

The Woman's Era.

Organ of The National Federation Afro-American Women.

VOL. III. NO. 2. BOSTON, MASS., JULY, 1896. PRICE 10 CENTS.

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The number of prosperous lawyers in Boston is the subject of remark. Edwin G. Walker is distinguished for being the oldest practitioner among the colored lawyers, and for bearing an honored name, his father having started the agitation that ended only in the abolition of slavery, by his "Walker's Appeal," the first published protest against that evil.



HARRIET TUBMAN.

WOMAN'S ERA EMINENT WOMEN SERIES.

It will be an inspiration for the rising generation to see and clasp hands with this noble mother in Israel! She has attained the advanced age of eighty years, and should God in his providence bless the efforts now being put forth toward having her present at the Convention in Washington, we hope our people will give her a true Chataquan welcome.

We hope to bring such great pressure to bear upon our great body of Afro-American women, that a great unrest will seize our women, that the cry, "What shall we do to elevate, purify and upbuild our race?" will burst spontaneously from thousands of earnest hearts, all over this land. All over our country, thousands of women are awakening to the fact that a new day is dawning for our people, and that a tidal wave of deep, heartfelt anxiety for better and purer homes,

healthier and better trained children, broader and more helpful educational and missionary work, is sweeping over the great body of Afro-American women. So at the very beginning of this new day let us all meet in the benign presence of this great leader, in days and actions that caused strong men to quail, this almost unknown, almost unsung "Black Joan of Arc."

The primary object of the Federation is to bring our women together. We owe it to our children to uncover from partial oblivion and unconscious indifference the great characters within our own ranks. The fact that we know so little that is creditable and truly noble about our own people constitutes one of the saddest and most humiliating phases of Afro-American life. Every woman who feels that is so, should rally now and aid the great cause.

VICTORIA EARLE.

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FEDERATION AFRO-AMERICAN WOMEN;
NINETEENTH STREET BAPTIST
CHURCH, WASHINGTON, D. C.

PROGRAM.

MONDAY, July 20, 9 A. M.

Formal Opening of the Convention.
Devotional Exercises.
Presentation of Credentials by delegates.
Fraternal Greetings.
Minutes of Organization of the National Federation of
Afro-American Women, Boston, July 31, 1895.
Reports from Clubs.
Appointment of Committees.
Music.
Adjournment until evening.
3 P. M.—Executive Committee meeting, not open to
the public.
7.30 P. M.—Devotional Exercises.
Grand Chorus of one hundred voices, Prof. J. T. Lay-
ton, director.
Address of Welcome on behalf of the Members of the
Church, Rev. Walter H. Brooks.
Address of Welcome to the city, Hon. John W. Ross,
President of the Board of Commissioners of the
District of Columbia.
Music, Capital City Orchestra, Mr. George E. Brown,
Leader.
Response, Mrs. Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, Boston.
Annual Address, Mrs. Booker T. Washington, Tuske-
gee, Ala.
Grand Chorus, Prof. J. T. Layton, director.
Short addresses by distinguished guests.

TUESDAY, July 21, 9 A. M.

Devotional Exercises.
General Topic, Philanthropic and Evangelical Work.
Fraternal Greetings from Various Societies, Religious
and Secular.
"Orphans and the Care of Them," Mrs. M. F. Pitts,
St. Louis Colored Orphan Asylum, St. Louis, Mo.
"Abandoned Waifs," Mrs. Carrie Steele Logan, Car-
rie Steele Orphanage, Atlanta, Ga.
"More Homes for Our Aged," Harriet Tubman, Har-
riet Tubman Home, Auburn, N. Y.
"Aged and Infirm," Mrs. Ann Hale, Hale Infirmary,
Montgomery, Ala.
"Mountain Women of Virginia," Miss Jennie Dean,
Founder Manassas Industrial School, Manassas,
Va.
"Rescue Work," Miss Sarah J. Thomas, Sarah
Thomas Home and Industrial School for Girls,
Macon, Ga.
"The Douglass Monument," Mrs. R. Jerome Jeffrey,
Rochester, N. Y.
3 P. M.—Devotional Exercises.

