

THERE IS A "NEW NEGRO"

Editor of the Defender: Please publish this in your paper. In your issue of April 30 W. S. Turner declared that there was no such thing as a "New Negro." Being a young man, seeking knowledge and vocational training and other things which tend to unlift the Negro, offered by various college and universities, I cannot and will not agree with Mr. Turner.

Mr. Turner told us the history of our lives. He also told us our standing and our place in the world. We know that we are hated by the other races. We know of the hatred and the malice which exist throughout the South as well as in the North. In fact, we are aware of everything that Mr. Turner has told us. If the Negro of today is not new, then tell us, what is he? If Mr. Turner will remember, it has only been a fraction over fifty years that the Negro took off the yoke of slavery. Considering the time he has been free and further considering the opposition he had to face, he has made more progress than any race on the globe.

Mr. Turner should remember that it is not the height to which one has ascended but the depth from which he came. The Negro has risen from the depth of slavery to the height of progress and opportunity, and he is still progressing.

We would like to know just what Mr. Turner would call new. Any people that is keeping pace with the present time, any people that is helping to make this world a better place in which to live, any people that has developed financially as well as mentally, any people that has ideas, new and far different from his brother of fifty years ago, must be new and we term him as a "New Negro."

De Hart Hubbard proved that a "New Negro" does exist by being the champion broad jumper and by being able to compete or take a part in the Olympic games. When an athlete has the ability to take part in the Olympic games he considers this a high honor. It is the highest honor that can come to an athlete, because in an Olympic game one is able to compete with men of all races.

Our own Robert S. Abbott also made known to the world that the "New Negro" now exists by publishing the paper of papers, The Chicago Defender. What Negro sixty years ago was able financially and mentally to own and publish a journal half as good as the Defender? What Negro sixty years ago was able to own and operate a bank? What Negro sixty years ago could occupy the seat of Prof. Kelly Miller? What Negro of sixty years ago could take the seat of Bishop Archibald J. Carey as civil service examiner of Chicago? What Negro sixty years ago could stand in the shoes of Attorney N. K. McGill or his famous brother of Jacksonville, Attorney S. D. McGill?

We would be very grateful to Mr. Turner if he would tell us something that we did not know, as he told us of the difficulties the Negro has to face and of the hatred and malice, and the many other things space will not permit me to mention. Though all of these things we know are true, this does not prove that there is no such thing as "New Negro." Therefore I disagree with Mr. Turner. If the Negro is not new with all the progress he has made since taking off the yoke of slavery, then pray tell us when will he be new.

FREDDIE FAGAN.

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