

FACTS FOR NEGROES.

A Key for the Practical Solution of the Race Problem—A White Citizen of the West Talks Good Sound Sense.

Editor Colored American.—My heart has ached many times as I have seen the persecution of the colored people in the South. And what I say is with a sincere desire to do good. In the South we have the race troubles, while in the North we have labor troubles. We are apt to think of these as entirely different questions, but they are closely allied to each other, and the remedy for one will prove to be the remedy for both. Proud human nature will never acknowledge the servant as his equal. It does not matter whether the one is white while the other is colored, or whether both are of the same color, the wealth as a class will always look with contempt upon those whom poverty compels to serve them. In the North we see the wealthy treating their white employees with about as little respect as the whites in the South show for the colored man. The remedy for these abuses will never be found while we have such marked differences in the financial condition of the people. As long as one man must depend upon another for labor so long will the serving class be the victims of indignities and contempt. As long as the colored population are the servants of the whites so long their rights will not be respected. The colored race must become independent in industrial affairs, before they can hope for fair treatment at the hands of the whites. I would like to ask then, how are they ever to become independent? The whites have possession of the land, the mills, the factories, the foundries, the railroads, the telegraph, and telephone systems, and in fact nearly all of the resources of nature, and the means of production and distribution. The rent is such that the tenant can only make a living, and the wage-worker receives only enough to support himself and family—and not always that much. Of course there are some who have good judgment, good health and good opportunities, that become well to do, but such a combination of gifts, and circumstances do not bless the life of one in a dozen. The great mass of the people of both races are and must remain poor, while our competitive industrial system stands. If, then industrial independence is necessary, we should pursue that policy which would bring about that condition. And that is to be found, according to my judgment, in co-operation. An association should be formed for the purpose of establishing co-operative mills, factories and stores. It should organize local circles, or lodges in every city, town and hamlet in the country. It should seek by all fair means to induce every honest person to work with it, regardless of sex or color, and it should develop co-operative industries as rapidly as possible. The advantages or such a movement are beyond computation. Competition is expensive. Co-operation is economical. According to government reports, a wagon can be manufactured for \$7.18. The material can be produced for about a dollar and a half. We ought to buy it for ten dollars, but competition runs the price up to fifty-five dollars. A seventeen jewel watch movement is manufactured at an expense of one dollar and eighty-eight cents. The cost of material is but little. We ought to buy it for two dollars and a half, but we pay ten or twelve for it. Everything we buy costs us (from five

to seven times as much as they ought to cost. The expense of advertising, the rent on store buildings, salaries and expenses of traveling men and profits to manufacturers wholesale and retail merchandise, must all be added to the costs of production and the consumer pays it. But if the people would organize to do their own manufacturing, they would avoid all these expenses, and get goods at about first cost. Again, slavery consists not in one man holding a deed to another, but rather in taking another man's labor without paying an equivalent for it. This is the object of slavery, and it may be accomplished by "owning the man" or "owning" the land upon which the man must work to earn a living. Our landlord system just as effectually controls the labor of the poorer classes of both white and black, and takes all above enough to keep the man in working order, as did southern slavery. We cannot have free men without free land. And any effort to lift up the colored race, (or the white race either) which does not give the people free access to the land, cannot be more than partially a success. Our cause is one, and we should council together, to emancipate ourselves from industrial bondage.

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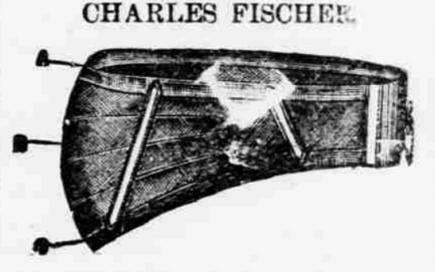
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