General Topic, Reformatory Work.

"John Brown," Mrs. T. H. Lyles, John Brown Me-
morial Association.
"Temperance," Mrs. Lucy B. Thurman, National
Superintendent W. C. T. U. work among Afro-
Americans.
"Reform," Mrs. Ida Wells Barnett, Chicago.
"The Separate Car System as it Affects the Dignity
of Afro-American Womanhood," Mrs. Lillian
Thomas Fox, Indianapolis, Ind.
"Prison Reform," Mrs. Marie S. Foster, Cambridge-
port, Mass.
"A Plea for a Reformatory," Miss Mamie Mason, At-
lanta, Ga.

7.30 P. M.—Devotional Exercises.

General Topic, Moral and Educational Work. "The
Necessity of a Course of Training for the Eleva-
tion and Improvement of Domestic Service," Mrs.
Fanny Jackson-Coppin, Philadelphia, Pa.
"Woman's Work," Mrs. B. K. Bruce, Washing-
ton, D. C.
"The Afro-American Child and Patriotism," Miss
Alice Ruth Moore, New Orleans, La.
"Defects in the Training of Colored Girls," Mrs. L.
B. Stephen's, Lynchburg, Va.
"The Ideal Home," Mrs. Frances Ellen Watkins
Harper, Philadelphia, Pa.
"Moral Influences," Miss K. N. Hughes, Somerville,
N. J.; Miss Elizabeth Smith, Boston, Mass.

WEDNESDAY, July 22, 9 A. M.

Devotional Exercises.

General Topic, Enterprising and Co-operative Work.
"The Great International Exposition to take
place in Paris 1900—the Part our Women should
take," Mrs. J. Napier Kemp, Mrs. Jasper Gibbs,
Minneapolis, Minn.
"A National Afro-American Woman's Paper," Mrs.
J. St. Pierre Ruffin.
"Plan for raising Money for the Support of a Na-
tional Afro-American Woman's Paper," Mrs.
Victoria Matthews, New York.
Discussion, open to delegates only.
3 P. M.—Devotional Exercises.
Election of Officers for Ensuing Year.
7.30 P. M.—General Topic, Organization. "The
Needed Woman of the 19th Century," Mrs. Sela-
na Butler, Atlanta, Ga.
"Our Country Women and Children," Miss Georgiana
Washington, Central Alabama.
"How Can the National Federation of Afro-American
Women be made to Serve the Best Interests and
Needs of Our Women?" Mrs. F. R. Ridley,
Massachusetts; Miss Mary V. Cook, Cane
Springs, Ky. Miss L. C. Carter, Massachusetts;
Mrs. Dillard, Selma, Ala.; Mrs. J. St. Pierre
Ruffin, Massachusetts; Mrs. R. E. Lawson,
Washington, D. C.; Mrs. V. Matthews, New
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 Music.
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NOTES AND COMMENTS

The WOMAN'S ERA has been kept alive only through courage and self sacrifice. It is now in its third year and speaks for itself. Every man and woman can judge whether there is need for such a paper and whether that need has been met with any degree of ability.

The N. F. A. A. W. takes especial pride in the conferring of a degree upon B. T. Washington by Harvard College. Through the president, the wife of Mr. Washington, some of the glory descends upon our organization.

The advertisements in the souvenir number of the ERA have more than the usual significance. A large number of our principal business men of the different cities are here represented. This is not the ordinary advertising scheme, but was designed for a business showing. Because of the limited time, the showing is not as representative as it might have been, and is, in fact, what might be called a sample only.

