones. Paul Robeson has achieved remarkable success on the American stage and in England, both as an actor and as a singer, having starred in a number of plays.

There are sixteen film companies in America producing pictures with all Negro actors. "Sunshine Sammy" and "Farina" are both juvenile favorites of the white films.

### THE NEGRO AND THE FLAG

Continuing their record of patriotism in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, Negro citizens have given a good account of themselves in America's later struggles, also. During the Spanish-American War, Negro troops in the Regular Army distinguished themselves at the battles of Guasimas, El Caney, and San Juan Hill.

Three hundred and eighty thousand Negroes were enrolled for service in the World War, of whom 200,000 were sent to France. They were the first of the American Expeditionary Force to get into action, and two Negroes of the 369 Infantry were the first American soldiers decorated for bravery.

The Croix de Guerre was awarded to four entire Negro regiments for heroism in action. One of these, the 370th, was commanded entirely by Negroes, with the exception of the colonel. Thirty officers of this regiment received medals of honor for bravery. Altogether some sixty Negro officers were decorated. The Negro's World War record has been highly commended by General Pershing and other officers. Gen. Pershing said:

"The only regret expressed by colored troops is that they are not given more dangerous work to do. I cannot commend too highly the spirit shown among the colored combat troops, who exhibit fine capacity for quick training, and eagerness for the most dangerous work."

Though hundreds of American citizens during the World War were accused of disloyalty, and many convicted and imprisoned, there was not a single Negro among the number. This reminds one of the statement of the late Dr. Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute, who said in his famous Atlanta address: "As we have proved our loyalty to you in the past, in nursing your children, watching by the sickbed of your mothers and fathers, and often following them with tear-dimmed eyes to their graves, so in the future, we shall stand by you with a devotion that no foreigner can approach, ready to lay down our lives if need be, in defense of yours, interlacing our industrial, commercial, civil, and religious life with yours in a way that shall make the interest of both races one."

### HEALTH

The census of 1920 reported 3,495 Negro physicians, 1,109 dentists, and 3,341 trained nurses. A number of Negroes have achieved national reputations as physicians and surgeons. One of these, Dr. Daniel H. Williams, was the first surgeon in the world to successfully perform an operation on the human heart. He was chosen from among all the surgeons of America as one of the charter members of the American College of Surgeons, organized at Chicago in 1913.

There are associations of Negro physicians and dentists in nearly all the states, heading up in the National Medical Association. There

are more than one hundred hospitals conducted by Negroes, of which the greatest is the Veterans' Hospital at Tuskegee, Alabama, a \$3,000,000 government enterprise which is staffed entirely by Negro physicians, nurses, and employees.

In the last fifteen years the health of Negroes has improved greatly as the result of medical attention and more intelligent and sanitary methods of living. In the twelve years from 1910 to 1922, the death rate of Negroes decreased twenty per cent and their death rate from tuberculosis decreased 42 per cent. Since 1912 the life span of Negroes has increased five years.

### OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Prof. George Carver, of Tuskegee Institute, is perhaps the best known agricultural chemist in America and has developed hundreds of products that promise untold value to the South and the nation.

Matthew A. Henson was with Commodore Robert E. Peary in his discovery of the North Pole and in seven other Polar expeditions. He was selected, according to Peary, for "his adaptability, fitness, and loyalty." Since the death of Peary, Henson is the only civilized American who has ever set foot upon the North Pole.

Three Negro athletes, E. O. Gourdin, DeHart Hubbard, and R. E. Johnson, were members of the American team in the 1924 Olympic games in Paris. In these games Hubbard won first place in the broad jump, and Gourdin second.

In the years 1919-1924, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission awarded medals to six Negroes for deeds of heroism and sacrifice.

John T. Risher was awarded a prize of \$1,000 by the Government for the best system of keeping the records of the Navy.

"Who's Who in America" for 1925 lists eighty-one Negroes in its roster of distinguished Americans.

Contemplating this record, a well-known Southerner recently said:

"The Negro is not a menace to America. He has proved himself worthy of confidence. He has been and may continue to be a blessing. In the years that are to come he needs the help of those who have voices of influence. He needs only that we remove unnecessary barriers out of his way, and give him a chance to demonstrate that under God he is a man and can play a man's part."

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Sample copies of this pamphlet will be supplied without charge to anyone interested or it may be had in quantities at twenty cents per dozen or \$1.50 per hundred.

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