

All about the back door was a wilderness of blue succory, on which flocks of yellow birds came to feed daily for several weeks in July and August. Scattered here and there among the succory plants, an evening primrose grew, tall and queenly, opening her pale yellow flowers which perfumed the evening air as the sun went down, and attracted the night-flying moths and the belated bees, homeward bound.

My bed of wild ferns was even more successful than the flower-garden, for it required less care and the deaths which occurred in it were exceedingly rare. The ostrich ferns grew in beautiful vase-shape to a height of two feet and over, but I never succeeded in inducing one to fruit under cultivation. (Its fruit is shaped like a curled ostrich-tip of rich brown, from which it derives its name.)

The maidenhair and two other little ferns, which are rare in Massachusetts, were brought from the heart of the

White Mountains. The cinnamon, royal, rock, and Christmas ferns all grew luxuriantly. The two latter are evergreen, and their verdant fronds may often be seen waving above the snow.

The botrychium, named from the similarity of its fruit to a bunch of grapes, has very handsome fronds, shading from palest green to rich bronze. It has often borne its clusters of tiny grapes in my garden.

The fronds of the sensitive fern have an infinite variety of forms, and it is very interesting to cultivate. The dainty little ebony-stemmed spleenworts will live one season, and if kept in the house during the winter sometimes live for two years.

On the approach of winter it is best to cover all the more delicate ferns with straw and leaves. If one has a little spare ground and is a lover of flowers, he will find himself fully repaid by cultivating the wild plants which take his fancy.

THE COLORED WOMAN OF TO-DAY

SOME NOTABLE TYPES OF THE PRESENT GENERATION IN AMERICA

By Fannie Barrier Williams



HERE is something very interesting and wonderfully hopeful in the development of the woman side of the colored race in this country, yet no

women amongst us are so little known as the thousands of bright, alert, cultured, and gracious colored women of to-day.

A little over a century ago colored women had no social status, and indeed only thirty years ago the term "womanhood" was not large enough in this Christian republic to include any woman of African descent. No one knew her, no one was interested in her. Her birthright was

supposed to be all the social evils that had been the dismal heritage of her race for two centuries. This is still the popular verdict to an astounding degree in all parts of our country. A



Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams.



Mrs. Josephine Bartlett, Chicago.

national habit is not easily cured, and the habit of the American people, who indiscriminately place all colored women on the lowest social levels in this country, has tended to obscure from view and popular favor some of the most interesting women in the land.

But in spite of these prejudicial hindrances and a lack of confidence the young colored women of this generation are emerging from obscurity in many interesting ways that will happily surprise those who have never known them by their womanly qualities and graceful accomplishments. Such women seem to have no relationship to the slavery conditions of the yesterday of history. In a surprisingly brief period of time they have been completely lifted out of the past by the Americanism which transforms and moulds into higher forms all who come under the spell of American free institutions.

It should also be noted that the thousands of cultured and delightfully useful women of the colored race who are worth knowing and who are prepared to co-operate with white women in all good efforts, are simply up-to-date new women in the best sense of that much-abused term. If there be one virtue that is conspicuous in the characters of

these women it is the passion to be useful and active in everything that befits high-minded and cultivated women.

It can also be said that they stand for something higher than mere social aims. Society there is, and much of it, but there is in all the graces and accomplishments that make good society something better than mere exchange of courtesies and formalities.

That they appreciate the value of culture and intelligence is shown in the ever-increasing number of young women who are graduates of those universities and professional institutions whose doors are open wide enough to include all women, regardless of color. Not a few of them are found in the institutions and studios of Europe, pursuing special courses of all kinds. There are few professions or callings to which women of special intelligence are eligible into which colored young women are not winning their way in spite of the paganish prejudice that would restrict their ambitions. In fact, to know these women of a new race, aspiring, buoyant, and achieving, gives one a happy sense of interest in them and what they typify.

The group of women whose faces are here given aptly illustrate all that has been said. They are merely representa-



Miss Ida Platt, Lawyer, of Chicago.

tive and not difficult to duplicate hundreds of times. If the "new woman" has appeared in the colored race, these young women are fair types of that class. They have all won their independence in the world of effort, competition, and achievement.

That there are intellectual and gracious young women, like Dr. Harriet Rice and Dr. Ida Gray Nelson, of Chicago, with diplomas from Wellesley and Ann Arbor, respectively, pursuing the professions of medicine and dentistry successfully, are facts scarcely believed by those who still insist upon the hopeless inferiority of the Negro race.

Miss Ida Platt, also of Chicago, is a rather unique personality, because of her mental versatility. Either as lawyer, linguist, musician, or stenographer, she is exceptionally qualified to follow law, music, or stenography as a profession.

The employment of Miss Josephine Bartlett in one of the largest business



Miss Helene Abbott, Teacher of Kindergarten, St. Louis.



Ida Gray Nelson, Dentist, Chicago.

houses in Chicago, where only the best intelligence in her profession as stenographer is tolerated, is interesting chiefly from the fact that it is next to impossible for colored young women to obtain such employment in this free America. In nothing is the color-line so relentlessly drawn as it is against the employment of accomplished young colored women in the higher grades of occupations.

School-teaching has afforded the best field for young colored women. That profession has laid requisition upon the very best women of the race, and they in return have elevated the profession by a great variety of accomplishments. It is easy to find these young women capable of teaching everything that comes within the curriculum of the best American institutions. Miss Hel-



Miss Alice Ruth Moore, New Orleans.

ene Abbott, of the St. Louis schools, is an interesting type of the young women who bring to the colored schools of the country everything that is best in modern pedagogy. Her specialty is kin-



Miss Minnie Mitchell, Teacher, St. Louis High School.

dergarten work, and she is the efficient assistant of Mrs. Haide Campbell, who is herself a woman of rare social accomplishments, and who has done more than any other colored woman in the country to develop the kindergarten system in public schools. These two progressive women have charge of a model kindergarten school at the Tennessee Exposition.