Never before in the history of our women has there been such deep and widespread interest in club work. The women of all sections have been aroused and are deeply concerned about the proper disposition of many questions bearing upon the practical upbuilding of character, and all that pertains to home. An effort has been made to bring to the front women who are not only doing good work along philanthropic lines, but those who have founded and maintained orphan asylums, homes and infirmaries for the aged, infirm and unfortunate. In this particular the program is most unique. It also calls attention to the fact that though the Afro-American is recorded as being the most religious of people, yet he does not provide systematically for the weak and erring of the racial family. The women are alive to this great failing, and will not rest until a rescue brigade shall have been inaugurated by black women, for the upbuilding of struggling human kind. The isolated log cabin women and children will have a place upon the program. This is as it should be, for until the masses of our

women know that there is such a thing as an Afro-American woman's organization anxious to better their condition, little good will result. The south has been well canvassed, and it is the aim of the National Federation of Afro-American Women to carry sympathy and enlightenment to the masses.

The National Virginia Baptist S. S. Union, with over a thousand members, will be represented by delegates. The True Reformers will be represented by the distinguished founder of the order, Mr. W. W. Browne. Mr. Browne and Harriet Tubman will be the romantic figures of the convention.

The Hon. John W. Ross, president of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, will deliver the address of welcome to delegates. In reply to an invitation presented him by Mrs. Rosetta Lawson, he wrote as follows:

MRS. JESSE RAWSON,
 2011 Vermont Ave., N.W., City.

Dear Madam:—I acknowledge with pleasure your courteous invitation to be present on the evening of the 20th of July, and make a short address of welcome to the national organization of women at the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church.

I appreciate this invitation very highly, and assure you that I will be present unless some unforeseen emergency will prevent.

Very respectfully,
 JOHN W. ROSS.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the assistance rendered our woman's cause by the Afro-American press throughout the country. Editors Fortune, Hagler and Cooper are especially to be commended.

The ministry, without regard to denominational lines, have been most responsive to our appeals, and we feel to extend in this way our warm thanks to them.

Carrie Steele Logan Orphanage of Atlanta, the St. Louis Colored Orphan's Home, the Hale Infirmary of Montgomery, Ala., the Jennie Thomas Home, for young girls, of Macon, Ga., are among the worthy institutions sending delegates to the convention.

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Miss Beatrice Sumner Thompson was born in Boston, Mass. In 1880 her parents moved West and settled in Denver. Miss Thompson graduated from the Denver High School at the age of seventeen, the youngest of a class of 75 members. In January, 1892, after much difficulty and discouragement, she secured a position in the county treasurer's office as general clerk. Since entering the office she has held the positions of filing clerk, corresponding clerk and in 1895 was promoted on merit to the position of assistant bookkeeper, which position she still holds. Notwithstanding changes in administrations, Miss Thompson has been successful in retaining her position with credit.

Miss Thompson is also accomplished, being a pianist and the possessor of a rich contralto voice.

CLUBDOM.

Among the notable clubs that have entered the Federation recently is the Richmond Club, which is composed of 250 women, with Mrs. Bowser as president.

The Twin City St. Paul and Minneapolis Woman's Era Club and the Phyllis Wheatley Club of Albuquerque, N. M., are among the latest to enter the Federation and show how interest is spreading geographically at least. The Twin City Club is unique; it is formed to support the ERA, one of the provisions of the constitution being that every signer must be a subscriber to our paper.

The many eastern women investors in the woman's mine, "The Bonita," will take an added interest in this woman's enterprise when it is known that Mrs. E. P. Ensley is now one of the directors of the business. Mrs. Ensley's well-known intelligence and business integrity being a guarantee to them of the watchful care she will take of the interest of investors. The following letter just received brings other good news besides Mrs. Ensley's selection to help direct a woman's enterprise that the ERA heartily endorses because it has confidence in the projectors of it.

"I was notified this morning by Mrs. Phelps, president of the Bonita (the woman's mine) that I have been appointed one of the directors in place of one who had moved away from Denver. She also showed me a letter from Mr. Phelps who personally superintends the mine, in which he stated that they are near the contact as it is called, will reach it this week and is sure that they are very near the mineral or ore body. There were two rich strikes in the camp quite near this last week.

