

Stalwart Brooklyn Minister Makes Another Address at Central "Y"

Reverend Henry Hugh Proctor Before Large Audience Declares That There Is a New Negro in the Land

The greatest men's meeting in Greater New York is that at the Central Y. M. C. A., Brooklyn, which is held every Friday evening at 9 o'clock, addressed by the Rev. Dr. Samuel Parkes Cadman. About 1,000 men assemble for this weekly talk. In his absence last Friday evening, the Rev. Dr. Henry Hugh Proctor was invited to be his substitute.

The meeting had been widely advertised, and Dr. Proctor was confronted with a thousand men when he began his address. At the close of his address, which lasted about 45 minutes, he was bombarded with questions for half an hour. He came through the barrage of various questions on the race problem smiling.

The following is a condensed report of his address:

There is a new Negro in the land. Possessing nothing at his emancipation, he is now worth two billion dollars. Numbering four million at emancipation, he has now increased to twelve million. Set free practically illiterate, he has wiped out eighty-five per cent of his illiteracy. Confined formerly to a single section, he now lives in every part of the republic.

He is new in his outlook. The exigencies of the world war produced the economic opportunity that released the Negro from the cramped conditions of the South. Conspiring with this were the suppression and oppression of the southern situation that inspired the Negro to seek opportunities of other sections. In addition, there was the long-pent-up desire for realization in the American democracy. The twelve million are in a process of renewal.

He is new in his position. Once a debtor, he is now a contributor to the national wealth. Hardy in his physical strength, he brings his muscle of steel to bear in the task of subduing nature. Mentally alive, he contributes his growing intelligence to prevent the menace of an illiterate immigrant labor group. Patriotic to the core, he may be expected to maintain his unbroken record for national loyalty in any crisis. Musical in temperament, he has produced the only American music, and his contribution to poetry, song and oratory is yet in its infancy. Inconspicuously religious, he is to bring a new contribution to Christianity and thwart the menace of materialism in the hour of our prosperity.

The Negro is new in his attitude. He is proud of his race, his color and his hair. He seeks not favor but a fair field; not alms but opportunity; not pity but a square deal; not coddling but co-operation. Let New York, the largest Negro city in the world, stand for these things, and she will solve the problem of race not only for America but for all the world.