

Kelly Miller Scores "Lang" Hughes' Story

Labels Writer "New Negro" With Little Patience; Not Justified

Langston Hughes' broadside against college graduates has brought forth a salvo of criticism from Kelly Miller. Hughes recently contributed an article to the Crisis Magazine in which he declared that Negro colleges in America are turning out a crop of cowards.

In reply Kelly Miller in part writes: "Langston Hughes belongs to the New Negro who feels restive under restraints which race prejudice makes inevitable. They have little patience with and no tolerance for the spirit of long suffering and endurance which the white friend sought to promote on part of Negro leadership. He would take up arms against a sea of troubles, and by opposing end them.

"The Negro intelligentsia has not yet justified itself. They have more wisdom than understanding, more passion than power. They criticize without creating; they destroy, but cannot construct. They have intellectual pertness without originality. They fill the air with speeches against the iniquities of existing conditions without formulating remedial programs of practical action.....

"The college-bred Negro to-day who is lifting his voice in loud protest against the traditional place which is marked out for him by the whites incurs disfavor of the college which educated him. Langston Hughes is persona non grata to Lincoln University, Carl H. Murphy to Howard University, DuBois to Fisk, Pickens to Talladega and Trotter to Harvard. The Negro colleges have their important sphere and function, but if we look to them for encouragement of downright dynamic and heroic leadership, we look in vain."

—NEGRO COUNCILMAN—