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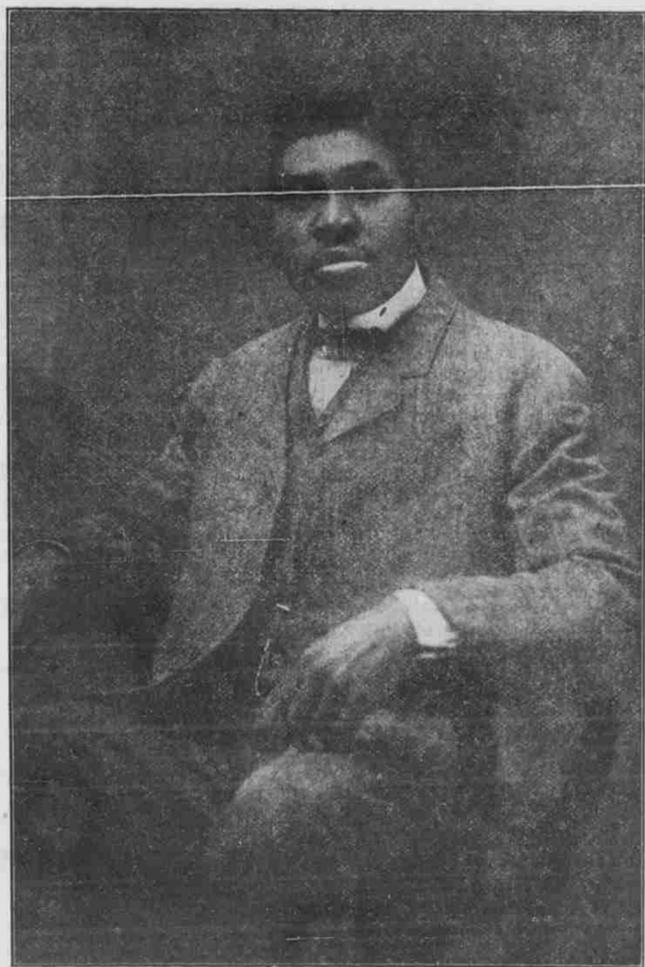
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### ST. JOHN A. M. E. CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The regular mid-week meeting of the Sunday-school of St. John A. M. E. Church was held on Wednesday night. The attendance showed a marked improvement over all previous occasions. Superintendent Hart went into the details of the plans he is attempting to

carry out. All present expressed themselves in hearty accord with the suggestions. Miss Lizzie Dickerson read a very interesting paper on "The Cross and Crown System." It was clearly shown by Miss Dickerson that this system is a great help in the Sunday-school. After the services were over all present had cream.

### BLIND TOM'S CHILDHOOD HOME DOWN IN GEORGIA.

Columbus, Ga., June 28.—The passing away of "Blind Tom," the eccentric Negro musical genius, whose wonderful imitative powers have been the marvel of the scientific world for the past half century, lends renewed interest to the scenes and incidents of his childhood. He was born on a plantation just a few miles from this city, the son of a slave. This city has produced many notable men, and it is rather remarkable that the native of Columbus whose name is best known throughout the civilized world was born a Negro slave, almost blind, and more than half idiotic.

"Blind Tom" was one of a family of twenty-one children, of whom only four are now living. The survivors are a good type of the ordinary Southern negro, and there is nothing about them to indicate that they are so closely related to one who was endowed with such wonderful powers. One of them is a janitor, another is a veteran livery stable employe, and the others hold menial positions. They haven't a particle of musical talent; in fact, they are not gifted in that particular as is the average negro, for all the music and melody of the whole family seems to have centered in "Blind Tom."

"Blind Tom" was in early years just like any other young slave child, only his condition in some respects was infinitely worse. He was almost wholly blind, and his talk was idiotic jabber without sense of reason, but all that time his wonderful brain was storing away records of sounds and impressions fully as accurate and almost as lasting as those which are preserved in the phonograph. In the parlor of Gen. Bethune, on whose place the boy was raised, there was a magnificent piano, and this was played very often by members of the family and visitors who were endowed with musical talent. The slave boy sat in the negro quarters and listened to the sounds of music that floated out on the summer breezes from the old Southern mansion. While there was on his face a half idiotic leer, yet the sound records were being registered in his brain. One day while the family was at dinner the little boy crawled into the parlor and climbed upon the stool. His fingers found their way to the keys and instinctively and intuitively he began to play, reproducing pieces that he had heard. The members of the family were astonished when they entered the parlor and found who the musician was.

