

THE FUTURE OF THE NEGRO.

Rev. Francis J. Grimke Councels Industry, Economy and Co-operation.

Rev. Francis J. Grimke, D. D., of Washington, last evening addressed the colored people at the Phillips Street Baptist Church on "Our Future as a People." He said: "When freedom came it found us poor. Now we are assessed for more than one hundred millions of property. This accumulation was made against the greatest odds. In Kentucky we pay taxes on \$4,000,000 worth of property; in Georgia on \$9,000,000; in South Carolina on \$10,000,000; in Alabama on \$12,000,000; in Texas on \$20,000,000; in Mississippi on about \$25,000,000, and in Louisiana on \$30,000,000. At the close of the war hardly a tenth of our people was able to read or write. Now our public schools alone number more than 1800, and into them are gathered more than 1,000,000 pupils, and over them preside more than 16,000 teachers, all or nearly all of whom have been prepared since the war. In morals the advance has been equally marked. Twenty years ago it was a common thing, especially in rural districts in the South, for whole families to occupy the same room. To an extent this is still true, but it is a vanishing evil. There are several things needed, and wealth is one of them. The man with wealth feels himself somebody, and is so regarded by others." The great secret of discriminations against the colored people in hotels, or railroads and steamboats, Mr. Grimke conceived to be the universal poverty of the race. Prejudice is strong, but the love of money is stranger. Without a basis of material prosperity much cannot be expected in the way of intellectual and æsthetic development. "If we would possess wealth, we must labor. But industry is not enough. To it the colored man must add habits of economy. But our tastes and inclinations all tend to extravagance. We must also cultivate a spirit of co-operation. All things being equal, it is our duty to employ the colored lawyer, doctor and dentist rather than white ones, on the principle that what raises the level of the individual raises also the level of the race."