



MRS. MARY CHURCH TERRELL,
Whose Eloquent Address at the Commencement Exercises of the A. and M. College at Greensboro, N. C., Created Such Great Enthusiasm.

"THE BRIGHT SIDE."

Mrs. Mary Church Terrell Discusses the Bright Side of the Race Problem at the Commencement of the A. and M. College for the Colored Race.

Greensboro, N. C., Special—The recent commencement of the Agricultural and Mechanical College for the colored race, which was concluded Thursday evening May 24th, with an address by Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, of Washington, D. C. was the most notable and successful in the history of this rapidly growing, very successful and popular institution. The exercises which make up the college program conducted by the students were of a very high and commendable order. The execution of the programs for the different days was a treat which large and appreciative audiences drank in most heartily.

It remains, however, for the closing address to reach the very zenith of praise and applause. Although Mrs. Terrell's name is one of the best known among the women of the race through out this country, few of our people in the South have had the privilege and pleasure of knowing her rare ability as an orator and race leader by hearing her words and views. Through the thoughtfulness of President J. B. Dudley, A. M., of the A. and M. College opportunity was given to many citizens of Greensboro and visitors to the commencement of the above named institution on the 24th ult. After a brief program had been rendered, President Dudley came forward and began his introduction of the popular and highly cultured speaker by remarking: "It has been said by some one that man will never go wrong if he hears and heeds the counsel of a good woman. It is my privilege and great pleasure to present to this audience at this hour one of the foremost women of this country."

MRS. TERRELL INTRODUCED.

When President Dudley had taken his seat, Mrs. Terrell arose and was greeted with a round of hearty ap-

plause as she came to the front of the platform with a small bit of paper in her hand. Doubtless many thought, as did the writer, that upon this paper she had the outline of the very remarkable and comprehensive address which she delivered. If she had jotted down notes she made no use of them. She laid the paper by, and stood to the left side of the desk and proceeded to deliver one of the ablest and most effective addresses I have ever heard from any speaker regardless of sex or race. She discussed "Bright Side of the Race Problem." In order to show her views as to the bright side, she first presented facts logically stated and forcefully substantiated that there were two sides to the so-called race problem. Her presentation of the two sides was so convincing that the most rabid pessimist and philosopher of race depravity and final annihilation could not fail to see the strength and soundness of her position. Without disguising or condoning any of the faults and shortcomings of the Negro, only as she showed the antecedent causes which produced the conditions and unfavorable traits, she considered the dark side in a brief, but timely and pertinent summary of this phase of the problem. Having evidenced the fact that she was not blind nor unmindful of the Negro's faults and the causes thereof both as they relate to himself and others. She then plunged into the discussion of the bright side of the problem. The contrast was presented in a manner so logical and her thoughts were expressed in language so chaste and diction so pure that the audience was held as if by a magic wand for one hour to the minute.

Mrs. Terrell is a lady of prepossessing personality, commanding appearance, pretty face, pleasing countenance and broad culture gained in the best schools of America and Europe. Her great sympathy and love for humanity in general and her special and intense interest in the elevation of the race with which she is identified, as evidenced by her faithful and self-

sacrificing labors in different spheres of work where she has endeavored to and largely succeeded in benefitting the race, particularly the women of the race has justly won for her the high esteem and good will of all who know her. Her visit and address to the students and friends of the A. and M. College only served to increase her list of admirers and the people who heard her understand her great worth and work as a race leader and reformer. In her audience were presidents and professors of leading southern institutions, colored and white, professional men and women and some of the best citizens of the state besides a few from other states. The verdict from one and all was that she delivered a masterful address and presented the cause of the Negro in a manner to inspire him and win for his cause new and more earnest friends.

She made fitting reference to the good work which has been and is being done in the South by the white friends of the Negro in providing schools and furnishing employment for him. She appealed to these friends to continue this good work and thus prepare the Negro to be what he is capable of being a useful, intelligent and helpful citizen to the community in which he lives. She urged the youths of the race enjoying the benefits thus vouchsafed through the aid and good will of the whites to prove them worthy of these favors both as students, making good use of their school opportunities and as citizens by proving themselves the better and more useful for having enjoyed such benefits.

Her appeal for fair play, equal opportunity and unhampered exercise of every God given and constitutional right for the Negro which is or shall be vouchsafed to any other man under similar conditions and circumstances was so forceful and eloquent that she seemed for the moment transfigured and swallowed up with enthusiasm. Graceful in demeanor, pleasing in address, logically forceful in argument and diplomatic in presenting her strong and sometimes cutting points against those of both races who under take to underestimate and limit the

Negro as to his capabilities and possibilities. She was able to win and hold her audience from start to finish. The congratulations from colored and white were as numerous and fulsome as they were deserving. I feel safe in stating that no speaker ever came to North Carolina and won a warmer place in the hearts of a cultured audience than did Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, the great leader and head of the National Council of Colored Women of America.

(BISHOP) G. W. OLINTON.

DISFRANCHISEMENT OUT OF THE QUESTION.

When Mr. Bourke Cockran spoke for the disfranchisement of the Negro yesterday at Montgomery, he followed the lead of his own State. New York rescinded its ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment a few months after its passage. But the Amendment, ratified by thirty States, has now been in force thirty years. To repeal it on the grounds suggested by Mr. Cockran would be impossible. To repeal it in any way would be an act of retrogression, at variance with the progress and civilization of earth's greatest nation.

There are bad Negroes—irredeemable Negroes—in the South and in the North. But if that fact is to be used as an argument for destroying citizenship, we need not leave New York City

to find a chance for its sweeping application to a horde of "poor whites." And if it is claimed that the Negro has not progressed according to the measure of his freedom, there are a few statistics handy to refute the claim. The black man is able thus to sum up his accomplishments since his emancipation:

He has reduced his illiteracy 45 per cent.

He has written 800 books.

He has 200 newspapers issued regularly each week.

He has accumulated school property to the value of \$12,000,000.

He owns church property worth \$87,000,000.

He owns 137,000 farms and homes, worth \$725,000,000.

He has personal property to the value of \$165,000,000, and has raised \$10,000,000, for his own education.

His per capita possession amounts to \$72.50

To propose that the nation shall step backwards in the face of such a stepping forward is a curious way to argue the superiority of the dominant white man. Mr. Cockran is on the wrong color line.—New York World.

J. S. Koonce is now giving his full time to the direction of the famous Delmo Koonce cafe in the Odd Fellows' Hall Building. Mr. Koonce has the finest banquet hall in this section of the country for the accommodation of Afro Americans.

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