E. P. ENSLEY."

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.

Why should we mourn
That thou art gathered to thy rest,
Thy work accomplished,
And in abundance blessed?
And full of years,
Which now may cease
At God's own fiat,
In the blessedness of peace?
No, let us lay
A fragrant blossom on the mound
Where thou dost sleep
Beneath the hallowed ground;
And breathe a prayer
That He who made thee not in vain —
The humble instrument —
Will take His own again,
And bid thee wake
From this thy last, and final sleep,
Where is no sorrow,
And where eyes may never weep.

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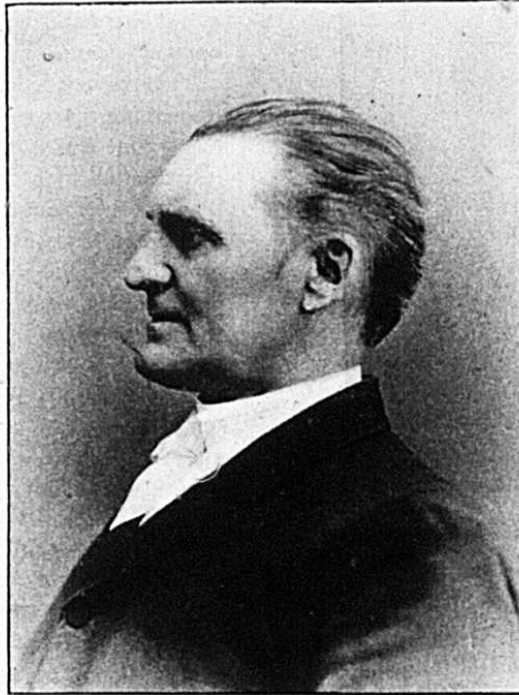
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DOCTOR TEED.

Dr. Teed, author of "Solution of the Race Problem," whose portrait is herein presented, was born in Delaware County, New York, in 1839.

He served eighteen months in the northern army, after which he practised his profession in Utica and subsequently in New York City. At Utica, in the winter of 1869, he projected what is known as the Koreshan System. This is a universal design, embracing physical science as a basis of social construction and government, with such an economic arrangement of society as to equitably distribute the products of industry.

Dr. Teed is a friend of the colored race, and includes in his system the purpose of insuring to the race all the rights to which they, as citizens, are entitled, both in the north and south. He has established a number of colonies, among which is one in South Florida, where he has gathered many believers. At Estero, Lee County, Florida, his colony has a saw and planing mill in operation, also a shingle mill, machine shops and ship yards.

They are developing on many lines of industry, and his intent is to place his colonists in all branches of industry. Their educational system is of the most advanced order. The colony in Florida is located beautifully on the mainland, and on the islands of Estero Bay, where climate, soil and latitude are in every way favorable to the project of building up a great commercio-maritime city. Judging from the progress already made, after an effort of only about two years in Estero, the indications point to the ultimate success of the doctor's plans; and his success implies a great advancement in the moral development, general education, practical mechanical application and social elevation of the people he desires to aid.

Dr. Teed is now visiting his people in Denver. Through his visits here and our acquaintance with his people we have been made somewhat familiar with him and his work.

E. P. E.



MR. J. H. LEWIS.

Mr. J. H. Lewis, whose advertisement appears in this issue of the ERA, hardly needs an introduction to our readers. His splendid tailoring establishment on Washington street, Boston, is one of the finest of its kind in the country, and has opened up business opportunities to numbers of colored boys. Mr. Lewis has the genius of business, and has proved that he can successfully run more than one large establishment at the same time.

"SOLUTION OF THE RACE PROBLEM."

The fact that the progressions of racial development depend upon ethnic filtration does not require argument to establish. The only question to the problem is, What are the physiological conditions essential to the amalgamation of the colored with the white races?

