

The Colored American

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NOT AS A POLITICIAN

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON ADVISES AS AN EDUCATOR.

The Tuskegee Wizard Clings to His Life Work—Explains His Relationship to Public Men and Measures in the Light of Fundamental Principles—Advises Only When Asked.

Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 26.—The following letter has been received by The Age-Herald from Booker T. Washington:

"Editor The Age-Herald:
"I notice that recent newspaper articles have connected my name with political matters in such a manner as to show that my position is not understood. I desire therefore to make the following statement:

"My life work is the promotion of the education of my race. It is well known that I have always advised my people that it is of supreme importance, at this period of their development, that they should concentrate their thought and energy on the securing of homes, the cultivation of habits of thrift, economy, skill, intelligence, high moral character and the gaining of the respect and confidence of their neighbors white and black, both in the South and North. From such teaching and counsel no influence can ever divert me.

NOT A POLITICIAN.

"Whatever conferences I have had with the President or with any public official have grown out of my position, not as a politician, but as an educator. It should be borne in mind that there are about nine millions of Negroes in the United States who are liable under the law for taxes and military service and who are punishable for infraction of the law. These people at present have no member of their race in the national law-making body and it is right that those charged with making and executing the laws of the land should at times seek information directly from members of the Negro race when their interests and their relations with the whites among whom they live are concerned.

"Under no circumstances could I seek to promote political candidacies or volunteer information regarding men or measures, nor have I done so in the past; but because of the importance I have always sought to place upon education and industry among my people as the basis of friendly relations between the races there may be occasions in the future, as there have been in the past, when, if I am so requested, I can give information about men and measures which would tend to promote such friendly relations between the races. Such information it is my duty to give when it is asked for.

ADVICE TO HIS PEOPLE.

"At every opportunity I strive to the

MEN OF THE HOUR



PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT,

Representative of the Highest Type of American Statesmanship—His Vigorous Opposition to the Color Line in Politics Has Made Him the Idol of the Negro Race

youth of our people that they will make a mistake if they seek success in life by mere political activity or the hope of holding political office. Now and then, however, public questions affecting our interests arise which are so fundamental and far-reaching that they transcend the domain of politics. When such questions present themselves, in justice to my race, I make my position known and stand for what I see to be the right.

"We cannot elevate and make useful a race of people until there is held out to them the hope of reward for right living. Every revised constitution throughout the Southern States has put a premium upon intelligence, ownership of property, thrift and character.

"As an educator, and not as a politician, I strive in every honorable and rational way to encourage the wise and enduring progress of my people; for if all inspiration and hope of reward is to be denied them, they will be deprived of one of the greatest incentives to intelligence, industry and righteousness. On the other hand, if they are encouraged in sensible and conservative directions they will grow year by year into contentedness and added usefulness.

"BOOKER T. WASHINGTON."

SHOULD BE RETAINED.

POSTMASTER VICK A FAITHFUL PUBLIC OFFICIAL.

Endorsed by Republicans and Democrats Alike and His Course Approved by the Masses—His Retention Would be an Effective Blow to Lily-Whitism—Opinions of the Press.

Recognition for colored men in public life in the South is still the question of the hour. President Roosevelt has defined his position when it comes to character, merit and fitness for office. North Carolina is not only attracting attention from utterances of Senator Pritchard, but also from the fact that the question of re-appointing a colored man as Postmaster at Wilson, N. C. is under discussion.

Mr. Vick, the present Postmaster, represents the highest type of the educated Southern Negro. Like Dr. Booker T. Washington he has lived with and among the white people of the South and has always had and retains their respect and confidence. The white newspapers of North Carolina, democratic as well as republican, have been loud in their praise of his management of the Postoffice. The reappointment of Mr. Vick as Postmaster, at Wilson, by the Postmaster General, will be a re-assurance to the colored people not only of North Carolina but of the entire South, that the President's policy as outlined by him a few days ago, will be carried out in full in letter and in spirit.

Mr. Samuel H. Vick, M. V. P., was born in Nash county in 1863. Immediately after the civil war his parents moved to Wilson, N. C. He studied in the common schools of that town under Dr. J. C. Price. He entered Lincoln University in 1889 and graduated from that college with the degree of A. B. in 1894. Upon his return home he was elected a teacher in the graded school. After one year's service in that capacity he was elected to the principalship of the graded school and remained its principal four years. During these four years he prepared many young men and women to enter the various colleges of our land. Most of these have now graduated and are now holding places of honor and trust.

In the fall of 1889 he was appointed by President Harrison to the position of postmaster of Wilson. He held this position until 1894, when his successor, was appointed by President Cleveland. In April of 1894 the Presbytery of Cape Fear elected him the Sabbath School missionary for the Presbytery. He labored zealously in that cause organizing Sabbath Schools and teaching his people higher ideas of life. He had been appointed twice by the Governor of North Carolina to the position of Notary Public of Wilson county. In that capacity he served under both democrats and re-

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THANKSGIVING RECEPTION.

The cosy residence of Mrs. Belt, No. 933 New Hampshire Ave., was the scene of a brilliant reception, Thursday evening, Nov. 27th. The Ladies Auxiliary Club of the Monogram Social Club entertained the members and friends. Mr. William Wrack was the caterer and the sumptuous repast was enjoyed by the large company. Excellent music enlivened the occasion. Officers of Auxiliary: Mrs. Rosa Duffy, Vice President; Miss Ollie Jones, Secretary; Miss Lena Jackson, Treasurer; Miss Mable Fletcher, Sergeant-at-Arms.

The officers of the Monogram Club are:

Mr. Charles Harris, President; Wm. Mason, Vice President; Fred Smith, Secretary; Fred Watts, Treasurer; J. W. Clark, Corresponding Secretary; Wm. Mahoney, Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Manhattan Dancing Club had a most beautiful and brilliant entertainment at the New Masonic Hall, 19th street, northwest, on Thanksgiving night, with a matinee from 2 to 7 p. m., and a continuance from 8 p. m. to 2 a. m. This is one of the most popular organizations in the city. The names of its officers were given out in our last issue.