

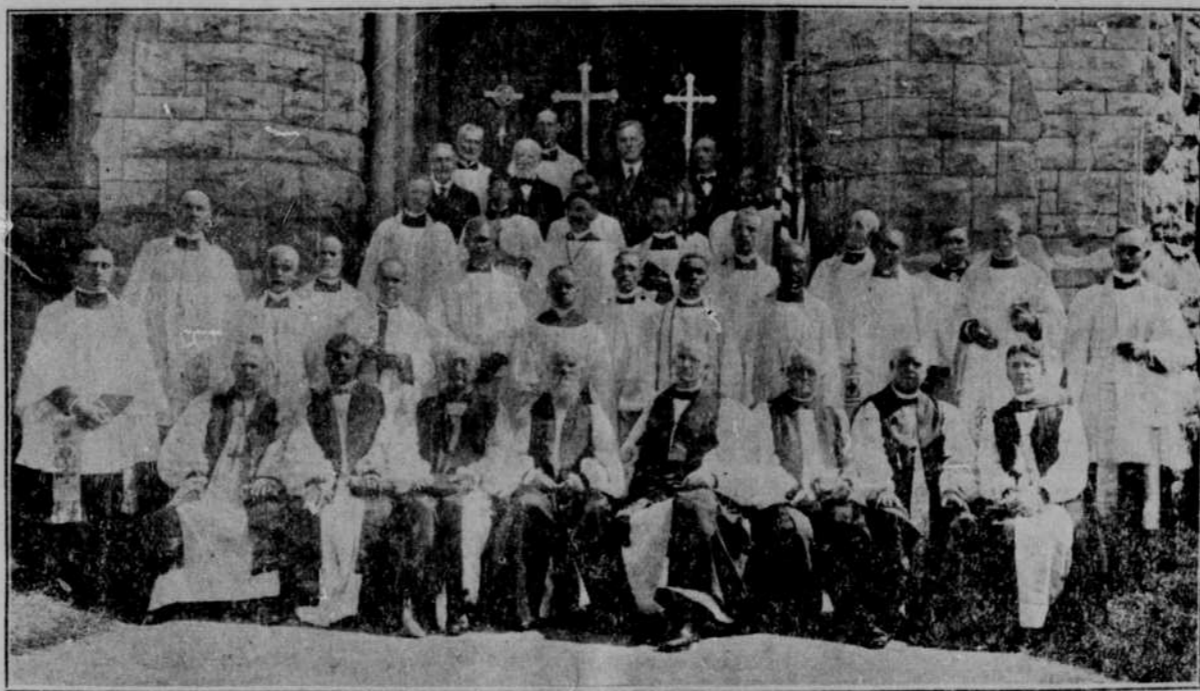
Facts of Our Race Progress Told in Type and in Pictures

LOOKING BACKWARDS OVER THE PAST HALF CENTURY

A Few Observations Touching Upon The Development And Progress Of The Colored American During The Past Fifty Years. By Major John Roy Lynch, U. S. A., Retired, Ex-Congressman And Author "Facts of Reconstruction."

No man of our time is better qualified to write on this topic than Major Lynch, whose long and unblemished public career reads almost like a fairy-land story, and should be a source of inspiration to our youth. Born a slave in Mississippi, by dint of industry he educated himself, and rose step by step, until he became a member of Congress, Auditor of the Navy, Major and Paymaster in the United States Army Over seventy years young he is active in good deeds and striving by voice and pen to advance the interest of his race. He is accounted one of Chicago's first citizens; but he belongs to the Nation.—The Editor.

ago. At that time it was a difficult matter for a Colored person to secure employment in any other capacity than that of a barber, porter, servant or common laborer. The mines, factories and other fields of employment were closed against them in all parts of the country. While it is true that these barriers have not been entirely eradicated, it can not be denied that they are being gradually removed, and in some localities rapidly removed. This, in my opinion, is a most hopeful and encouraging indication. It is a refutation, in a measure, at least, of the greatly accepted impression that race prejudice in this country is on the increase. The improvements herein referred to, are due, in the



Bishops and Clergy present at the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Edward Thomas Demby, D. D., in All Saints Episcopal Church, St. Louis, Mo., September 29, 1918. Bishop Demby was the first member of his race to be elevated to the Episcopate by the Episcopal Church for work in America. This event is therefore historic.

by men of education, culture and refinement. The newspapers published by Colored men reflect much credit upon the publishers and consequently the race with which they are identified.

