

NEEDLESS ALARM.

Recently many eminent speakers and writers are manifesting needless alarm respecting the future of the Negro race in this country.

The social, the industrial and the political interests of the race are not, in as great a plight as some are painting the conditions. It is very true that the social status of the Negro is not what it should be, yet this phase of his life is being rapidly improved. Crude forms are giving place to those of more culture and refinement. Wherever the Negro is found this statement can be easily verified.

The greatest alarm is found among the politicians. This too is needless. The political side of the Negro is being developed by a high class of leaders who are laying a firm foundation upon which to build a glorious future. The new political leaders found in the race are better prepared intellectually to grasp the situation than the old pioneers. The lettered and the unskilful leaders who dragged the race into many disastrous difficulties are being relegated. The untrained leaders during the period immediately following the civil war by indiscreet utterances and imprudent deeds retarded in a great degree the internal political development of the race. But the new leadership represented in our graded educators, thrifty business men, trained mechanics and eloquent Christian ministers is rich in capacities.

It can also be said of the great mass of the race in this country that they are in a native capacity scarcely found among any other people. There is no room for despair. The Negro has long been the mainstay of the South and will be for many years to come. The new Negro is not only a man of brawn but also of brain. He is learning to apply brain to matters. While he has not learned thoroughly, yet the achievement accomplished is a conclusive sign of what the future may be. An ignorant, idle and vicious citizenship is being supplanted by one of culture, industry and refinement. The faithful minister, teachers and professional men of other callings have not labored in vain. The Negro press has become a mighty power in developing things. The marvelous uplift of the race has been accomplished. The Negro is now a constructive element in the development of this country.

The body politic is feeling the impulse of his soul. In peace and in war in education and religion he is found in the front rank striving for the uplift of humanity. It was once thought by some that the Negro would not stand in the crisis. There is very little wavering on the part of the heroic leaders. In the face of the trying struggles of the present they are courageously but discretely meeting the trying struggles of the present. There is a growing demand for trained farm hands everywhere. The industrial schools for the Negro are turning out by the score trained intelligent men. Wonderful possibilities are in the young men who come from those institutions designed for the training of the head, the heart and the hand.

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