

## The Old-Time Negro.

Editor Constitution--No one who read in Sunday's Constitution the story of how faithfully old Edmund Parker guarded the tomb of George Washington for sixty-two years, and how it is now being guarded by old Tom Bushrod, could fail to be moved with a thought of regret that these types of the negro race are fast passing away, and the world will never see their like again.

The former having belonged to the Washington family, was tried and true and well might he be trusted. The latter belonged to the Fitzhughs and the Lees, who were closely related to the Washingtons, and it is safe to say that either of these two faithful old servants would have cheerfully laid down their lives for their masters or their families.

In this connection I am reminded of a visit in 1897 to "The Hermitage," the home of Andrew Jackson, in Tennessee. There, too, may be found one of the faithful servants of the old time guarding his master's grave and tomb. "Uncle Alf," as he is familiarly known, is by this time, if living, ninety-six years old and was General Jackson's trusted servant all his life, and now the old negro has a comfortable home and is kept by the Hermitage Association to watch the tomb of his illustrious master, and when "Uncle Alf" dies he will be laid to rest very near the grave of Andrew Jackson.

Such noble characters were the products of slavery, and their lives have typified the peculiar attachment and tender love that always existed between the kind master and faithful servant. I repeat, the world will never see their like again, because it is impossible to mold and develop such characters in this day of small politics and mistaken system of education, both of which seem especially designed to please the "free nigger."

When Bishop Turner said in The Constitution the other day that the new "white blood" is the cause of the growing prejudice between the races he ought to have said that it is the new "negro blood" growing up and taught to disregard that respect that characterized the old-time negroes for a race that has always been and always will be superior. It is their total disregard for the respect and courtesy due from the negro race to the white race, and the insolent conduct of those who are taught in this same misguided and mistaken system of education to hate their white friends. I say, it is this that is causing more of race prejudice than any and all other causes together, and it is this that is causing the dark clouds to gather over the future of the negro race in this country.

K. A. NISBET.

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