It is the enjoyment of civil and political rights in which there has been retrogression, and yet the situation along this line is not as discouraging as many have been led to believe. The so-called race problem is more mythical than real and more political than racial. At the South it is a political question. At the North it is economic and industrial. For reasons already given I am satisfied it will soon cease to be a disturbing factor at the North. The same thing will be true of the South as soon as the masses of that section become more enlightened and more intelligent. Ignorance is the primary cause of the existence of such conditions. His racial identity is the only asset that an ignorant white man has. The office seeking demagogue, being alive to that fact, will not fail to magnify and inflate his importance in comparison with some well known Colored man of recognized ability and superior attainments, to the detriment of the Colored man, solely upon racial difference. This is what keeps the race issue alive at the South. Those who seek political distinction and official recognition find it to be their best paying political asset. This is especially true of those who are devoid of any personal merit. This is the source from which all of the excesses of that section springs, such as lynch-law, Jim Crow Carism and disfranchisement through a violation and evasion of the constitution and laws of the United States.

The ignorant white man is made to believe that these are necessary to keep the "Nigger in his place." These methods have been so successfully utilized at the South for a number of years that it was thought by many that they could be used advantageously in a National election, hence an effort was made in that direction in 1920. This, of course, was presuming upon the ignorance and prejudice of masses of the white people throughout the country. The result it is hoped, will prevent a repetition of such an experiment in the future.

Some white people of limited information profess to believe that if the Colored Americans are allowed to enjoy civil rights upon terms of equality with the whites the same will have a tendency to wipe out and destroy social distinction—in other words social equality. Of course, all intelligent persons know that there can be no such thing as social equality even among people of the same race and blood. It is impossible, for instance, for poverty and wealth, ignorance and intelligence, vice and virtue to mingle socially upon terms of equality. Social contact is always the result of mutual and reciprocal attachment, brought about through the voluntary action and selection of the persons concerned. In making these selections for social contact and association, it seldom happens that one will go outside of the race or group with which he is identified, whether he be a Hebrew, a Frenchman, a German, an Italian or an African. And yet, in the enjoyment of civil and political rights all of these races and groups are, or should be, equals. Under our form of government no social lines can be

drawn or recognized in the enjoyment of civil and political rights.

The fact that the Colored American of today is less docile and submissive when attacked than fifty years, or even twenty-five years ago, may account, in some measure for the impression that race prejudice is on the increase. As the Colored American expands and develops along lines of wealth and intelligence, the spirit of

tempt to take the law into their own hands, they will be supported and sustained by the public sentiment of the country, for it is undeniably true that the great masses of the American people, of all races and groups, are law abiding and law observing and will not sanction or approve of lawless methods for the accomplishment of any purpose or the attainment of any end. They are not always demonstrative. In fact,



COL. CHARLES YOUNG, U. S. A. (Ret.)

A West Point graduate with a distinguished career, now serving as military attache in Liberia. His retirement by President Wilson, at outbreak of World War when he was in line for brigadier general, caused intense indignation among the Colored Americans.

manhood and self-reliance grows in proportion, hence he appreciates more keenly, and values more highly, the sacredness and sanctity of his home and family, to defend which he is now willing, if necessary, to die. Of course no thoughtful and intelligent Colored persons will ever think of waging a war of retaliation and revenge, even upon those who seek to oppress them, or curtail their rights and privileges. This would not only be unwise, but disastrous. But in defending themselves and their homes and families against the aggressions and assaults of the criminals that at

a dozen criminals will attract more attention and get more notoriety than a thousand law-abiding citizens whose voice and influence can be heard and felt only at certain periods. But that silent and potential power will eventually be heard, and felt, and to some extent respected and obeyed.

