

The New Man; His Thoughts



THE artist sketches for you the **NEW MAN**. It is that man made over by times and circumstances.

He seems to live in the first hour of realization. The old man has been put off. It was a man of pleasure, false hopes, of faith that time would make everything right without struggle.

The new man knows better. He began to read, **THINK, UNDERSTAND.**

It is an old world in which he lives. It is a **NEW** life into which he comes.

The Race itself will become new with the New Man. It will catch onto itself and stir for better days when the New Man is ready.

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Back through American history we find **MEN** who had thought, power of expression, who could see; **DID** see.

Before Douglass there were learned men, writers, great speakers. Douglass came on and eclipsed them all through his brilliance, but **MORE** through his personality.

Douglass was the first **SLAVE** to get a hearing. Free Negroes were plentiful everywhere in the free country.

They, too, were **NEW MEN**. They had free thoughts, and spoke with vehemence against servitude.

In letters they had a name. But the Anti-Slavery society failed to find among them what it wanted.

Up came Douglass. He was exactly the man **NEEDED.**

He had known bondage; was born into it. He had been whipped, beaten.

He had been sold around like an animal. He had **ESCAPED** from slavery.

He had genius. The power of speech was his. Above all he had **UNDERSTANDING.**

He was the **NEW MAN.**

From him **FREEDOM** for the slave sprang.

But before him were men of large vision, themselves free, but unable to set others free.

Douglass could help set **OTHERS FREE.**

This **NEW MAN** we see in the lines of the artist takes on resolution from the experiences of Douglass.

While Douglass was not stout enough to follow Brown he was brave enough to throw off compromise.

He knew nothing of apology. **"I AM A MAN,"** was his motto. He lived up to it.

He showed it. He demonstrated it. **HE PROVED IT.**

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The New Man among us has been torn since the World war by inward agitation.

Great thoughts have been his, but often he has thrown them off because he could not contain them.

But he sees now with the **NAKED EYE.**

The doctrines of convenient philosophy he finds to be good reading but poor guide.

He had to go back to the fundamentals.

What are the fundamentals? These are they: **LABOR, ENDURANCE, SACRIFICE, PERSEVERANCE,** and, above all, **SELF-RESPECT.**

Reading discloses to him that 50 years ago his fathers had these virtues, stood on them, achieved through them and made the only history **WE CAN READ WITH PRIDE.**

History is made up of **MEN IN ACTION.**

Thought without action, resolution without the **COURAGE** to go out under it, is reading, often good reading, but it is **NEVER HISTORY.** The **NEW MAN**, poring over books, **THINKING NOW**, begins to realize the condition in which he finds himself.

For 25 years he has heard the old folks say **"IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT."**

Teachers have spoken to him of great men, but few teachers have told him of a Race made great **AFTER** slavery by sitting down waiting for time to roll around.

This New Man has been born from within. Examples of achievement **WITHIN** his Race are recent.

They are in the history of **CHURCH AND STATE.**

The bitter pen of criticism aimed at men high in the church are dedicated to an overturn of the sanctuary, but if it would compare the men of renown who have served us from the tabernacle with **ANY** men who have worn the robes of faith it would be seen that we had no reason to be ashamed.

What prelate was ever greater than Daniel A. Payne? Who was more saintly than Isaac Lane, living and preaching at 95? Was there ever any evangel more sweeping than Hood, or who is to be put above Simmons and Morris?

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The New Man will think of **GAINS** and what is still to be gained, not of **LOSING** and **LOSSES** sustained.

What we have lost is measure of what is to be recovered. What we had indicates what will again be possessed.

This is the work of the **NEW MAN.**

This is the work of the Negro, the New Man, able to perceive the Constitution **THROUGH ITS VIOLATION**, able to grapple with the spirit of government through knowledge of its **BETTER.**

He is able to judge distance by a former travel and find the way by paths already used.

The New Man will put **LIBERTY** first in earthly possessions. With that all things else he adds, one by one. Without that, he has nothing to which he may add **ANY** achievement.

Without **LIBERTY** education is misery, religion an evening mockery, wealth an empty possession and culture the pomp of vanity.

This is the New Man; these his thoughts.

Who is this New Man? He is bright with the polish of experience. He is better schooled in the training of oppressive days. He is bright of eye because his eyes must be quick under attacks withstood daily.

He has heart because it remained with him under the bludgeonings of a tyranny that works in merciless schedule.

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The New Man is not one, but many. He is seen rising South, East, West and North.

He is searching the records for deeds of his kind who captured freedom in the closing hours of bondage and lost it under the onslaught of oppression which had the support of hands, of hearts **THAT YESTERDAY WERE ITS FOES.**

The New Man will come with the **SPIRIT** of man. Nothing else matters. Nothing else counts.

Lands, buildings, temples, wealth, culture, books though rich with phrases that conquer imagination and create the craft of learning in a world of knowledge, sails and plows, waving corn, cotton, orchards bearing the fruits of all climes—these are not to be considered by the **NEW MAN** if what is in his mind will **LIVE IN ACTION.**

Who is this New Man? He it is that fears no jeopardy, who can distinguish clouds from skies, can separate wheat from chaff, can look into the hearts of men, and who are not ashamed of themselves.

He is sufficient within himself. Such a day as this he knows will never come again.

Such a cause as his are given to man once or twice in ages. The **NEW WORLD** waits on the New Negro—the **NEW MAN**—created in his own **depair.**