It is a commonly apprehended truth that in the mixing of the colored with the white blood there is a projective nonviability to progeny which militates against the possible transmission of a vital and viable stamina and that a strict fidelity to the laws of physiology precludes any conscientious effort towards the settlement of the racial problem by amalgamation.

The negro race is destined to take a most prominent part in the future civilizations of the world. Its animal viability is pronouncedly apparent, and the religious and emotional nature carries with it an enthusiasm of power and devo-

tion that scarcely has an equal among any of the nations of the earth.

While the religious principle is intense the moral character requires the discipline and development of culture and refinement.

This cannot come through example merely. Something must enter the race to impart to it a moral tone which it can only derive through the introduction of a force from a more advanced plane of development. As the blood of the Lord Jesus was transplanted in a spiritual way for the elevation of the character of those who received him, so the black race must receive in a natural way the essential force for its own elevation. In other words through ethnic filtration the black race must modify its complexion and ethnic character. This can be done only through the enforcement of a specific understanding and the application of definite principles.

These factors in the problem of ethnic development are extremely radical, so much so that it is very questionable whether the colored people themselves are prepared in any measure at present for suggestions in the direction of a scientific modification of the anatomical structure and thence an advancement in functional power and capacity.

The Jewish race owes its greatness to the application of the principle and ceremony of male circumcision. The present commercial nations of the world represented by the Anglo-Saxon, owe their commercial greatness to the fact that through ethnic infiltration the lost Israel was absorbed into Media, Persia and Assyria and thence produced the Germanic family the Anglo-Saxon being one of the principle lines of ethnic progress. The commercial greatness of the Anglo-Saxon comes directly from the Jewish male circumcision.

The coming infiltration of the black with the white will owe its possibility to the application of the principle and ceremony of female circumcision introduced as a scientific religious rite. The character of this ceremony must belong to a mind scientific enough to comprehend it in all its bearings upon female life and the progeny of miscegenation, as the intellectual prescience of the mind who ordered the enforcement of male circumcision comprehended that ritual in all its possibilities for the resurrection of the son of God in humanity. Had it not been for the circumcision of the Israelites the Christ could not have come to the world.

This paper is merely suggestive of racial possibilities. It may be influential in causing one man to think. The multitude is not yet sufficiently ripe to comprehend its force. DR. TEED.



SAMUEL E. COURTNEY.

(By courtesy of the *Boston Journal*.)

Doctor Courtney, who was brought into much prominence at the Republican convention at St. Louis, has recently graduated in medicine, and in the fair practice he has built up in Boston, is proving that it is possible to build up a successful business in Boston.

“The name of Harriet Tubman (and we say it advisedly and without exaggeration) deserves to be handed down to posterity side by side with the names of Joan of Arc, Grace Darling, and Florence Nightingale, for not one of these women has shown more courage and power of endurance in facing danger and death to relieve human suffering than has this woman in her heroic and successful endeavors to reach and save all whom she might of her oppressed and suffering race, and to pilot them from the land of bondage to the promised land of liberty. She has been a leader and deliverer unto hundreds of her people.

MRS. SARAH H. BRADFORD,

Author of the “Life of Harriet Tubman.”

[The thrillingly interesting article from the pen of Victoria Earl to which the above quotation is the introduction, came too late to appear this issue; it with some Tennessee centennial notes and other interesting matter must now go over for next month's ERA.]

Mr. U. A. Ridley is another of the successful merchant tailors of Boston. Mr. Ridley's business is of the quiet order, the patronage being almost entirely confined to a certain exclusive set.

THE POET.

No mighty deeds of fame
Are thy bequest,
But that thou gavest us
We prize not less.
Thy simple lays, thy cheering sympathy
And joyous smiles are to us
A gladsome memory.

Oft in our fancy pass
The by-gone hours,
Happy and fleet of wing,
As 'mid the bowers
Of life's Elysian fields again we stand,
The while thou singest to us
In tender, hopeful strain.

