

What-Not Column

Who was Wendell Phillips?

One of William Lloyd Garrison's most able supporters was Wendell Phillips, who staked his all and was ready at any cost to stand for the suppression of the slave trade. One of his most remarkable addresses against slavery was made in Faneuil Hall, Boston when at a meeting called to denounce the murder of Lovejoy, the then Attorney-General of Massachusetts made a captivating speech that threatened to turn the audience against the cause for which they had met. Rising to the occasion at this important moment under the very shadow of the impending catastrophe, Wendell Phillips claimed the floor and with his marvelous voice, captivated his audience to the extent that the anti-slavery and anti-murder resolutions were unanimously carried.

For whose execution did three American States contribute rope for the gallows.

John Brown of Ossawatimie, the man who gave slavery its death wound, labored for many years in aiding the cause of anti-slavery. On October 16th, 1889 he attacked Harper's Ferry, Va., and was captured with a number of associates and made a prisoner. He was tried for treason and murder, condemned and hanged; the States of South Carolina, Missouri, and Kentucky each sending a rope to be used for the execution: Kentucky's proving the strongest was utilized.

Who spent eighteen years in a penitentiary and received thousands of stripes for aiding slaves to freedom?

One of the first in the Underground Railway work along the Ohio was Calvin Fairbanks, who early in life resolved to do all within his power to alleviate the sufferings and miseries endured by the slaves. He was arrested a number of times in the act of giving assistance to slaves and committed to prison, where he suffered untold cruelties at the hands of his keeper. He spent nearly eighteen years in a Kentucky penitentiary, and it is said that during those years he received 35,000 lashes.

Next Week's Whatnote

Who was Thomas Garrett of Delaware?

Who was Jonathan Walker?
What was the Underground Railroad?

The Negro In The Field Of Invention

(By Henry F. Baker in the Journal of Negro History)

There is no branch of technical and scientific industry in our country that is at all comparable in scope and results with the business of perfecting inventions. These constitute the basis on which nearly all our great manufacturing enterprises are conducted, both as to the machinery employed and the articles produced. So vast is the field covered by inventors and so industriously do they apply their talent to it that patents for new and useful inventions are being granted them by our government at the rate of more than one hundred a day for every day that the office

is open for business. And when one considers the enormous part played by the American inventors in the economic, industrial and financial development of our country, it becomes a matter of importance to ascertain what share in this great work is done by the American Negro.

The average American seems not to know that the Negro has contributed very materially to this result. Not knowing it he does not believe it, and not believing it he easily advances to the mental attitude of being ready to assert that the Negro has done absolutely nothing worth while in the field of invention. This conclusion necessarily grows out of the traditional attitude of the average American on the question of the capacity of the Negro for high scientific and technical achievement. This state of mind on the part of the general public is not perceptibly changed by the well-authenticated reports now and then of meritorious inventions in many lines of experiment made by Negroes in various parts of the country, notwithstanding the fact that these reports are frequently made through channels that would seem to leave nothing to doubt.

It has always been and presumably always will be difficult for truth to outrun a falsehood. One instance of the way in which such false and erroneous impressions of the Negro's capacity and achievement gain currency and fix themselves in the public mind is shown sometimes in the campaign methods of some politicians. One of these, a Marylander, addressing a political gathering in his native state in behalf of his own candidacy for Congress a few years ago declared that the Negro was not entitled to vote because he had never evinced sufficient capacity to justify such a privilege, and that not one of the race had ever yet reached the dignity of an inventor. It is not easy to understand how a gentleman of the requisite qualifications to represent an intelligent constituency acceptably in the Congress of the United States could so palpably pervert the truth in a matter on which he could so easily have rightly informed himself. At the time when this statement was made, 1903 in Talbot County, Maryland, there was on the shelves of the Library of Congress, a book containing a chapter "The Negro As An Inventor", and citing several hundred patents granted by our government for inventions by Negroes. And still another instance is that of a leading newspaper of Richmond, Va., which some time ago published the bold statement that of the many thousands of patents granted to the inventors of this country annually not a single patent had ever been granted to a colored man. These and similar statements which make no mention of exceptions admit of but one interpretation. The wish may be father to the thought but the truth is not father to their words.

(To be continued)

(By the Associated Negro Press)

Atlanta, Ga., Jan.—At a meeting of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, held January 3, 1924, Atlanta University was included among the institutions registered by them as colleges, in its course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

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11.00 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.—Preaching.

St. John's A.U.F. C.M.B. Church
CHATHAM
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Sunday School 2.00 p.m.
Spencer's League, 7.30 p.m.
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Hill Street, London, Ont.
REV. E. M. WOODS, Pastor

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Preaching—11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Sunday School—12 n.
Prayer Meeting—Wednesday evening

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