

MENTAL FREEDOM FOR THE NEW NEGRO

By LES ER TAYLOR

The most important of all problems faced by the Universal Negro Improvement Association in the Western hemisphere is the release of Negro minds from white mental domination, for the Negro of the Western hemisphere seems to have no mental perspective of the white world. He acts and thinks as a concrete part of it.

Most of the Negroes one meets in the United States and in the West Indies are, as far as their brains are concerned, not Negroes at all, but merely black-skinned Americans, Englishmen or Frenchmen. How often do we hear so-called "educated" Negroes mouthing about "the glory that was Greece and the grandeur that was Rome," as if the entire world's civilization had its roots there, and not a word about their own ancient civilizations of Egypt and fabled Cush, upon whose gleanings Greece was fed and Rome was reared. How often do we find Negro preachers making a great fuss about the wonderful conception of the Deity given to

may have serious results. They state that while these preferential tariffs do not discriminate directly against the United States export trade, as their vessels may call at Canadian ports of shipments, they amount in effect to trade discrimination. They place a premium upon the movement of traffic over Canadian railroads as compared with those in the United States.

British shipping companies have established services from Canadian ports to the British West Indies and in this manner benefit from the preferential duty, while only occasional tramp vessels under the United States flag make the voyage. It is quite evident, however, that this preferment is not a violation of treaties existing between Great Britain and the United States, for the treaty of 1815 specifically excepts the West Indies from reciprocal privileges.

sinful and suffering "humanity" by Christendom without the slightest apparent realization or recognition of the fact that the conceptions of the Deity held by the white Christian world are but those produced by Negro brains thousands of years ago and aborted in their passage through Hebrew and European minds.

So many good old Negro ladies make a great cackling and clucking over Martin Luther and the "Reformation" and the "Spanish Inquisition," and all the rest of it, as if these things had taken place among Negro peoples and had made important changes in Negro life of his times, while completely ignorant of the history of Mohammedanism, which has played a greater part in Negro life than any other religion is ever apt to play. Daily we hear Negro schoolmasters telling Negro scholars about the great exploit of Christopher Columbus in discovering the "New World," without seeming to understand or taking the trouble to explain that Negroes were a part of Europe's unknown world and that European discovery of them was by no means beneficial to them, but rather the contrary. The instances of this sort of thing are too numerous to mention. We have even heard Negroes talking about the loss to the "civilized" world which would be occasioned by "native" uprisings in Africa.

The remedy is education in things, Negro, of histories of past Negro civilizations, of Negro philosophies and religions, of Negro life and ideals in Negro countries, of Negro problems from Negro points of view and the stimulation of intense racial consciousness. By voice and pen the Universal Negro Improvement Association has to change this attitude. Never must a U. N. I. A. writer or speaker allow himself ever to take the viewpoint of a white thinker when considering Negro problems or to quote white authorities on Negro subjects. We have to pry loose the white brain from the Negro skull and replace it with a brain which will think in terms of Negro. We are doing it fast, but not fast enough. Too many of us are still without any thinking material except what we have got from white minds.