

MRS. M. C. TERRELL HONORED.

Colored Citizens of the District of Columbia Testify Their Appreciation of Her Worth.

Washington's Elite Turn Out in Large Numbers to Hear the Story of Her Trip to Berlin, Germany—A Feast of Reason and a Flow of Soul.

If Mrs. Mary Church Terrell had any doubt as to the high esteem in which she is held by the citizens of Washington, that doubt was removed last Wednesday evening, at the reception tendered her at the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church. When it was learned that she would soon return to the city from her trip abroad as delegate to the International Congress of Women, which met recently in Berlin, Germany, a movement was started by 100 of the leading colored citizens of the District, to tender her a grand public reception, to show in a public way their high and warm appreciation of the great honor she had done herself and the race while abroad. The associated press and the magazines and newspapers have already told the story of her triumph abroad, and it is only left to the citizens of her home city to acknowledge the same in a public way. Metropolitan A. M. E. Church which has the largest seating capacity of any church in the District of Columbia, was comfortably filled with representative men and women of the race who had come out to hear the story of her triumph, and to make her return home, welcome. The church was beautifully decorated an orchestra was secured and a most interesting program was rendered. It was as follows:

Master of ceremonies, Dr. J. R. Wilder; invocation, Rev. Sterling N. Brown; Introductory remarks, Dr. J. R. Wilder; addresses of welcome, Hon. John C. Dancy, and Miss Maria L. Jordan; Response, Mrs. Mary Church Terrell; Benediction, Rev. O. J. W. Scott; music for the occasion was furnished by the Invincible orchestra.

Dr. Wilder, in a few well-chosen words, gave the reasons for the occasion of the committee of one hundred in tendering the ovation to Mrs. Terrell. He spoke eloquently of the hardships and the impedimenta, and of the embarrassments that are met with by the colored citizens of this country on account of race prejudice, and spoke interestingly of the progress the race has made with these difficulties to compete with. He felt that since Mrs. Terrell had done so much in a strange land to bring credit to herself, and the ten millions of colored people in this country, that it was fitting indeed that such a public testimonial should be given her.

Hon. John C. Dancy, Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia, was at his best, and in a most grand-eloquent way told what the race had won through Mrs. Terrell's trip and triumph abroad. His address was frequently cheered and punctuated with applause. To Miss Maria Jordan was assigned the duty of speaking for the women, and she performed her part nobly and well. Briefly she rehearsed the work and progress of the women of the race for the past forty years, and told in chaste diction of

her long acquaintance and her incessant friendship and admiration for the host of the evening.

MRS. TERRELL'S ADDRESS.

Mrs. Terrell was then escorted to the front of the rostrum, by Dr. J. R. Wilder, but it was a few minutes before she could speak so thunderous and enthusiastic was the applause given her. Her response beggars description. It was only such a speech as Mary Church Terrell could deliver and for twenty minutes she charmed the audience with a pen picture of her trip abroad. She spoke without notes and had perfect command of herself. The Washington Post, speaking of her address, said:

"Mrs. Terrell said that it was only because she felt that she represented not only the Afro-American women, but the entire race, that she decided in the face of advice to the contrary to attempt to address that great body of intelligent and progressive women in German, and again in French.

"Mrs. Terrell is a Washingtonian by adoption and for several years was a member of the board of education. She is a graduate of Oberlin College, holding two degrees, A. B., and A. M., and has had the added advantage of thorough study in Paris, Berlin, and Florence.

"She was touched last night by the heartiness of the reception tendered her.

"When she stepped forward she was warmly greeted, and it was several moments before she could proceed. She began by giving credit to her parents for educating her and to her husband for enabling her to use her talents in behalf of the women of her race.

"Coming to the incidents of the convention in Berlin, she paid high tribute to the Germans, stating that she doubted that the women of any other nation in the world could arrange a meeting which would surpass that held in Berlin. She was the only representative of the African race at the Congress, and she declared that the courtesy accorded her was equal to that extended to any other delegate there. She was entertained at the home of one of the prominent families of Berlin. Her hostess gave her not a room, but a suite, with a maid to attend to her wants. She spoke of the courtesy of the Count von Buelow, Ambassador Charlemagne Tower, Princess Maria Rohan, and other notables. She praised particularly the Countess of Warwick, who was to have addressed the Congress, but was unable to attend. The countess left her country seat and went to London to receive Mrs. Terrell on her return from Berlin. Mrs. Terrell spoke at several places in London before sailing for the United States.

"She said that there was absolutely no prejudice against the colored people in France or Germany. In England, she said, there was a slight antipathy to the dark races, but no obstacles were thrown in the way of those who had high attainments. She declared that Europeans could not understand the prejudice and the oppression to which the colored race is subjected in America. She declared that they marvelled at the rapid progress made since freed from slavery.

"She said that she had made up her mind to devote the remainder of her

life to enlightening the people across the ocean on the progress of the Negro race. 'No people need ever despair,' she said, 'when their women are willing and active in trying to uplift the race.'

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