The fact that such crimes can be so frequently committed is due primarily to some serious defects in our system of government. As a democratic-republic our government has not, as yet, passed the experimental stage, in spite of the many years of its existence. The original constitution was a compromise

between two antagonistic and conflicting schools—one contending for and insisting upon a strong central government, the other that the contemplated union should be composed of sovereign and independent states, whose right to become members of, remain in or withdraw from the union was to be optional. The final result was a compromise, and like all compromises, susceptible of different and conflicting interpretations. This finally desisted in the Civil War, which was believed, when it terminated, to have been a victory for National supremacy and a destruction, or at least a material and radical curtailment of the power and authority of the different states. But, unfortunately, the Supreme Court, in construing the War Amendments to the constitution and the legislation for their enforcement, construed them strictly, which had the effect of resuscitating the doctrine of states-rights, thus giving it renewed health, strength and vitality. This is the primary source of all our present domestic ills and misfortunes.

Every American citizen is presumed to owe paramount allegiance to the parent government, and yet that government, under the present construction of the constitution and laws, is powerless to protect any one of them against domestic violence. It may be conceded that the parent government has the constitutional authority to adopt the necessary measures to protect and perpetuate its own National existence, but if so that authority has never been exerted. The President and Senators and Representatives are presumed to be the chosen representatives of the masses of the people of the different states, and yet there is no federal machinery through which the choice of the people can be ascertained. The state machinery is not only utilized in National as well as state elections, but the State prescribes the qualifications of electors, subject to certain constitutional limitations, which limitations are, in some states, disregarded and ignored. Through the enforcement of such methods, two presidents, since the Civil War, Cleveland in 1884 and Wilson in 1916, were elected according to the forms of law who would have otherwise been defeated. Through the same methods the political complexion of several Congresses has been determined. These are grave and serious defects which should and eventually will be remedied. Already the tendencies are in the right direction. As the evils growing out of existing conditions become more apparent, public sentiment will eventually become fixed and crystallized in demanding that there be a stronger central government to insure the maintenance and perpetuation of our republican institutions. In the meantime let us be patient and cheerful. In politics let us be more patriotic than partisan. Let us, in cooperation with the whites who are in harmony with us, make National supremacy, civil and political rights, a square deal and fair play for every one, the vital and paramount questions, all others to be secondary and subordinate. Let us do all in our power to secure the election of those who may be in harmony with us, and defeat those who are not, regardless of their party affiliations. In this way we will be contributing to the creation of a popular sentiment which will result in the accomplishment of the purposes desired. JOHN R. LYNCH.

OVER BILLION DOLLARS INCREASE IN FARMS

Colored Farmers in Sixteen Southern States Add Almost Fabulous Sum of \$1,365,569,780 to Holdings in Lands and Buildings During Last Decade

In a release on June the 15th, from the agricultural department of the bureau of census, the colored farmers of the 16 southern states are shown to have increased their valuation on land and buildings in the ten-year period from 1910 to 1920, by \$1,365,569,780.00.

This report covers the entire number of farms owned, managed and rented by colored farmers. The total number is given as 920,976. Farms operated by colored tenants number 702,215, leaving 218,761 as owned.

In an interview with Mr. Chas. E. Hall who has charge of the section from which this release emanated, he said that he found the value of owned farms, by colored people, to be about one-fourth of the total. Using these figures then, we have the increased valuation of actual property owned in the 16 southern states, about \$559,765,697.50 or nearly 200 per cent in the ten-year period.

