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IN THE NATION'S EYE.

COL. C. W. THOMPSON UNITES NORTH AND SOUTH.

Studying Negro Problems in Candid and Intelligent Vein—Visiting Party Saw Both Sides of Race Life in Alabama's "Black Belt"—Valuable Information Gleaned at First Hand.

Go into the chamber of the House of Representatives and ask any one familiar with current events to point out the Southern member who to-day fills the largest space in the National eye and his finger will be instantly turned towards Col. Charles Winston Thompson, who represents the Fifth District of Alabama. In response to your look of inquiry suggesting "Why?" he will say, "He is the gentleman who conducted that famous Congressional party on a tour through the black belt of his State and furnished more actual information to the people in a week than an encyclopedia could have given in a month."

Who is Colonel Thompson, and why did he inaugurate this movement that has made him a National issue? Charles Winston Thompson is a Democrat and he lives at Tuskegee, Ala. He was born in Macon county, near Tuskegee, December 30, 1860; was educated in the common schools of the county, at the Park High School at Tuskegee, Ala., and at Bryant & Stratton's Business College at Louisville, Ky., graduating with first honor in 1878; married Miss Estelle Alley, daughter of William Alley, a prominent Republican, April 29, 1880; followed the mercantile business until 1893, when he organized the Bank of Tuskegee and was elected president, which position he now holds; in 1896 he was appointed by Governor Joseph F. Johnston as a member of his staff, as lieutenant-colonel and served in that capacity until the end of his term; is a member of the Methodist Church, a trustee of the Girls' Industrial School of Alabama, and a trustee of the Methodist District High School at Notasulga; in 1898 was unanimously chosen without opposition to represent the Twenty-sixth Senatorial District in the Senate of Alabama, where he made a magnificent reputation as a legislator and orator; in 1900 became a candidate against Col. Willis Brewer for the Congressional nomination from the Fifth District of Alabama, and after a most bitterly contested election was nominated by an overwhelming majority, and was elected to the Fifty-seventh Congress by a majority of 7,985 carrying all of the nine counties in the district except one, receiving 15,737 votes, to 7,782 for A. J. Millstead, Republican.

TRUE INWARDNESS OF THE MOVEMENT.
Able as men may be in point of energy, character and resource, frequently some single, unforeseen circumstance serves more than all else to bring them into universal prominence. It is a peculiar fact that notwithstanding his growing record in Congress and an unusually

MEN OF THE HOUR.



HON. CHARLES W. THOMPSON.

The Able Member of Congress From the Fifth District of Alabama.

brilliant career as a State legislator and business factor, Col. Thompson did not catch the aroma of real fame until in a spirit of chivalry, he extended an invitation to a number of his Northern colleagues and friends to join him in a tour of social enjoyment and inspection through the State of Alabama. Generous in all things himself and entertaining only the kindest sentiments toward the colored people with whom he had had large dealings, he felt keenly the shafts of bitterness that had been hurled at some portions of his native section. Possessed of liberal fortune, it was therefore but natural that he should seize a convenient opportunity to get together a coterie of Northern men who knew of the South only by hearsay and carry them into this interesting territory both as a means of recreation and to enable them to gain a first-hand reliable information concerning the conditions that obtain there—to study from observation and contact the actual relations that exist between the races. Though several measures of far reaching importance touching the status of the Negro and the South were pending in Congress no one who knows Col. Thompson as he is, will accredit to him any political motive in extending the invitation at the time he

did. He felt that it would subserve the interests of all concerned to throw as much light as possible upon this dark subject, and that the happiest way to secure information that would be free from partisan coloring would be to personally conduct a party of thoughtful Northern men through the typical section of the Southland in a semi-social way, and wholly uninfluenced by arguments from him, permit them to see with their own eyes both sides of the picture and to hear with their own ears the story of joy or sorrow from those who lived there. Col. Thompson's sole purpose was to bring out the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, hurt whom it may.

FOUND HIMSELF FAMOUS.

The ink was scarcely dry upon the cards, however, before throughout the North and in many circles of our people, a cry went up that the journey was simply a deep laid plot on the part of cunning Democrats to carry a car load of Republican leaders in Congress—like Mr. Littlefield and others—into the most disreputable haunts of the Negro in the black belt, point out to them the ignorance and degradation of the race and

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SOWING AND REAPING.

MAJOR DOUGLASS TELLS OF OUR HARVEST.

Young Men and Women of the Negro Race Excoriated for Lack of Enterprise and Self-Respect—Absurd Obssequiousness to Caucasians in Our Public Functions.

EDITOR OF THE COLORED AMERICAN:—
"What shall the harvest be?" This is the the race as it exists in Washington, and question propounded by you in regard to then follows a recital of some of the many grievances suffered by us at the hands of our white fellow citizens. In reading this leading editorial of yours, in your issue of last week, I could but feel a sense of shame for the shortcomings of my own people, for not one of the evils complained of by you, but what could be remedied by ourselves, had we the disposition to do so. It is one of the strongest arguments against our ability for self-government, that we, ninety thousand of us right here at the Nation's capital, are utterly dependent for everything we eat, drink, and wear, and for suitable places for entertainments, upon the white citizens of Washington. For our own sake I wish they would keep us out of every theatre in Washington, from pit to dome, and deny us the rental of a hall for our nightly balls, etc. All we seem to be able to do is to build churches and keep a large percentage of our people in alleys because of the heavy tax laid upon them to pay these enormous church debts, which, by the way, increase rather than diminish, notwithstanding the regular monthly "rally," which takes place every Sunday in scores of our churches. The harvest will be just what we sow: Jealousy, envy, discord, and a lack of self-respect. Take the Capital Savings Bank for instance, an institution of many years' standing, operated by men of our own race, and from the day it opened its doors, up to the present time, has been ready to meet all just demands by its depositors; and yet, though it is the only banking institution in Washington giving employment as cashiers, tellers, bookkeepers, and, in fact, every position requisite about a bank, to colored young men, still we find many of our colored school teachers, department clerks, messengers, and our moneyed men and benevolent associations, taking their funds to white banks where not one of their race could secure employment save as a scrub. In this discrimination the fault of the whites? "And why beholdest there the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?" No, Mr. Editor; turn your guns on the young Negro of to-day, who is having better opportunities for the development of responsibilities than any of us ever had heretofore.

The men who organized the Washing-

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