

Our Women and Children

Conducted by Lucille Skaggs Edwards.

THE NEGRO AND THE FUTURE.

We profit by the past; in the present we strive to improve each opportunity for advancement, but the future—ah, there is the land of promise; the abiding place of fulfillment.

Judging from the past, and, too, the present, the cause of the Negro were sad indeed were it not for the ray of sunshine which optimism casts upon the pathway of the future. But to gain advancement the Negro must as an individual, compacted into the entity of a race, exert his part in the endeavors for human uplift. He must be ever alert to avail himself of each opportunity, recognizing that an opportunity allowed to slip from his grasp is gone forever.

The initial processes which must make for a better race, a more equitable distribution of the freedom of life, and the enjoyment of manhood, rests within the home. What brighter picture, what more convincing agency of worthiness can be viewed than a congenial happy home life, where the master of the house at the close of day gathers about him those of his household and in sincerity discusses the incidents of the day, dispels the little annoyances which come into the life of each member of the home, by intelligent and humane consideration of the incident in all of its phases.

The Negro is a much-organized race, but the organizations are not sufficiently effective; are not sufficiently far-reaching.

Community uplift is the first essential to betterment. In each community there should be a zealous band of workers whose aim is the betterment of home conditions: that means bringing the MOTHERS together in an organized body; advancing ideas for improvement in the care and upbringing of children, a broadening of the scope of individual usefulness, which can only mean A BETTER INDIVIDUAL, AND A BETTER COMMUNITY.

The Mothers' Club is an active auxiliary of the local branch of the Y. M. C. A. Only mothers are eligible to membership. Already much good work is accredited to their activity. Why not more such associations? Each community could well afford to be so represented, and the result—who knows how far-reaching?

Goodness radiates; is contagious, and like the yeast in the loaf leavens the whole body which comes in contact with it. Applied racially, it means an improvement in individual character and deportment. It means better boys and girls, a getting away from the roughness, the rowdiness which we see on the city streets, and as a reward it means a deeper, broader, more effective and sincere respect by our neighbors and fellow men.

The Negro of the future MUST be a better individual than the Negro of the past, or of the present. He must be an individual trained like a soldier to battle loyally for his human rights. He must be equipped with a working knowledge of the surrounding conditions. This knowledge he must apply to the solution of community problems. To do this he must get away from the apathy which is now so apparent. He must recognize his responsibility and must demonstrate by deeds that he is cognizant of the conditions and anxious to aid in any ef-

fort for improvement—in a word that he is a wide-awake man.

And the improvement must be effected first by the atmosphere of the home—the primary department in the great school of human life.

When this is accomplished then must come gradually, of course, the golden future of which we dream when manhood will be the basis of judgment, and justice without regard to race or color, the result.—Pittsburg Courier.

THE ENDLESS PROCESSION.

For ever and ever the train goes by—
The train of the marching years;
Sunshine and starbeam and cloud in
the sky,

And under them smiles and tears.
Never a pause, but on and on,
The grave years pass along,
With their battles lost and their victories won,
And their mighty, motley throng.

We stand on the place Today has
given,

To make or to mar our lot;
We may fill it up to the brim with
heaven,

Or blur it with stain and blot.
Bravely may toil for the good and
true,

Earnestly strive and pray;
But the good or the ill we all may do
Must be done in the span of Today.
—Margaret E. Sangster.

A SIMILE.

There is a good lesson for parents in this little story related by one of our German exchanges: A married couple had resolved to cultivate a little kitchen garden together. One bed was yet empty, and the man wishing to give his wife a pleasant surprise, secretly sows the bed with lettuce. Next day the wife goes with the same secrecy and plants beans in the same bed, which she thinks is empty. Afterward husband and wife continue to go to the bed alternately to weed it. The woman thinks the young lettuce is a weed and plucks it up; and the man treats the beans in the same way; so that in the end they have neither beans nor lettuce, and both are surprised and provoked. Even so it is the training of children when the mother permits what the father forbids, and the father by word or example destroys what the mother has planted.—Ex.

HOW THE WIND, MOON AND SUN WENT TO DINNER

(The following poem was composed by Mrs. Sarah Johnson-Sayles, who has recently made Omaha her home.)

The wind is a weird companion
To the tired and hungry sun,
And yet they dine together
After their work is done.

Although they both are hungry,
And they dine at the selfsame place,
One has a sad, weird, doleful tone,
The other a smiling face.

The moon dines with them also,
But is always a little late,
So the sun and wind feast together,
And on her never wait.

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