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PROGRESS OF A RACE.

DR. THOMAS DESCANTS ON RACE ACHIEVEMENTS

In a Public Letter he Tells the North Carolinians what the Negro has Done in Thirty Five Years of Freedom—He Favors Both Industrial and Higher Education.

Dr. C. O. H. Thomas, D. D., L. L. B., of Kinston, N. C., is a thoughtful race leader, courageous and competent to express his views in vigorous English. A recent expression from him in *The Post*, of Raleigh, N. C., is a conclusive argument against subordinating all higher education to industrial training. Dr. Thomas' article fairly bristles with statistics on race achievements. Here are a few of his nuggets:—

"When he was emancipated, 2,000,500 of that race, out of 4,000,000 were unable to read. Now, since we number 10,000,000, out of that number we have 6,500,000 that can read and write. He has reduced his illiteracy to forty-five per cent in thirty-five years. We number 40,000 that are attending the higher institutions of learning; 20,000 learning trades; 1,200 in classical courses; 2,200 in scientific and business courses; of graduates 17,000; books written, 400; attorney-at-law, 35; doctors, 450; value libraries, \$500,000; school property, \$12,000,000; of church property, \$37,000,000; farms, numbering 130,000, are valued at \$400,000,000; homes, 150,000, are valued at \$325,000,000; and pays taxes annually to the amount of \$365,000,000. All this has been accomplished since his emancipation. Has the Negro come up to the expectation of his friends and to the "idea" of educational progress? All must admit that he has done well; and his friends should not be ashamed of this portion of his record; and if he has any enemies, they too must admit that he has "fought a good fight," and won for himself and for his southern home a record of which he needeth not be ashamed.

"To give a race only a hand education would be to reduce it to a beast of burden. To deprive it of a mental and intellectual training, is to put such a race on a level with the brute; and to rob it of religious and christian education, is to transform it into a black and malignant devil. This is the logical sequence of what would become of the Negro, were he to be only educated as the above excerpt outlines. Such a state of affairs would cause men to lose reason and fly to brutish haunts. It would degrade our American civilization, especially in these southlands."

He has pronounced views on the subject of the kind of education the race needs and yet it will be noticed he does not antagonize industrial education. That has its proper place in the economy of our life and destiny. The race is certainly

MEN OF THE HOUR



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to be congratulated that it has such forceful, keen and ready leaders on guard and equipped to fight the common enemy.

Dr. Thomas, while a minister of God, and a man of affairs, both religious and secular, has found time to do homage to the muses. One of the most soulful of his poems is described as the Afro-American hymn or prayer from oppression. It was composed to be read at an emancipation celebration on January 1st last. Its concluding stanza is:

"May Thy rich grace abound,
Where'er our race is found,
The wide world o'er.
Then may our love to Thee,
Warm and continuous be,

With Christian loyalty,
Loving Thee more."

A Church clerk or trustee cannot be judged by his talk at the "class-meeting" or at his fervent prayers at the revival. Ask how his account stands at the grocery, at the newspaper office or how he lives up to his honest obligations.

While the colored editors are fighting among themselves, the Southern white press is molding sentiment; and enacting laws against the colored people.

The Liberian government has just given \$25,000 to foster commerce with this country.

HUMOROUS INCIDENTS

LAWYER WETMORE AND THE WIZARD AT GAINESVILLE.

An Overflow Meeting Greeted Dr. Washington in the Florida Town Where he was Enthusiastically Received—Both Races Well Represented—Notes of the Meeting.

Jacksonville, Fla., Special.—The County Superintendents of Public Instruction of the State of Florida, held a Convention at Gainesville, Florida, from the 3rd to the 6th of this month, and W. N. Sheats, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was President of said Convention. Mr. Sheats invited Booker T. Washington to visit Gainesville during the week of the Convention and deliver an address on Negro education, on the night of the 5th; and he also invited the leading Negro educators of the State to meet Mr. Washington, and discuss plans for improving the methods of teaching, and for prolonging the term of Negro schools throughout the state. The Gainesville newspapers announced that Mr. Washington had been invited to address the County Superintendents of Public Instruction, in the auditorium of the white public school of that city, and immediately Superintendent of Public Instruction, Holloway, of Alachua County, of which County Gainesville is the County site, published an article, in which he declared that Mr. Washington should not speak in the auditorium of the white public school while he was County Superintendent. This letter was published on Friday, Jan. 30th and caused quite a stir throughout the State; and every big (?) white man in Alachua County and the State of Florida, who is a political opponent of Mr. Sheats took this opportunity of denouncing him, and swearing vengeance against him for the insult that had been offered the "superior race," of which they were "leaders" (?). This agitation culminated in an indignation meeting on Monday night, the 2nd inst., at which meeting resolutions were passed sustaining the action of County Superintendent Holloway, and denouncing State Superintendent Sheats. While this meeting was in progress, Mr. Sheats was being denounced in vigorous language, he arrived in the city and went immediately to the place of meeting, and surprised his critics in the midst of their deliberations; and I am reliably informed that he made the "fur fly" for a few minutes; and that some of the things that were said on that occasion would not look well in a school reading book. Mr. Washington was expected to arrive on the 4th, but after hearing of all the excitement over his proposed visit, he did not leave Tuskegee on the 3rd as he had

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