From 1900 to 1910 there was an increase in number of farms of 21,669. During 1910 to 1920 there was an increase of only 6,484 farms owned. This was caused by and is one of the lessons of, the great migration from the south during the war period for seven of the 16 states actually lost 30,222 farms operated by colored farmers. Alabama was the heaviest loser with 15,137 less than in 1910. Mississippi was second and Florida third. The total number owned and rented, increased 40,152. The total acreage increased by 62,567 acres; the improved land increased by 335,963 acres.

While Georgia ranks first in acreage, Mississippi ranks first in number of farms and in valuation, and Virginia takes first place in number owned by colored farmers. The total number operated by colored farmers and their valuation are as follows:

| | | |
|---------------|---------|---------------|
| Mississippi | 161,001 | \$402,438,836 |
| Georgia | 130,176 | 322,755,409 |
| S. Carolina | 109,105 | 292,703,775 |
| Texas | 78,664 | 227,757,850 |
| N. Carolina | 74,849 | 223,666,166 |
| Arkansas | 72,275 | 195,837,739 |
| Alabama | 95,200 | 116,894,016 |
| Louisiana | 62,036 | 107,615,718 |
| Virginia | 47,690 | 101,218,768 |
| Tennessee | 38,181 | 90,427,645 |
| Oklahoma | 18,737 | 77,853,160 |
| Kentucky | 12,624 | 36,067,878 |
| Maryland | 6,208 | 21,651,121 |
| Florida | 12,954 | 17,561,378 |
| Delaware | 872 | 2,885,445 |
| West Virginia | 504 | 1,727,890 |

Total 920,976 \$2,239,062,790
The total acreage operated is 41,346,943 acres.

This is a remarkable showing in number of farms operated, in acres controlled and in valuation of property actually under colored farmers' control, as owners and tenants. This shows that the production of the south is practically in the hands of colored people.



MAJOR JOHN ROY LYNCH, U. S. A. (retired).

I am requested to submit a few observations touching upon the development and progress of the Colored American during the past fifty years.

The subject is too comprehensive to be presented with any degree of elaboration through the medium of a brief newspaper article.

