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PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF NEGRO LIFE AND
HISTORY IN WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER 31-
NOVEMBER 3, 1937

The twenty-second annual meeting of the Association was marked by great enthusiasm and deep interest in the undertaking. The very first session in the auditorium of the Garnet-Patterson High School at three o'clock on Sunday, the 31st, was characteristic of most of the sessions which followed. Mr. G. C. Wilkinson, the chairman of the local committee in charge, presided. Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune delivered in an impressive fashion an inspiring address on "Clarifying Our Vision with the Facts." She was followed by Professor Lawrence D. Reddick, of Dillard University, with a paper presenting from the point of view of modern historiography "Race, Caste and Class in James Ford Rhodes's *History of the United States*." Both addresses were loudly applauded because of their timeliness and direct method of approach. Another contribution to the success of the session was the most enjoyable music rendered by the Cantoren under the direction of Miss Mary L. Europe and by Mr. Everett Lee, the violinist, thanks to the efforts of Miss Camille Nickerson, the chairman of the committee on music.

From six to eight P. M. the same day at the Phillis Wheatley Association, the Association held a reception for

the limits within which most of our so-called historians keep according to the requirement of racial autocracy. Yet he should not be confused with the sentimental or with the interracial white workers who play up the Negro to secure employment or to reach other ends. Dr. Jameson was not of this type. He had none of the abolition spirit in him. It is doubtful that he ever attended a meeting called in behalf of the Negro race. He was cold, reserved, and inexpressive as to what he really thought about matters. Persons could not reach him by influence, but those who happened to appeal to him as having sufficient merit to warrant his assistance found him a great helper and a faithful friend. In this way he takes rank as one of the greatest promoters of the study of the Negro.

C. G. WOODSON

FRANCIS JAMES GRIMKÉ

Francis James Grimké was born in Charleston, South Carolina, November 4, 1850. His father was Henry Grimké, a descendant of the Huguenot element that settled in South Carolina in seeking refuge from religious persecution in France. His mother was Nancy Weston, a slave. At the death of his father the children were placed under the care of his father's oldest son, E. Montague Grimké, a white man. He was cruel. To escape from this custody Frank ran away, but two years later he was suddenly arrested when visiting Charleston. He was thrown into jail, where under exposure for several months his health all but failed. Taken to his mother's home, he recovered but only to be sold to a Confederate officer by his half-brother. The closing of the Civil War soon thereafter brought him freedom.

His first aim was to secure an education. He had attended school a while earlier in Charleston under the instruction of Simeon Beard. After the war he attended in that city the Morris Street School in charge of Mrs. Pillsbury. Seeing that he and his brother were promising youths, she arranged for them to go north for more thorough training. Frank went to Stoneham, Massachusetts, to live with the family of Dr. John Brown with the view to preparing to study medicine, but they treated him so inhumanly that he soon left their service for that of Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Dyke, who took him into their shoe factory to teach him

the business. Very soon, however, this service was interrupted by Mrs. Pillsbury, who sent him to Lincoln University in Pennsylvania to continue his education. There he took high rank as a student and was graduated in 1870 as the valedictorian of his class.

He next entered the Law Department of that institution, but after one year at this study he became financial agent for Lincoln for a year, at the expiration of which he resumed his legal studies there. In 1873 he entered the Law Department of Howard University in Washington, D. C., but while there he reached the next turning point in his life when he decided to enter the ministry.

In 1875, therefore, he entered Princeton Theological Seminary, from which he was graduated in 1878. He made a favorable impression upon his instructors. He went immediately after graduation to Washington to become the pastor of the Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church. With the exception of one interruption in 1885 to pastor about three and a half years the Laurel Street Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, Florida, he served for more than half a century the Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church. The people of Washington deeply regretted his departure, and as soon as they could induce him to return they called him back to his first post of duty.

In taking up his serious task for life Dr. Grimké chose as his companion an intelligent and useful woman, Charlotte Forten, the daughter of the distinguished James Forten, who made his way in Philadelphia about one hundred years ago as a business man and the inventor of sailing devices. Charlotte Forten had won some recognition as a writer and was unselfishly giving her life to the teaching of the freedmen in the South. She passed away in 1914. To this union was born a girl that died in infancy.