All restless sounds discordant
And turmoil wild
For us are hushed to silence
By thee beguiled;
And shadows change to sunshine at thy will.
Enchanted thus we linger,
And waking linger still.

And then, remembering,
We turn away
From flowery paths wherein
We fain would stray;
Slowly we turn to life's dull task again,
In fields where toiling ever
Brings weariness and pain.

But still within our souls
There lingers yet
Thy sweet, enchanting spell,
And we forget
Our task, while softly come the zephyrs blowing
The bird songs and the fragrance
From where thy sweets are growing.

Rosebuds of promise bright
Again we see
Blooming for dimpled hands;
Lilies of purity
For youth's inspiring; heartsease for those who
weep,
And grateful balm of healing
For sorrows sore and deep.

Ah, better then hath been
 This life of ours,
 Since we could stop our toil
 To cull the flowers
 That grew for us where thou, O poet sweet,
 By thy own restful paths
 Didst lead our weary feet.

IDA EVANS LUCKIE.



Mrs. T. H. LYLES,

NATIONAL PRESIDENT JOHN BROWN MONUMENT ASSO'N.

NOTES ON ADS.

Among our advertisers the younger business men of Boston make a good showing. Messrs. Baldwin and Dorsey conduct a real estate business that is complete and first class in every particular. The location, the office appointments, the handsome turnout of this establishment are all the subject of remark and speak for themselves.

Most of our readers have probably heard of the inventions of Mr. Joseph Lee. Mr. Lee is not only the prosperous proprietor of one of the finest suburban hotels of Massachusetts, but has greatly added to his fame and fortune by his bread-mixer and bread-comber. These machines which are not identical are his own inventions, and because of their practical value and adaptability are being called for by the leading hotels of the United States. (See ad.)

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The best known preventive to consumption is climate, and it is generally conceded that Colorado has the best anti-consumption climate in America.

Hundreds come every year to Denver, hoping to prolong life or regain health; many of them do so who would otherwise meet early death.

The climate of Denver, dry, pure and sunny, with its elevation of one mile above sea level, effectually cures all incipient lung diseases.

Therefore parents having children predisposed to lung trouble are advised to send them to Denver to pursue their studies.

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She will give special attention to home training and physical culture, particularly to chest expansion, diet and healthful dressing, while superintending their course at the public schools.

When private instruction is preferred the best teachers will be secured.

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Beginning with this issue of the ERA, we propose to publish a series of portraits of women distinguished for good works in any direction. At the end of the year subscribers will have a valuable picture gallery. Subscribe for the ERA at once if you would own the pictures and sketches of the lives of these eminent women.

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We can come to but one conclusion: Its wealth is limitless, and no more safe or profitable field for investment can be found.

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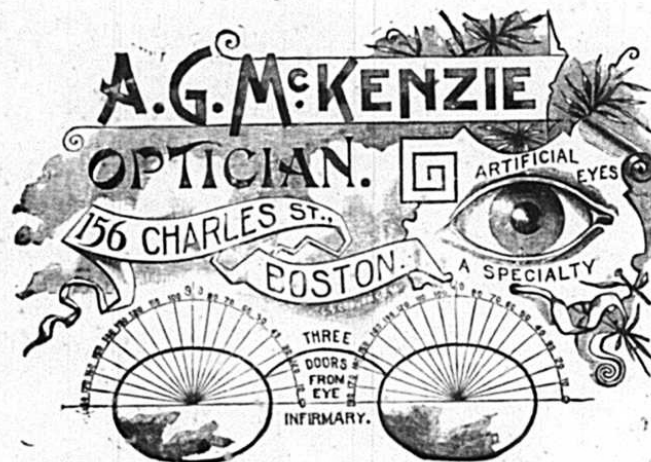
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The following extract is from editorial in the "Christian Witness" of September 3, 1891, by Rev. Dr. McDonald, editor:

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