



E. PARKER READ, M. D., Ref. D.

The Founder, President and General Manager of the National Co-operative, Industrial, Protective and Investment Association.

**E. PARKER READ, M. D., Ref. D.**

The above is a picture of E. Parker Read, M. D., Ref. D., of 1037 South street, Philadelphia, one of the "leading men of our race." He is a great thinker, planner and all-around business man, something that can be said of but few of our men, although they have had the same opportunity to do just what this man has done; who, if he has accomplished anything at all, has no one to thank but himself, having been left in this world to fight life's battles alone, not being blessed with that most valued of all prizes, the counsel, care and protection of his parents, his father having been one of those valiant soldiers who helped this country save the Union and left his life on the battlefield.

Also, having the misfortune to lose his mother at quite an early age, and he being the youngest of seven children, he did not stop to ascertain what his older brothers and sisters, relatives, or anybody else was going to do to help him, but started to battle with the stern realities of this world himself, and as to his succeeding, it can be better judged when we tell you that, although he is not yet 38, he has the credit of having more than \$3000 for each year that he has been in this world, a feat that but few men have accomplished, and he is the first and only colored man that we know of to manufacture and sell a preparation to the druggists of this country. We name a few of the wholesale druggists whom he sold personally large orders of his goods: Smith, Kline, French & Co., Valentine H. Smith & Co., C. H. Butterworth Co., Miller Drug Co., Aschenback & Miller, of Philadelphia, J. Bailey & Son, R. J. Banks & Co., F. S. Thomas & Son, Baltimore; Owens & Minor Drug Co., Poyell, Ladd & Co., Richmond, Va.; W. E. Armstrong Co., C. L. Wright & Co., Petersburg, Va. We know of a great many more, but only mention these. John Mitchell, of the Richmond Planet, told Dr. Read that he had done more to show the white man what a negro could do than all the speeches he had ever heard. In addition to being a Physician, this great man of the race is a full-fledged Occultist and Optician, he having graduated from the Philadelphia Optical College with the highest honors that can be conferred by any similar college in the United States, that of Doctor of Refraction, and he is to-day the only representative that 70,000,000 of black people have in this well-known profession. He is also a member of the Druid's Medical Society of America, one of the highest societies of medical men in the country, and is the only member of his race to occupy a position in this vast body of medical genius. His business ability and foresight are unquestioned. The rapid strides of progress made by him in the many business operations which he has undertaken has made his name known and respected in all parts of the country. He is unquestionably a shrewd planner and a tireless worker and before his boundless energy, difficulties which would appall and discourage a man of less nerve, fade away and leave success to crown his efforts.

Among the many progressive enterprises which he has been instrumental in starting is the Assurance and Redemption Association of Petersburg, Va., for buying lapsed insurance policies; the Consolidated Beneficial Society of Baltimore, Md.; the House Renters' Protective Association, the Advocate Printing and Publishing Company of Philadelphia; the National Co-operative Industrial Protection and Investment Association, Read & Christian Manufacturing Company, The East Indian Remedy Company, manufacturers of hair preparations and agents' supplies; also publishers of two books, viz.: "Co-operation, or Buy and Borrow of Ourselves;" "Geographical Distribution of Animals and the Race of Men."

In appearance this gentleman has a marked character for energy and determination. We should consider him positive, thorough-going and emphatic in everything that pertains to business transactions—a man that is prompt and up to the mark, believing in doing business on business principles, and applying rules, where rules are in order, according to their practical meaning. He has a reservoir of vitality, so that his brain is thoroughly vitalized, and he has no occasion to weaken or break in carrying out his purposes. He can stand up firmly against strains and opposition that would annihilate an ordinary man. An interesting view of the doctor comes to us from a correspondent who writes from a personal observation as follows:



"There are many men with large mental faculties who have the power to obtain knowledge with little or no power to use what they have obtained. They are like a learned carpenter with an expensive kit of tools and who prides himself on that kit of tools, as many a college man does upon his diploma and library. For any regular work which has been done a thousand times before the superficially educated man with his fine kit of tools may be fairly competent, but as a pioneer he is wanting." Dr. Read is the ready man with an excellent outfit; and not only ready, but able to cope with the best men of the day. He is thoroughly acquainted with the details of his work, including all its branches. This, it must be understood, like other branches of human knowledge, has advanced with the progress of time.

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Dr. Read we believe to be an honest man; and surely no more modest man ever held an exalted position before the people. His opponents, of course, endeavor to break the influence of his work by representing him to be a typical fraud; but when the contest is ended, and the people have settled down into the calm of quiet ways, even his present opponents will admit his sterling qualities and that it requires no near ability to wield the scepter of power in the trying circumstances of his great work.

By the term dignity we would not mislead the reader. What one man understands by this term may not be the ideal of another. While Dr. Read is a most dignified man he is not in this respect after the old school, which is rather of looking man, entirely devoid of those schoolboy airs which young and verdant people are apt to think the embodiment of greatness. His bearing is more like that of a practical business man who is equal to all emergencies, and rises as the occasion demands.

By his ready, timely and able articles in some of the great papers of the day the Doctor has shown himself to be as ready and able with his pen as with his tongue.

The lines of his head are of the round rather than of the square, and it is the round lines that make the ready man. We must not, however, be misled by the mere roundness of outline, but must notice from whence the roundness proceeds; whether it is from the massive lines at the base, which rise as the bastion of a fortress, or whether merely from the lack of strength in the central lines of the work. The head may be round and yet be wanting in all that would give power to the subject. The human brain is made up of two great parts, the so-called "purely intellectual," and the "animal." The "purely intellectual" is of little value unless there is some "animal" to drive it. It is like the fire-engine without sufficient boiler power; the boiler power is all-important. These well balanced round lines are what makes Dr. Read the ready and able man that he is. He is a knight with a keen Damascus blade, ready to meet his opponents on all occasions, whether it be in the uproar of the contending faction, or in the quiet of the study. The word character well defines the man. He is the embodiment of sterling character; character that has stood many a trying ordeal, and has never been found wanting in those elements which mark the typical man of our day.

Dr. Read has had an active life in public affairs almost from the time he commenced the practice of medicine in 1885, being then about 22 years of age.

This is a reprint from the Christian Banner, published at Philadelphia, Pa. We reproduce it for the benefit of our readers, that they may have a better knowledge of the man who is founder, president and general manager of the National Co-operative Industrial Protection and Investment Association, one of the greatest organizations that has ever been organized for the protection of our people. Its capital is \$500,000, divided into shares of \$10 to \$100 each. We may also state that Dr. Read is the first member of his race that ever owned a drug store in the State of Pennsylvania, and more than 450 druggists in Philadelphia handle his preparations, to say nothing of the large number throughout the country that handle his goods.

Commenting on the above article the Norfolk Recorder, in the issue of June 11, 1900, has this to say:

In another column of this paper we reproduce an article taken from the Philadelphia Tribune relative to the appointment of Dr. E. Parker Read, as superintendent of mail at the central Post Office of Philadelphia, at a salary of \$2500 a year.

Dr. Read left Petersburg, Va., some years ago for Philadelphia for the purpose of pursuing the practice of medicine, in which he was considered quite an adept. This is both surprising and gratifying news to his many friends in this State and simply shows what pluck, ambition and integrity will do when one desires to do something for himself. We believe Dr. Read to have the embodiment of all three of these essentials points to make a successful man.

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