As a worker in the city of Washington Dr. Grimké was not the minister restricted to the circle of his church. He easily took rank as one of the most highly educated and influential preachers of the country. So many persons from outside of Washington came to hear him and such a large number of people of both races read his special sermons which he had carefully printed and widely circulated that he can truthfully be designated as one who attained the position in the public eye as a pastor of a nation. In the first place, he prepared whatever he had to say. Seldom was it neces-

sary thereafter to dot an *i* or cross a *t*. Liberally educated, he was able to show the bearing of religion on public questions and he spoke without fear and trembling. His English was chaste and forceful, and he could drive home an argument in an irresistible fashion. In listening to him, then, one came under the influence of sober thought and ripe judgment. Well might President James McCosh, of Princeton, say, "I have heard him preach, and I feel as if I could listen to such preaching with profit from Sabbath to Sabbath."

Dr. Grimké, however, was more than a preacher to the nation. Having felt the oppressor's lash as a slave, and having experienced the trials of the early days of freedom, this man could not but give a large portion of his time and means to reforms projected to remove these abuses. He never participated in politics except to work faithfully throughout his career to secure to the race the rights guaranteed the Negro under the Constitution. To every movement projected to bring this to pass he cheerfully gave his time and means. This attitude explains the faithful service which he and his brother Archibald long gave the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This cause to him represented better than any other effort a continuation of the work of the abolitionist whose spirit he imbibed.

Dr. Grimké, moreover, was constructive in his approach to the problems confronting his people. He gave unstintingly, therefore, to educational and mission work among the Negroes that they might be enlightened as the prerequisite to permanent progress. Schools in the South and in Africa owed their existence in some measure to the work done for their support at the Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church. He was for a short while a member of the Board of Education of the District of Columbia. For a quarter of a century he served as a trustee of Howard University. He along with his brother kept alive the American Negro Academy founded by Dr. Alexander Crummell. This body published in scholarly form addresses dealing with matters of vital concern to the race. When the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History was organized in 1915 he became one of its ardent supporters and maintained that attitude down to his death.

At the end of his career he was fortunate in having retained of what he had accumulated sufficient to remember some of the

institutions in which he was interested. He bequeathed \$4,000 to Lincoln University, his alma mater, \$4,500 to the Presbyterian Board of Pensions, \$100 to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, \$400 to the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, and \$1,000 to Mrs. Anna J. Cooper to publish the life and works of his wife, Charlotte Forten Grimké. The residue of his estate, after paying certain expenses and minor bequests, will constitute a fund to publish his own works.

LUCY D. SLOWE

Lucy D. Slowe died October 21, 1937. She was born in Berryville, Virginia. There her father was a highly respected owner of a hotel and her mother a deeply loved housewife. Unfortunately, however, both parents died before she was seven years of age; so we find her, next, in the home of her father's sister in Lexington, Virginia.

The family moved to Baltimore when she was a young girl. There she attended the public schools. She was graduated from the high school in that city in 1904. She was the first girl from the Baltimore Colored High School to enter Howard University and the first of that city to receive a scholarship at this institution. She was graduated from Howard with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1908. She took active part in the literary, musical, athletic, and social activities of the University, serving as vice-president and secretary respectively of the Alpha Phi Literary Society and as president of the Women's Tennis Club, of which Professor G. M. Lightfoot was faculty sponsor.

After her graduation from Howard University she immediately stepped into a teaching position in the Baltimore Colored High School and served there for seven years. In the meantime she did postgraduate work at Columbia University and received the Master of Arts degree in 1915. However, she did not rest on her laurels but did further study at Columbia in 1917, 1921, and 1930.

The Washington Public School System offered greater opportunity for service; so Miss Slowe accepted a position as teacher of English in the Armstrong High School. She served in this capacity for four years and one year as "lady principal" or what is now known as dean of girls.