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THE NEGRO'S CONTRIBUTION

But later Negroes came by shiploads, not of their own free will, but as slaves, to till the soil, to clear the forests, to build railways to build beautiful cities and palatial homes, to make this continent one of the foremost countries of God's green earth.

But before they came they must have known how to work, else how could they have served America so well. In their African homes they must have learned the art of building else how could they have builded so magnificently here? Excavation in Africa reveals the fact that their architecture was among the foremost of the ancient world. Negroes began their careers as inventors soon after they landed here. One of the most useful additions to the cotton gin was invented by a slave in the early seventies. Of course patent rights were granted, not to him but to his master. In many other instances masters were given patent rights for inventions of their slaves since the law would grant no patent rights to slaves. The inventions which gave the shoe industry its greatest impetus, one which placed the American shoe industry ahead of that of any other country, was the invention of a Negro.

The race has launched out into every line of human endeavour compatible with American life and has proven its members are the peers of men of any race. Its record is one which should inspire not only respect but admiration of all classes of citizens for the world knows with what thorns and thistles the Negro's pathway has been strewn. Where assistance and encouragement should have been given the Negro has met taunts and rebuffs, unjust criticisms, lack of opportunities to show his ability.

Nile, through her dark children, sent to the Mississippi, was the spirit of patience, forbearance, long suffering, humility and the power to enchant the world through music. What a people is capable of doing cannot be judged until it actually does it. But we do know that no other race has ever suffered like the Negro has suffered and has still greeted this world with a smile on his face and with a song in his heart. When the first twenty slaves had landed at Jamestown, they, unlike the Hebrew captives who hung their harps upon the willows by the river of Jordan and began to weep and mourn—these Negroes began to sing a strange new, weird, sweet song in a strange and new land. This song was free from hate, from the spirit of revenge and retaliation. But it did breathe the spirit of regret, perhaps for lost loved ones, the spirit of brotherly love among all men. The world listened and called it beautiful. Down through the ages of slavery days their children sang this song and many more. The blood of Africa was still strong in their veins and so they were compelled to sing—to sing of light and love and mercy and kindness and beauty and man and God. To these old songs and to hundreds that followed the world still listens and calls them beautiful! wonderful!! To this folklore America is indebted for its only original music. Imagine America shorn of all of its Negro wit and humor, of its Negro music, its Negro musicians and Negro bards. If we could imagine this we know that we would sense a hum-drum, lonely world, a world in which you and I would not care to dwell, and if today the whole world had caught and retained the Negro's trustful, God-like, humble and contrite spirit the success of disarmament would be a thing assured. We are therefore not only proud of the fact that we are of the Negro race but we are proud of the part which we have played (in so far as we have been allowed to share) in shaping the destiny of the ages.

Is This an Oversight or Direct Insult?

It is with deep concern and regret that during an entertainment given by the Students of one of our leading Colleges the Teachers or ones responsible for the entertainment was not more skeptical and had shown some courtesy to the students attending and not to have allowed the phrase "Lazy nigger" used. It is to these schools we look to find the most intelligent men and women, having respect for all people regardless of race or color.

We trust this has been an oversight and not an intentional insult to the students.

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