

THE TUSKEGEE WIZARD.

An Alabama Daily Reviews his Speech And Calls it "Words of Wisdom"—The Good Lessons and Practical Teachings of Mr. Washington Bearing Fruit—Jewish Rabbi's Comment.

Birmingham, Ala., Special—It may be of interest to some of your readers to hear what a leading southern paper says of our sage and prophet, Booker T. Washington. Commenting on a recent address delivered by Mr. Washington in the First Baptist church of this city, the Birmingham Daily News, under an editorial entitled, "Words of Wisdom," says in part:

"The words of wisdom uttered by Booker T. Washington at the Sixteenth Street Colored Baptist church to an audience of Birmingham Negroes last night should sink deep into the hearts of his hearers. This Moses of the Negro race tells them plainly, bluntly, and yet with affection that they cannot make rapid progress toward the plane of civilization they should occupy until they realize the importance of owning their own homes and having a bank account. In other words he tells them that they cannot as a race secure the respect of themselves or the whites until they learn the saving habit. But the most bold and sensible utterance yet emanating from the earnest and truthful and wise nature of this remarkable man and leader was the exhortation of the ignorant minister of the gospel, who afflicts his people. Washington has but words of praise for the many pious and thoughtful and educated preachers who are inspiring leaders of their race, but he smites with a rod of hot iron the peripatetic preacher, who is now spreading the Kingdom of Christ, as it were, now engaged in politics, and next organizing associations of a doubtful character to fleece the more ignorant and superstitious of his own kind.

He tells the truth and nothing else. The Nation cannot progress, except by obedience to the doctrines and principles laid down by such men."

A Sunday contributor to another prominent paper in his weekly comment on passing events, not only mentions Mr. Washington's lecture in a highly complimentary manner, but speaks also of the "courtly bearing" and the "modest and deferential air" of the man. Among Mr. Washington's auditors was a well known Jewish Rabbi; for several years president of the local board of education; a man of marked ability and high and impartial character. This gentleman, in response to a remark made by an Afro American to whom he was speaking, that the race was very proud of Mr. Washington, said, "Mr. Washington belongs to no one race. He belongs to the world. We are all proud of him."

Several pastors of leading white churches were also present. All of these were pressed forward at the close of the address to be presented to Mr. Washington and to extend their congratulations. Mr. Washington spoke along the usual lines, telling the "old story" of the need of industrial training—a story which, under the spell of his earnestness, his sincerity, his deep conviction, as well as the magnetism of his matchless oratory, is always new and intensely interesting.

Mr. Washington lectured for the Alabama Colored Orphans and Old Folks Home Association, which is erecting a building in this city, and as on the occasion of his visit two years ago in the interest of the same charity, made no

charge for his services.

It is a matter for congratulation that Mr. Washington's position on the educational question is getting to be more generally understood by our people. The time was when he was thought to be opposed to liberal mental culture and was berated as the enemy of the college and the university. Such a misunderstanding necessarily retarded, to some extent the progress of the cause for which he stands, and, to some extent crippled his possible usefulness to the race so sadly in need of his safe and strong leadership.

The special remarks to the white people in this Birmingham audience were manly and straightforward—courteous in phrase and friendly in sentiment, but plain and convincing as to their duty to the black man who had been brought among them against his will, but who had shown himself in the main, peaceable and law-abiding, faithful and devoted to the interests of his white employer and fellow citizen.

The happy faculty of knowing how to touch a responsive chord in the breasts of men of all kinds, of being able to tell classes and conditions of people their duty, without offense to the most sensitive and prejudiced, is peculiarly Mr. Washington's own. Let us thank God that such a man has been given to us and to the world.

JOSEPHINE T. WASHINGTON.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND

Why things wont come your way?

Why good breeding is fast becoming a lost art?

Why a few men are so lucky in getting all offices?

When the fool-killer will be headed in this direction?

That if you don't understand some things you wont be in it?

Why the colored race prefers to hang apart rather than together?

Why colored office seekers only seek places held by colored men?

Why the teachers don't save their money for the proverbial rainy day?

Why the sacred institution of marriage is falling into innocuous desuetude?

Why more representative colored citizens are not in the public inaugural committees?

What the Negro wants with a colored dally when he either can't or wont support a weekly?

Why ten per cent borrowers persist in infesting the corner of 9th and F every evening at 4.30?

Why parents do not appreciate the value of teaching their children to do some one thing well?

Why the hundred thousand Negroes of the District don't establish a shoe store and a dry goods store?

That faultless public department will go a long ways toward breaking down the barrier of race prejudice?

Why Negro leaders do not stop fighting among themselves and turn their guns on the common enemy?

Why the average Negro prefers to spend his substance to enrich the white race instead of helping his fellows?

Why more colored people do not avail themselves of the splendid resources of the Congressional library?

Why oppressed foreigners pull away from the stars and stripes when you contemplate the operations of Judge Lynch?

Why the man who lived on \$3 before he came to Washington cannot live on

\$25 a week after he has been here a few months?

Why the colored brother must always need name his pie when he gives up at the political counter before he can hope to be served?

What under the Sun is the matter with the christian churches of this community that they do not support a successful Y. M. C. A.?

Why the Supreme Court will persist in splitting hairs with such great nicety in order to turn the scales of justice against an oppressed people?

Whether or not there is anything left for Mr. McGhee to say in reply to Bruce Grit's onslaught in The Colored American of week before last?

Why intelligent Afro-Americans continue to deposit their money in white banking companies when the Capital Savings Bank is open for business?

Why a certain class of colored people will cheerfully go broke in order to keep up membership in a society that will "berry" them when they are dead?

Why colored graduates prefer to work around hotels and barbershops for \$3 a week instead of going out as canvassing agents and drummers, making \$10 to \$20 a week?

"OUR JUDD" GETS A JEWEL.

His Magnificent Masonic Work and Popularity Among the Craftsmen Be fittingly Honored.

On January third, the first regular meeting in this year year of Social lodge No. 1 F. A. A. M., a Past Masters Jewel was presented to W. H. Judd Malvin by the lodge. This beautiful emblem of silk and gold was given by the members as a token of appreciation for the excellent record made by Brother Malvin during last year while Master of the lodge.

His administration was marked by a great increase in membership and a financial prosperity eclipsing any former year. This favorable showing was due in a large measure to his personality and zeal. "Our Judd," who will wear this Master's jewel, has established a record for Masonic order. For this he has been rewarded with honors in every branch of the Fraternity with which he is identified, up to and including the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge.

He engages in the work of each division with the same earnest enthusiasm. As the secretary of the Refurnishing Committee he contributed very largely to the beautiful refurnishing of the hall, which now easily outclasses all colored Masonic temples in the country. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Building Association he has been quite prominent in the labors of that body.

His elevation to the exalted office of R. W. Deputy Grand Master took place last month. One of his first duties as Deputy was performed on Wednesday when he conducted the funeral of P. D. G. M. John N. Hunt of Warren lodge No. 8 at Metropolitan A. M. E. church in a manner which reflected the greatest credit upon himself and the Fraternity in this jurisdiction.

A Prominent Young Woman.

Miss Lillian Jackson, of St Joseph, Mo., was elected president of the Interstate Literary association of the Far West which convened in St Joseph in December of last year. This is the first time that a woman has had the honor of being elected permanent president of that worthy literary organization?

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