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EDWARD P. COWAN, D.D., SECRETARY.

## Andrew Ferguson.

The above is a picture of a humble servant of God who being dead yet speaketh. As the righteous are to be held in everlasting remembrance it is not out of place to repeat the story of the simple and noble life of Andrew Ferguson, Louisville, Ky. This unpretending Christian was once a slave for Dr. Andrew Todd of Kentucky. After his freedom he was employed as janitor in the Hamilton Building in Louisville, where he worked faithfully for years winning the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. He was a member of a small congregation of colored Presbyterians that were being aided by the Board of Missions for Freedmen. They were worshiping in a rented hall and had long been praying and laboring for means with which to build a house of worship. The prospect of obtaining their desire seemed dark and discouraging, and they had almost begun to despair when help came from a very unexpected source. Hearing that a white congregation near by had a very good house of worship which they wished to sell, Andrew Ferguson asked the minister in charge of his own church to go and see what it could be bought for. The minister had no idea what was in the mind of his quiet parishioner, but went and saw the owners of the building and reported that they would take something like

\$5000 for it. Mr. Ferguson then requested the pastor to arrange a meeting of the Trustees of this congregation and themselves. The matter was talked over and at its close the minister was astonished to hear Mr. Ferguson say to the Trustees, "I will take that house" and drawing from his pocket the \$500, said "this will seal the bargain, call to-morrow at the Hamilton Building, and I will pay you the remainder." They called as directed, the deed was made out to the Presbyterian Church and the remainder of the money paid. This generous gift of this obscure colored man is the more remarkable because it was the savings of years of honest toil and economy. He had never in his life spent five cents for tobacco or liquor, or for anything else needlessly. Many men have given their thousands, but they still had thousands left. Andrew Ferguson gave nearly all of the savings of a lifetime acquired through faithfulness, industry and economy. He did it cheerfully and humbly, desiring if possible that his left hand should not know what his right hand did.

Based on this incident, we give below an article entitled "A Dream Accomplished," written by Dr. Fisher, the President of the Freedmen's Board.

## A Dream Accomplished.

*By Rev. S. J. Fisher, D D.*

Day by day he toiled and month by month he laid his earnings by. Day by day he toiled and yet in his work he had a beautiful dream. He nightly returned to his humble room and practiced the careful economies of life. He was alone in the world and he limited his needs to the bare necessities, and yet he was happy

and contented. For of him it could be said—

"And by the vision splendid

Was on his way attended"—

the great purpose which under the Bible's influence had grown up in his heart and sweetened his toil.

He was only a humble negro in a southern

city born in slavery, and his wages were small, but he had found Christ, and his heart was grateful; and by honesty and faithfulness he found favor with God and man. As you saw him each week day morning walking to his labor, you might have thought him only a mere toiler—one of a race so easily despised, his industry unknown, his virtue unappreciated, possibly an old time servant on some broad plantation. But to angel eyes, and to those who knew him he was "black but comely" — a noble soul. For as he trudged along, unassuming and patient he was dreaming of blessings for his own race.

If you could have listened to his thoughts you would have said, "Behold this dreamer cometh!" He was cherishing thoughts of great usefulness. His was a consecrated life. Those monthly savings so completely treasured, were to honor his Redeemer and help his people. A loving purpose kept him diligent and joyful. At last, after years of such labor and wise investment, when he possessed a few thousand dollars, the opportunity he coveted came. A good

church edifice was for sale. He believed it should be a blessing to his race, a pleasant and refining house of worship, a center and influence of good. So for the congregation with which he worshiped he bought it, devoted it to their uplifting by the preaching and teaching of the gospel; and the toil and savings of years found this investment for Christ and his followers. He had given the equivalent of a life-time of labor, to help this people heavenward, and to answer the prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come."

Ponder the true story — true in every detail. It has a hundred arrows of suggestion. It tells us all how to use "the mammon of unrighteousness" so that many shall bless us when we meet them on high. It tells us that the lowliest life may be glorified by Christ's service. It tells us that this once

enslaved people are capable of noble lives and saintly purposes. It tells us that to have led one such man or woman to Christ and his service is worth all we have spent and stops the mouths of unkind critics and perplexed friends.



ANDREW FERGUSON.

## Turning Children Away From School.

Some employments are ennobling and inspiring, and at times our souls are thrilled with joy at the thought that we are co-workers with God.

The gathering in of little children off the streets, and sheltering them within the walls of some Christian school, is Christ-like and when the effort is inspired by the love of