

WHAT HAVE WE WROUGHT?

Prof. Currier's Lecture on Thirty five Years of Freedom Draws Out Eloquent Reports From Rev. Grimke and Mr. Blackwell—Messrs. Williams and Walker the Fun Makers in Town.

[The Chicago Office of The Colored American is located at 59 Dearborn St., suite 412.]

Chicago, Ill. Special—Prof. Mary Currier of Wellesley College was to speak before the Woman's Suffrage League on the "Status of the Negro in the Twentieth Century." After a brief preamble she arose and read an exceedingly interesting paper embodying the results of a prolonged stay in the South when she was the guest of Mr. Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee, and studied his work, and that of various institutes, and the general conditions,



REV. F. J. GRIMKE.

indeed, of colored people in the South. In the audience were Mr. Grimke, Mr. Walker, and Mrs. Ruffin all persons of unusual intelligence and thought. The two sisters, Angelina and Sarah Grimke who came to Boston in the anti-slavery times, were women of the mixed race of whites and colored. The marriage of Angelina Grimke to Theodore Weld, a white man and a prominent citizen—a friend of Garrison, Wendell Phillips and Lucy Stone—is a part of Boston history. Mr. Grimke, who took part in the meeting yesterday, is, I understand, a nephew of the famous sisters. Mr. Walker is a teacher. We all know what a very able woman Mrs. Ruffin is. The special question at issue was "What have thirty-five years of freedom done for the Negro?" Prof. Currier enlivened her serious theme by many humorous flashes. The pathos of much of the narration too, was deeply felt as Prof. Currier vividly pictured the scenes and conditions. The discussion that ensued was, indeed, not down on the bills. The colored people, especially Mr. Grimke and Mrs. Ruffin, were intensely forcible in their expressions. Mr. Grimke dwelt strongly—and it did not seem unduly—on the responsibility of the white to the black. He pointed out that the African race through no fault of their own, were brought to this country; that after the unspeakable barbarity and degradation of that "sum of villainies" the emancipation came. And what did it give? Freedom, but freedom without any training in self-reliance, without property, friends; without even a name. Then he arraigned the present laws that see injustice, unkindness and personal violence; that confront murder and say nothing; the national government that sees its officers—postmasters in the South—murdered and yet takes no steps to protect others, or to bring to justice the offenders. He mentioned the city of Boston the home of anti-slavery, the centre in which germinated the impulse that spread and gathered strength until it found expression through the pen and deed of Abraham Lincoln, in that

mighty proclamation; Boston the home of Garrison and Phillips and Lydia Maria Child, that now denies to the colored man whatever his character and attainments equality of privilege with the whites. In not one first-class hotel in this city can the colored man be a guest on the same terms as the white man. In not a single theater can he buy a seat as a white man can. Nor in Symphony Hall can he buy a seat for the concert. One notable exception appears. Harvard University, where the colored man has an equal chance with the white. Mr. Grimke arraigned other matters in an impassioned, but no one could say an unjust manner, discovering to the audience assembled flagrant wrongs that cry aloud for redemption. As may be imagined the whole scene was keenly exciting. Mr. Henry B. Blackwell spoke with great power and originality and his own characteristic greatness of soul and beneficence. The entire question, the entire problem of the status of the colored race, rests on public sentiment. And now it remains for this Twentieth Century of ours, the idol of hearts, and the inspirer of our new hopes and faiths, to live up to its reputation and enable us to make the status of the colored people among us worthy of a Christian civilization.

Mr. Charles L. Berry was in the city last week the guest of Mr. David Manson. Mr. Berry was on his way to the convention of M. & B. U. of O. Mr. Berry is one of the delegates from Youngstown, Ohio and the Cor. Sec'y of the Union in his city. This is an evidence of the absence of that most abominable of all things—prejudice. Mr. Berry is a very worthy young man well qualified to hold the position he has in the Union. He is also a thorough musician being a very fine performer on the cornet.

Williams and Walker are in town this week at the Great Northern Theater. They are playing to immense houses. It is only necessary for them to put in appearance for round after round of applause to be given them.

Mrs. Lottie Williams looks beautiful in her gowns and Ads Overton is grace itself. Mr. Green Tapley Chicago's favorite baritone renders "Holy City" as only he can do. His voice has lost none of its sweetness by travel, indeed it seems to be more magnificent than ever. "Cairo" one of the lyric numbers is a production of Will Cook and it is worthy of special mention. It contains rich chords that only an inspiration can bring.

A number of politicians attended the inaugural at Springfield. Lawyer E. H. Morris who is in Philadelphia, will return to Chicago by way of Springfield and will interview the new governor.

There is a question in one of our weeklies to this effect; "Is Martin a mistake?" Well I guess not! And anybody who thinks so will be badly mistaken. Why don't some one ask if Fitts is a mistake.

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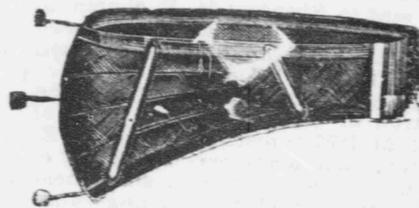
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