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OUR BROTHER IN BLACK.

THE LIFE STORY OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

BY THE EDITOR.



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.



HE record of the life and work of Booker T. Washington is one of those tales of fact which are stranger than fiction. He is the most striking personality his race has produced in America. He was born a slave, he does not know when nor where. "but suspects," he says, that "he must have been born some time or

somewhere—about the year 1838 or 1859." He knows nothing of his father, except that he was a white man. To the love and tenderness of his mother he pays most filial tribute.

"She will always remain," he says, "the noblest embodiment of womanhood with whom I have come in contact. She was wholly ignorant as far as books were concerned, and, I presume, never had a book in her hand for two minutes at a time, but the lessons in virtue and thrift that she instilled will never leave me."

Among his earliest recollections are those of seeing his maternal uncle cowlhided on his naked back. His shuddering groans made an impression on the boy's heart which, he says, he shall carry with him to the grave. Although not a slave on the plantation could read a line, yet in some mysterious way they kept informed of the progress of the war, and that it meant their freedom. The "grape-vine telegraph" was in constant use. When Lincoln's proclamation was made known his mother whispered, "Now, my

* "The Story of My Life and Work." Booker T. Washington, Principal of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. With an Introduction by Dr. J. L. M. Curry, Commissioner Peabody and Slater Funds. Copiously illustrated with photo-engravings, original pen drawings by Frank Beard. J. L. Nichols & Co., Toronto, Ont. D. E. Hughes, Manager, Toronto. Price, \$1.50. Subscription only.