

# The New Negro Citizen

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Bobbie was an observant little gentleman, wise for his age for I must admit that the gentleman had spent most of the six years of his busy life in investigating the why and wherefore of things.

Now Bobbie had spent much time watching a huge python (about ready to shed the old epidermis) as the reptile lay coiled in a corner of the cage at the Zoo. Dull in color with lusterless scales covered eyes the huge reptile was always a source of wonder for Bobbie.

On one of Bobbie's periodic visits to the Zoo, he was startled and puzzled to find, instead of the old dull colored reptile, a bright eyed serpent, decorated with bright orange, black and gold intricate design hanging from a perch within the cage. Nearby lay a parchment-like replica of a serpent.

As soon as the surprised Bobbie could speak he cried "Oh Look at the pretty new snake!"

Now friend reader, you and I know that there was no new python in the cage. It was the same old python divested of the old outer skin that was no longer either adequate or useful. The scale that formed the lens for the eyes had become an opaque shield resulting in blindness.

When we speak of the New Negro Citizen we are perhaps making the same mistake that Bobbie made, for the Citizenship of the Negro dates from the day of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 14th and 15th amendments. What we truly mean, then, is to refer to the Negro Citizen who is slowly but surely divesting himself of the old blinding social, economic and political skin that has colored his racial experience ever since the first slave set foot on American soil.

The Negro Citizen may be said to be new because in a large measure he is less controlled by tradition and antique prejudice than he was even ten years ago.

The intelligent Race Citizen is now actuated and motivated by the same keen sense of social and economic status that directs the political trend of all intelligent Americans.

This consciousness of political freedom is evidence of complete emancipation. Therefore the Negro citizen will, in this and all future American political campaigns, be regarded as a factor worthy of consideration.

In the old days when a man was labeled a member of the Republican Party upon no other grounds other than the fact that the man was of the Negro Race, it might be said that the hope of the Race was purely fanciful and unfounded. No partisan slave of tradition, no man who lives in the past, no man whose inspiration comes only from distasteful events of nearly a century ago, can fully enjoy citizenship or build for a happy progressive posterity.

The Race Citizen is backing the Democratic Party and the Humanitarian Roosevelt because the present National Administration has dared to actually offer equal opportunities to the Negro as an American Citizen. Empty promises in a Republican Platform, promises that are never fulfilled, no longer satisfy the Negro citizen.