It was in this strange fashion that the boy's genius became discovered, and it was not long before he was widely known as a musical prodigy. He was carried all over America and Europe, and his remarkable gift was a matter of supreme interest in both musical and scientific circles. He remained to the last the blind, half idiotic person that he was in childhood, but his genius abided with him until death came at the age of 65 years. He could not only reproduce faultlessly the most difficult pieces of music from the great composers, but could also repeat years afterward addresses that he had heard delivered in foreign languages, not a word of which he understood.

The great transformation that has come over the Southern States in an industrial way since "Blind Tom" was born in slavery in Georgia, is well illustrated by the changes that have occurred in the vicinity of his old home. A big railroad, now a part of the Southern Railway system, goes through the old Bethune place. Two or three miles away several large textile industries have been established. The birthplace of "Blind Tom" is not more than three miles from the Chattahoochee River, where the Columbus Power Company, proceeding with its plans to develop 100,000 horse-power, has already erected one large dam and is proceeding to build another of still greater proportion that will develop some 16,000 horse-power. The last years of "Blind Tom's" aged mother were spent in the suburbs of Columbus, and directly facing her home is a great industrial school built by this city as a part of its system for popular education which has attracted national and international attention. Columbus was a commercial town with only a few industries and catered almost entirely to the farming class at the time "Blind Tom" came into the world, and at the time of his death it has become one of the greatest industrial centers, not only in the South, but in the entire Nation.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION UNDERGOING REPAIRS.

On passing the Public Square one is met by a large pile of brick and lumber, and can hear a great rumbling for several blocks away. On investigation it will be discovered that the Publishing House of the A. M. E. Church Sunday School Union is undergoing some repairs. This was made necessary by an order from the city building inspector. It was discovered not long since that there was a great bulge in the west wall of the building, and the inspector considered it unsafe for occupancy, and ordered the wall torn down at once. Mr. Bryant, the Secretary, found himself in an awkward predicament. The busy season was

just setting in, and there was a probability that he would have to run night and day, and to begin tearing down the wall right at that time he realized to be no small undertaking. Yet it had to be done. So the contractors were called in and plans were devised whereby the repairing could be done and the regular work go on without interruption. Large timbers were secured and each floor securely braced from cellar to garret. So the work is not hindered as the building is made as secure as if it were a new structure out and out.

Mr. Bryant said to a Globe reporter that he hoped to have the job completed in a few weeks and to be running as usual. Said he: "When this wall is completed we will have one of the best buildings in the city, and I will not hesitate to place machinery on any floor in the building."

### FIVE-COURSE DINNER.

A dinner was given Sunday, June 28, at 2:30 p. m. by Mr. and Mrs. James E. Couch, in honor of Mrs. Harriet Campbell, of Nashville, at their residence, 3935 Fifth avenue, Chicago. Mrs. Couch was formerly Miss Lora L. Peyton, of Nashville.

The table was decorated with a handsome centerpiece of pansies, upon which stood a very beautiful floral decoration of carnations. The menu consisted of five courses. The guests were as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Owen of Chicago, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Shelton of St. Louis, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Peyton of Chicago, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Whorton of Chicago, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Simms, of Cincinnati, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Peyton and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel M. Black formerly of Nashville, Mr. C. R. Peyton of Nashville, Miss Olive Simms, Miss Gladys L. Peyton, Master Luther R. Peyton, Master John E. Hill of Antioch, Master Samuel E. Peyton of Chicago.

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Mrs. Hannah Caruthers, after spending several months with her daughter, Mrs. Cynthia Carter, of Branchville, Md., is in the city. Mrs. Caruthers is the sister of Mrs. Nellie Young, of Jefferson street.