Miss Alice Ruth Moore and Miss Emma Rose Williams are fair types of the New Orleans Creoles, who are classed



Miss Emma Rose Williams, Teacher, New Orleans.

among the colored people. Whatever is best and distinctive in the Creole life of Louisiana is reflected in these young women. Their French is as musical and their personality quite as charming and attractive as the best Creole types, around which have clustered so much delightful romance and poetry. Miss Williams is one of the prized teachers in the public schools of New Orleans. Miss Moore is now pursuing a special course of study in Boston. She is a little woman of many accomplishments. She is not only a bright and racy newspaper correspondent, but has published a book of delightful sketches and charming bits of poetry. Miss Mitchell is teacher of Latin and higher English in

the St. Louis High School, and is a graduate of Oberlin College.

The Provident Hospital and Training-School for Nurses in Chicago is the first institution in the country to open up a new field of employment for young colored women. It has graduated several classes, and they have met with remarkable success. Miss Belle Garnett is one of the most promising graduates of the institution. For some time she was assistant superintendent of the training-school. Aside from her profession, she is a young woman whose rare qualities of character make her typical of the highest ideals of womanhood in the colored race.

Perhaps in no other city are there so many accomplished and efficient colored women as in Washington, D. C. The public schools and the Government departments give employment to a large number. The higher social life among the colored



Miss Lulu Love, Teacher of Physical Culture, Washington.

people of Washington is a most gratifying study and reveals much that is best in the race. Art-clubs, Shakespeare circles, folk-lore societies, and other organizations aiming at mental and social refinements and culture are a distinguishing feature of Washington life. Within the last two years this spirit of organization among the women has broadened out into clubs and leagues, with the stronger purposes of affecting helpfully the social condition of the more unfortunate of the colored race. A federation of clubs has been formed having a truly national character.

Enough has been said, perhaps, to show that colored women are proving themselves in every way to be women of spirit and progressiveness. They are fully alive to their responsibilities and have already advanced far beyond their opportunities. The types here shown are merely representative of a large class of women who are a beautiful fulfilment of the prophecy that out of the social disorders of a bonded race there shall arise a womanhood strong, spirited, and chaste in all the things that make for social uplifting and refinement.



Miss Belle Garnett, Training School for Nurses, Chicago.

LINDY'S RECOMPENSE *

A TALE OF THE NEW SOUTH

By Frederic W. Pangborn

"Our personality, preferences, and prejudices are largely the result of our breeding, education, and environment. We are often what society makes us."

"Yo' black nigger, yo'! Take that fo' yo' impudence!" said Celeste, in a frenzy of rage, as she struck the woman across the face with her gloved hand. "I'll teach yo' better'n set yo'self up 'bove nice col'd folk!" And, before the astounded victim of her anger could speak, she stalked from the room and down the stairs to the street.

Celeste was very proud and haughty. And naturally so. Born of that most unfortunate of mixed races, a people of whose ancestors it has been sadly said that they were most unhappy of all men, because they despised their mothers and hated their fathers, she was like all her fellows in her pride—too good for black folk and just as good as white ones. She was accustomed to exclusion from the society of white people. That had always been her lot; but it had never been so painful as to be unbearable, because among her own people she found congenial equals, and because she knew that she really was the peer of these white folk in all respects. Moreover, in point of physical endowments she knew that she was superior to most of them. For Celeste was a very beautiful woman, and beauty is a power which asserts itself despite all prejudice. So with all the pride of her training she held her own successfully among the whites, and none had ever offered her an open affront. In fact, they generally treated her, when necessity brought them in contact with her, as one of themselves, and the restriction against her on account of her taint of color was more a shadow than a substance. Still it was there, and at times she felt it. But her pride was not lowered by it. On the contrary, it was intensified; for she knew that she was really a handsomer, richer, better educated and more ac-

complished woman than the average of her blond-skinned neighbors, while in colored society she was almost a queen. Celeste, in brief, belonged to that small class of Americans who are known as the "high colored set," and who are as strongly intrenched in the fortress of their class pride as any other select circle in the land. Tall and shapely, with hands and feet that a French belle might envy, a clear brunette face of gentle contour, orbs such as Homer gives to his "Ox-Eyed Juno," hair a long, wavy, silky black, and that accent peculiar to people of the far South—a European would have named her "the beautiful American;" northerners would have called her "a lovely southerner," and only the southern expert would have noted that she bore on her person the stamp that once marked the slave.

Celeste had borne the covert slights of the high whites without much caring about them, but this—this outrage from a black woman, and a tradeswoman at that—it was really unbearable. And the cruelest feature of it all was that its actuating motive lay at the door of those whom she could not despise—the white people. She had gone to "Madam Brown," the hair-dresser, to have her hair arranged for a reception which was to be given that night. Madam Brown was considered the best hair-dresser in the city, and had built up quite a business among the wealthy classes, but Celeste had never patronized her, because her old attendant had always pleased her with his work. He had died recently, however, so Celeste had been compelled to go out to have her hair fixed, and naturally she thought of Madam Brown's establishment. Madam Brown was a dark mulatto (back-bred, as the saying is) and quite black, and when Celeste sought the shop she had mis-

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