

THE WORKS OF FRANCIS J. GRIMKÉ

Edited by

CARTER G. WOODSON

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Letters

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ii

Instead of facing the issue squarely that is involved in this so-called Negro question and handling it fearlessly in the light of Christian principles, the whole tendency is to evade the question, to dodge the issue, as you are doing by mixing it up with the matter of social equality and the inter-marriage of the races. A Christian man ought to be ashamed to deal with a great issue like this in the pusillanimous spirit in which you are attempting to deal with it. Isn't it time to end this pitiable exhibition of weakness and cowardice? I commend to you, and to all men like you, the words of the apostle Paul:

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”

I am, yours

For a real, not a sham Christianity,
Francis J. Grimké.

Matthew Anderson to Francis J. Grimké

Dr. F. J. Grimké:

September 11, 1915.

The Birth of a Nation is being exhibited here in the Forrest Theatre, to crowded houses, I am told, and there is a growing feeling of hatred toward the Negro caused by it. I was talking to Dr. Scott, who went to see it after he had been persuaded, and says it is an outrage and a complete lie, and would not go again for anything. The colored people are having indignation meetings. I was at one yesterday afternoon in one of the Methodist churches. They have decided to form at 19th & Christian Streets, at a very early date, and march down Christian to 7th up 7th to Chestnut and up Chestnut to Broad, and to be led by Major Andrew Stevens, on a white horse, I presume. The Major is very much delighted with the honor conferred upon him. Banners are to be flying and a great display is anticipated. I hardly believe, however, the authorities will allow them to parade. For one time in my life I am not to be in the rank and file. You know I am past the age limit. I am afraid the dear brothers are not going about the matter right, at all.

I send you the narrative you asked for about Mr. Huston at Coatesville.¹

Best regards.

Yours very sincerely,
Matthew Anderson.

¹ This was an account of Anderson's cool reception by Charles L. Huston, a most distinguished layman of the Presbyterian Church. Anderson visited him at Coatesville, seeking funds for his work, the Berean School, in Philadelphia, but when Anderson presented himself as "Mr. Anderson" Huston reprimanded him and Negroes in general for referring to themselves with the title "Mister."