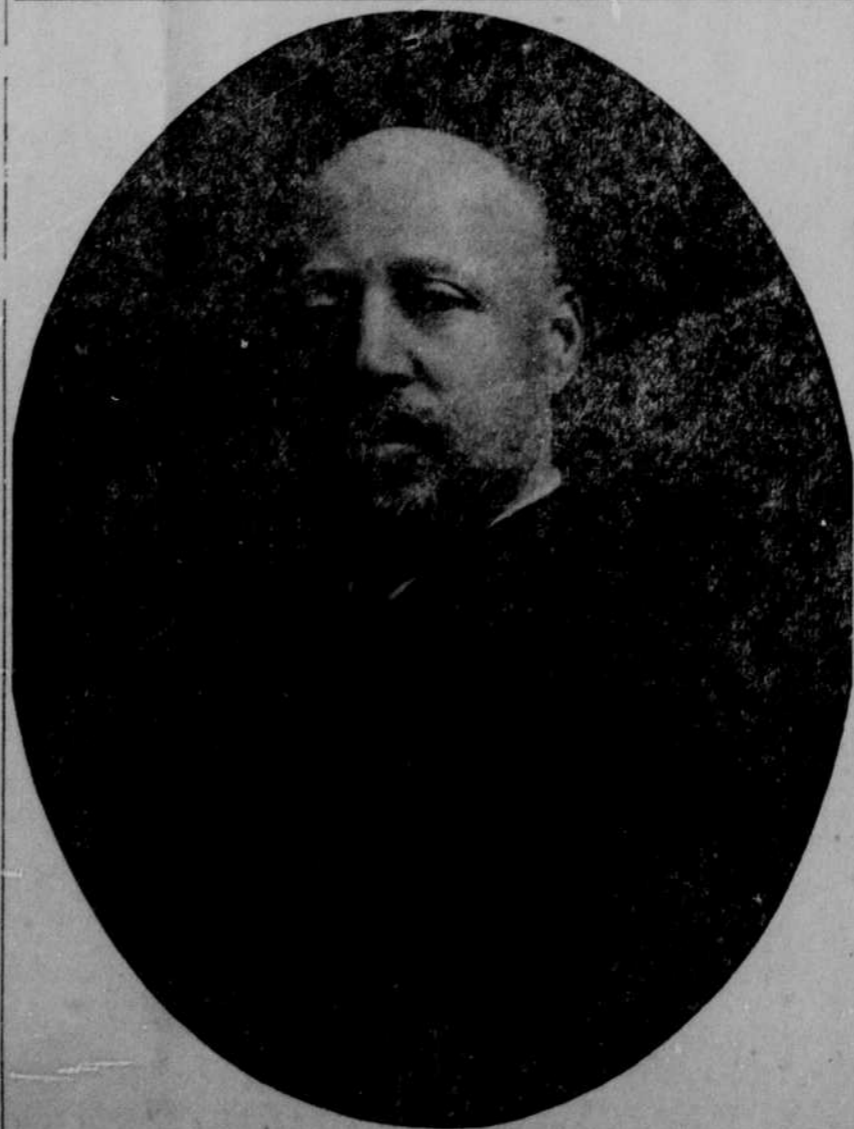
The numerical growth and expansion of the race must not be overlooked since that is one of the contributing factors in its development along other lines. I can distinctly remember that about fifty years ago the prediction was frequently made by many whose knowledge of vital questions no one disputed, that in about fifty years the colored or African race in the United States would be practically extinct because the deaths were so far in excess of the births, and very few additions were made to the population through immigration. These predictions have not been verified. Instead of falling off in numbers it is safe to assert that there are not less than ten millions more Colored Americans now living upon American soil than fifty years ago, and this exclusive of many thousands that have crossed the line—that have been merged into and absorbed by the Caucasian race. This process of absorption is not wholly through racial amalgamation, but is largely the result of other causes to which I have given careful consideration and serious reflection, and which I hope to be able to place before the public in the course of time.

Along industrial lines our progress has been wonderful and marvelous. It is safe to assert that there is more wealth among the Colored people of the city of Chicago today than was possessed by the more than four millions of Colored Americans fifty years

ago. At that time it was a difficult matter for a Colored person to secure employment in any other capacity than that of a barber, porter, servant or common laborer. The mines, factories and other fields of employment were closed against them in all parts of the country. While it is true that these barriers have not been entirely eradicated, it can not be denied that they are being gradually removed, and in some localities rapidly removed. This, in my opinion, is a most hopeful and encouraging indication. It is a refutation, in a measure, at least, of the greatly accepted impression that race prejudice in this country is on the increase. The improvements herein referred to, are due, in the

main, to the action of many labor unions in wiping out the race or color line in their organizations. For the accomplishment of these purposes and the attainment of these ends I have advised the Colored American laboring men to join labor unions whenever and wherever it is possible for them to do so, not because I endorse everything that labor unions do, but because I want the Colored laborer to be the equal of the white laborer—because I want the laborers of both races to represent the same standard of wages and labor—that whatever an employer may be obliged to pay a white man, he should not be able to secure the services of a Colored man of equal skill, ability and experience for any less. This will do away with much of the friction which is attributed to race prejudice, for it is an admitted fact that most of the local outbreaks attributed to race antagonism are due, in the main, to an impression that the Colored man stands for and represents a different and lower standard of labor and wages than the white man. Such outbreaks are liable to occur from time to time as long as there is any foundation of ground for such an impression. The sooner it is removed the better it will be for the peace and tranquility of the country and for the stability and maintenance of our institutions.

Then again, fifty years ago we had very few if any employers of labor, and those who were engaged in the various professions were few and far between. Now, many millions of dollars are disbursed annually by Colored employers, and as to the professions, we have men and women who are the equals of the finest, best and most skilled among the whites. Our pulpits, as a rule, are now occupied



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