

A MARTYR INDEED.

"Aunt" Harriet Tubman—Whose Co-Workers in the Cause of Human Rights Were Such men as Wm. H. Seward, Frederick Douglass and That School of Giants—A Remarkable Woman.

Auburn, N. Y., Special.—Here I am in Auburn, N. Y., the home of that sagacious statesman and manly man, William H. Seward. I have just gazed upon the Seward Mansion now occupied by the son that bears the name of his father. It is situated on South Street, the most aristocratic thoroughfare of the city, and opposite the mansion is Seward Park, wherein is a monument erected to the memory of that fearless man, who, in the face of those worshipped the Constitution of the United States, a Constitution that legalized traffic in human flesh and blood, said that than the Constitution "There is a Higher Law."

About one mile from the home of W. H. Seward, on the same street lives that remarkable woman, Harriet Tubman. Who is Harriet Tubman? some one may ask.

She was born a slave in Maryland about eighty years ago, and being of the most pronounced Negro type, she was made a "field hand" at a very tender age. Her lot was indeed a hard—too hard for such a heart as throbbed in her breast to bear, so in 1849 she made good her escape to freedom's soil. But what did freedom mean to her when every wind from the South was changed with plaintive cries of her oppressed brethren for deliverance? It was but a mockery so long as she could hear the crack of the overseer's whip, the clanking of slave chains and the heart-rending cries of mothers bereft of their dear ones at the Auction Block.

Something must be done and she proceeded to do it. Nineteen trips did she make South, rescuing more than 300 slaves from the "Jaws of Hell." Such a terror did she become to the slave holders of Maryland that a reward of \$40,000 was offered for her head. She was bold, daring, elusive. All of her trips to the South were carefully planned and brilliantly executed. She told me that when she found her mother unwilling to leave behind her feather bed-tick and her father his broad-axe and other tools, she bumbled up feather-bed, broad-axe mother, father—all and landed them in Canada. To hear her tell of her thrilling adventures, hair-breadth escapes and dire sufferings experienced in piloting the trembling slave from the "land of midnight darkness" to the sunlight of freedom, one cannot but believe that she was called of God to do the work which she did so masterfully, so conscientiously, so heroically.

During the Civil war she rendered invaluable service to the Union Army as spy, scout and hospital nurse. With the general of her army whatever "Moses," as she was called, said went. She was at Fort Wagner and told me that she prepared the last breakfast eaten by the gallant Colonel Shaw. She numbered among her friends such men as John Brown, Charles Sumner, William Lloyd Garrison, Gov. Andrews, the war governor of Massachusetts, Fredrick Douglass and many others.

Such in brief is Harriet Tubman and a rarer soul has seldom dwelt in human clay. Never have I met one who seemed to think so little of self and so constantly of others. For the last seven years I have called to see her on my annual visit to Auburn in the interest of Tuskegee, and each time I have

found strangers under her roof—aged, maimed, blind and orphans. Nothing touches her heart more quickly than to see one of her race in distress. She has never been known to turn a deaf ear to the appeal of an unfortunate human being. At this writing she has under her "vine and fig-tree" two friendless old women and two homeless orphans.

"Aunt" Harriet cannot do by these unfortunates, however, as she has done by others; because the hand of affliction has rested heavily on her for nearly a year. There was a time when she travelled a great deal and whatever request she made of her white friends was granted. Many of her old friends have "Crossed the Bar" while others I am sure, know not of her present condition. At present her lot is a hard one—dependent entirely on what may be handed her by occasional callers and the scant earnings of her brother several years her senior.

The property in her possession is easily worth six thousand dollars. It consists of twenty-five acres on which are two good houses, and is only a stone's throw from one of the most magnificent estates in Auburn. On this property there is an incumbrance of \$1,700, and her daily prayer is that this might be removed so that she can bequeath it, free of debt to her race to be used forever as an Old Folk's Home.

When I called to see "Aunt" Harriet today, she said to me while tears coursed down her honest cheeks. "Son, the Lord, has sent you to me. For weeks I've been praying to see you, as I have a message which God told me to give you." The message was that I should come to her rescue by helping to save her property. In assisting Prin. Booker T. Washington to raise the large amount of money necessary to run Tuskegee yearly, it is needless to state that my time is well occupied, but, still I want to do something to help this woman, who has done so much for her race. My plan is a simple one, one that ought to find a ready response. Remember that only seventeen-hundred dollars (\$1,700) is to be raised; but it is to be raised by August 1st. How shall it be done? First, let every Sunday school in Washington, D. C., the capitol of the nation for which "Aunt" Harriet has done so much; every Sunday school in Maryland, "Aunt Harriet's native state; every Sunday school in New York state, the present home of "Aunt" Harriet, and every Sunday school in Boston where "Aunt" Harriet is so well known, set aside July 14th as "Harriet Tubman" Day when the Pastor or Supt. will try to impress upon the minds of the children the significance of this woman's "Singular Life", and lift a collection for her benefit. Second, let every Woman's Club in the U. S. help this cause to the amount of at least Two Dollars (\$2), more if possible. Third, let every young man or woman of our race that reads this appeal send in at least One Dollar (\$1) from private purse or collections from friends. With all the earnestness of my soul I ask for a quick and liberal response. "Aunt" Harriet has lifted up her voice in speech, in song and in prayer for this people; she has labored with her hands for means to carry on her mission of mercy; by day, by night, in weather fair and foul, her feet "have moved at the impulse of love" for her fellow-man. Now she is bowed down with infirmity. Her gait is unsteady, her eye is dim; the sun of her life ere long must set, but Oh! Father, stay that time until this humble message shall accomplish its mission.

Please make all checks or money or-

ders payable to Harriet Tubman, or order and address them to Mr. C. A. Smith, Parker St. Auburn, N. Y. The names of all donors with amount will be published except those who request otherwise.

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