

## The Passing Days.

Echoes from the Graduating Exercises of the Livingstone School of Dressmaking—"Observer" and Dr. Emerson Talk of the School and Race Possibilities.

This paper gave an elaborate account of the commencement exercises of the Livingstone Dressmaking School, which took place at the Asbury M. E. Church Thursday evening, June 18th, but the principal, Mrs. L. R. Clarke has received so many letters commending the school and its work, that space is given this week to two communications, one from "Observer," whose version of the meeting is very interesting, and whose conclusions are both logical and practical. Dr. Emerson's letter is equally strong and effective and the readers of The Colored American will find great interest not only in reading these articles, but in a study of the methods and teachings of the great school.

"Last Thursday evening at 8 p. m. a large audience gathered at Asbury M. E. Church to witness the commencement exercises of the Clark Dressmakers' Training School.

In these days when so many avenues for self support are being closed to our young men and women it behooves every thoughtful man and woman to search carefully for the cause and to work unceasingly until he successfully applies the remedy.



MRS. L. R. CLARK.

A certain commissioner in a speech famous because it cost him his reappointment, informed a committee of the U. S. Senate that there are "ninety thousand colored people" in the capital of this nation. Ninety thousand souls! Think of it! What an irresistible force that would be animated by a firm, common purpose and directed by intelligence and courage. Think you that anything outside of itself could overcome a similar force? There is no external power on earth that can prevent any human soul from succeeding; it is rather a lack of energy within himself that causes any individual to fail. What is true of an individual is true of a race.

And after all, it is the law of supply and demand which regulates what position any class of people shall occupy in this country. What the world wants is best work in every line of endeavor. The man who can supply that at the lowest figure consistent with the satisfaction of reasonably developed wants, is the man who will claim recognition everywhere, regardless of whether his skin is black, white, red or yellow. But it requires courage, patience and an unflinching faith in God and in the possibilities of a people, to enter an untried field and out of crude material produce finished workwomen. These qualities in the head of the establishment tell tremendously in the development of the Clark school a unique institution in the history of Washing-

ton. Thoroughness is the keynote here and no piece of work is too insignificant to demand its exercise.

Mrs. Clark is not only solving the race problem by giving practical demonstration of the way in which success attends the intelligent application of the law of supply and demand, but she is a real benefactress of her people to the extent that she is converting untrained hands into skilled workwomen and developing in her pupils real character and respect for their work and confidence in their ability to support themselves and help others by the practice of a useful trade.

The commencement exercises above referred to marked the completion of the course of study of class of 1902-03; the school, however, is open for the reception of students the year round.

OBSERVER.

And it is a Godsend that Mrs. Clark is so situated that she is able to keep this grand institution open the year round, as it meets the convenience of young women in all avocations of life.

Our women are no longer being relegated to the rear, but, on the contrary, are making rapid strides toward the front in this busy world for a livelihood. They have been pent up as so much latent energy, but now this energy, has become kinetic and has been let loose in an unlimited field.

The more Clarks, Washingtons and Chavis's we get the quicker the race will be recognized and felt as an important factor in this progressive age. Such men and women put their words into action, and do something that is tangible without indulging in so much abstract talk.

I think the motto of Mrs. Clark's graduating class was very appropriate: "We have more yet to learn." I might add here, and do, too that there is quite a large number of our educated young men and women in the already over-crowded cities (especially Washington, D. C.), going to seed, rotting out, who might scatter through different sections of the country and be a constituent element in the race's progress.

"We have more yet to learn." One need not go to the rural districts of Alabama nor the swamps of Mississippi to have that fact demonstrated, for we have it right here in Washington—the lap of Negro culture. I have observed just as much debauchery, superstition and downright ignorance here as in the whole of the cities of New York, Chicago, or the turpentine districts of North Carolina.

Another thing, among the thousands we must learn is, that Negro journals cannot run on "hot air," though they do it sometimes because the subscribers don't settle their bills. We must learn to do something tangible if no more than subscribe for a Negro paper and pay for it.

One word more in regard to Mrs. Clark's graduating exercise. The only objectionable feature was that Dr. J. D. Chavis' address was not heard by every Negro in Washington.

Yours for the cause,  
J. A. EMERSON.

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Rev. S. Geriah Lamkins, B. D., pastor of the Tenth Street Baptist Church, corner Tenth and R streets N. W., is feeling very cheerful over the happy condition of affairs of his church. The church finances are in good shape, the congregation is good and at perfect peace among themselves; a revival is in progress in spite of the heat. Dr. Carr, of Georgia, will preach Wednesday, July 15th, at 8 p. m.

## LOCALS.

Miss Georgia Savoy has resigned her position as organist of Israel Church.

Quite a number of Washington's elite are camping at Highland Beach and Arundel-on-the-Bay.

Mrs. Wm. H. McNeill, of Greensboro, N. C., is visiting Mrs. F. Douglass, 1720 Fourteenth street N. W.

Mr. Thomas Harris, of Richmond, Va., is spending a fortnight in this city on business and pleasure.

Mrs. A. T. Howard, of this city, is spending her vacation at Point Pleasant, N. J.

Mrs. Anna J. Cooper, principal of the M street high school, gave a most efficient talk before St. Mark's Union in Boston last Sunday.

Miss Mamie E. Lynch, of The Colored American, is spending a few weeks vacation in Philadelphia and Asbury Park.

Miss C. J. Shields of the Wilson School of this city, left last Tuesday to spend a few weeks in the mountains of Virginia.

It is announced that Mr. Frederick D. Jackson, of this city, is about to lead to the altar one of Boston's belles, Miss Julia M. Derby.

Misses Georgiana Simpson, Leberta Gray, Edith and Marie Wright and Etta Hunter, all of this city, have recently visited Boston.

Mrs. J. Q. Nicholas, of 408 Elm street N. W., is visiting her mother and friends in Tennessee and will be away until about October.

Lieut. James E. Matthews, a Spanish-American war veteran, now located in New York, is visiting his parents in this city.

In the recent promotions in the Washington city post-office, the names of Fred D. Henry and James T. Beason are among a number of other worthy colored employees.

Dr. George W. Richardson, Mr. Geo. W. Jackson and Mr. H. C. Tyson have richly deserved the advancement recently accorded to them in the office of the Auditor of the Post-Office Department.

Mr. C. J. Carroll, of Columbia, S. C., passed through the city last Thursday, on his way to Brooklyn, N. Y. He expects to spend a short while in this city before returning to his home.

Mr. and Mrs. Macauley Dorsey, of Baltimore, were guests on the 4th and last Sunday of Mrs. Mary Fleming, of Ivy City. A jolly party of friends helped them to while away the hours very pleasantly.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity has been conferred upon the Rev. Geo. F. Bragg, rector of St. James Church, Baltimore, Md., and editor of the Church Advocate, by Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio.

Several temperance meetings have in the vicinity of Twenty-first and E been held during the past two weeks streets N. W., by the Rev. Daniel L. Reed and Rev. Frank Washington. Much good is being done. Sinners gather in the meetings and ask the prayers of the righteous. There is a tremendous mission field right here in Washington.

The first grand annual picnic of the Citizens' Club will be given at Lakeview park, Friday, July 17th, from 4 until 12. The famous Monumental Orchestra, Prof. Chas. Hamilton, leader, will furnish music. C. E. Jones is president of the club, A. F. Jackson is vice-president, Miss M. E. Dunlap, secretary, R. H. W. Pinkett, corresponding secretary, Mrs. B. E. Jones, treasurer, and F. S. Coaplin sergeant-at-arms.

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