

# and WHAT THEY THINK-Ed

## WOMAN'S PART IN BUILDING NATIONHOOD

By SAYDEE E. PARHAM

It is an indisputable fact that woman has long been contributing to the world's achievement. We do not have to refer to history to prove this. It is generally known. Woman has influence for good or evil, and it is far-reaching. Angels have no such influence on men as women. Don't be discouraged because you have not been endowed with certain powers, but use the greatest gift of all, and that is your influence. God has meant you for some special work. Find it. When you yield, it is at the cost of influence, and men have no respect for women easily swayed and bent.

So today we women of the Negro race, having seen the accomplishment of the world, not without woman's aid and efficient direction, must be imbued with a feeling and desire to act our part on this great worldly stage. We have a task to perform, a task which no other human being but ourselves is entitled and fitted to perform, a task which when performed will entitle us to stand on the pinnacle of our government. But unless we begin now and accomplish this task, we can sincerely hope for naught in our government. We can hope for no eminent position in the administration of our government—a place which we conceive rightly belongs to us. And so, women of the Negro race, I am appealing to you with all my heart, with all my soul, to take your individual stand, to fit yourselves in your respective stations in life, to take an active part in the administration of your government, in politics, and in the community in which you live, so that womanhood can be maintained at its maximum.

Now is the time as never before for woman to assist in carrying on the task of building a nation for the betterment and advancement of the other members of her race. She has heard the call for nationhood and is prepared to answer it. With her intellect she is prepared to guide, direct and encourage her people onward until we shall have a free and redeemed Africa. It is truly said that no nation can rise higher than its women.

Woman is responsible for all of the great things done and accomplished. By this I mean that her far-reaching influence begins at the cradle. Before the birth of her offspring her lofty ideals and ambitions become a part of the future citizen. After the birth of the child the expression of those ideals makes its impression indelibly on the nascent mind. As the child grows the impression becomes deeper and its youthful mind begins to understand and visualize these great things. Later in life, guided and inspired by the mother, who with her lynx eyes looks far into the future and causes it to see the great things to be achieved, that same child thinks and plans for the better times to come. He sees in the far distance the time when in truth all mankind will be free from the bonds of political and industrial slavery; the time when it will no longer be impossible for man to rise because of race, color or previous condition of servitude; the time when we shall be free from lynchings and burnings and unjust government. Such visions emanated from the brain of our forefathers and thus today we are looking forward to the day when we shall have a government of our own, whose far-reaching influence will

stretch her protecting arms to the four corners of the earth, wherever her children may be found; a government under whose just ruling and conditions men may be able to advance the economic conditions of their present and future generations.

These lofty ideals of women have made men see the possibility of having steamship lines and international trade commerce. They have made men see the necessity of self-government under which they can be assured of fair play and impartial justice; a government under which there is a bond of sympathy and fellowship between all men; a government under which all men are truly equal.

Truly, with such ideals the day is not far hence when Ethiopia shall stretch forth her hands unto God. The day is not far hence when Africa shall rise in all her glory and splendor and give out to the world a nation highly respected throughout its limits because of her governmental, industrial, commercial and cultural achievements.

Her sons and daughters shall sing praises unto God for His manifold blessings and shall eternally praise the mothers who, even when suffering the persecutions of slavery, had the vision of the great day that is soon to become a reality. For, after all, nationhood is the only means by which people are prepared for the creation of their own particular civilization and the advancement and glory of their own race.

So, today, our women are continuing to instill in their children's minds these ideals and are encouraging their sons and husbands to go onward and upward until the goal is reached. Women, we must not falter; we must not fail in this great struggle, for the light of victory is in sight, and it is up to us to aid and encourage our men so that they may not become weary

and fall by the wayside. Victory is at hand. It is up to our women to think, suggest and plan for our future. Back up our men in these great undertakings; give them your aid and encouragement. They must not fail, for should failure come it would be an eternal stigma and disgrace upon our womanhood and future generations. The program of the Universal Negro Improvement Association cannot be successfully put over without your assistance. You dare not fail.

When Africa shall take her seat in the great League of Nations of the world, then we shall have everlasting peace, the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God.

## 135th St. Library Notes

Forum:—Professor Franz Boas, of Columbia University, will speak before the Forum on Wednesday evening, November 19. His subject will be "What Is a Race." Watch this column for further speakers.

New books:—"Redcliff," a novel by Eden Phillpotts, about the country he loves, Devonshire.

"Race hygiene and heredity," translation of a work of significance on the physical aspects of race.

"Cyclopedia of pastoral methods," an invaluable book for ministers.

"The Gallants," another fascinating story by E. Barrington.

"The tattooed countess," by Carl Van Vechten, sophisticated and amusing.

"Italian silhouettes," a book of delightful essays on the great literary people of modern Italy.

"Napoleon," a new and challenging biography of the great Frenchman, by a countryman, Elie Faure.

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## DEATH OF MRS. HEARD WIFE OF BISHOP

A Poet and Musician, the  
Of a Distinguished Husband  
On Three Continents as Bis  
Diplomat

By THE BETHEL NEWS-ER  
PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Oct.  
of the most impressive funeral  
held in this city for a long time  
that of Mrs. Josephine Delph  
derson Heard, the wife of Bishop  
Heard, of the A. M. E. Church  
in Philadelphia. Mrs. Heard  
at 12:40 p. m., Tuesday, Oct.  
1924. The funeral was held at  
today. Notable churchmen cat  
far and near, in spite of the ve  
notice. Bishops John Albert J  
of Philadelphia; John Hurst, o  
more, and L. N. Rosa, of Was

D. C., came to mourn with their  
league, Bishop Heard, and said a  
private words eulogistic of Mrs. J  
at the funeral.

General officers of the church  
ent were: Rev. B. M. Baxter,  
ager of the A. M. E. Book Con  
Dr. R. R. Wright, Jr., editor o  
Christian Recorder; Prof. Joh  
Hawkins, financial secretary, V  
ington, D. C. More than a hundre  
fifty ministers attended, represent  
African Methodist, A. M. E. Ep  
tist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian  
other churches. Physicians, bu  
men, school teachers and a he  
others paid their last tribute o  
spect to the Bishop's dead wife.  
dreds of letters and telegrams w  
ceived and scores of floral off  
were sent to the church. In ev  
the fact that the funeral serv  
at midday, Bethel Church, the h  
A. M. E. auditorium in the city  
filled.

Mrs. Heard was born Octob  
1864, in Salisbury, N. C., and com  
at the age of seventeen. She m  
Rev. W. H. Heard in 1882, and fol  
him in the ministry from the b  
mission preacher to the bishopric  
church. In her day she was a  
educated woman, having studi  
Scotia Seminary, North Carolina  
taught school in Claflin Univers  
Orangeburg, S. C., and also at l  
Brown College, Atlanta, Ga. Sh  
a musician and a poet, having co  
uted many songs and poems to  
church periodicals and being the  
of some of the music in the A.  
Church hymnal. Her book of  
entitled "Morning Glories," is  
regarded by critics. Mrs. Heard  
with her husband as missionar  
Africa and served in his work in  
rovia and Sierra Leone. She  
crossed the ocean eight times,  
last trip abroad was with her hu