

HAMPTON
NEGRO CONFERENCE

NUMBER III

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Papers on The Burden of the Educated Negro Woman
The Woman's Conference
Modern Industrialism
The Negro Pulpit and Its Responsibilities
A Few Hints to Southern Farmers
The Educational Side of Sewing
Negro Business Enterprises
Capital and Labor in Co-operative Farming, etc.

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Reports of Standing Committees:

Education, Religion and Ethics

Business and Labor

Sanitary Problems

Statistics

Domestic Economy

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in the community. It is important that some one shall see that the promised amounts are paid; also it is absolutely essential that the teacher be interested, for in every instance where there has been failure, it has been due to lack of interest on the part of the teacher.

CO-OPERATION

A teacher from Hertford, N. C. told of a successful effort made in his city to combine all the schools, public and private, into one system with the high school at the head. Nothing denominational was allowed to interfere; the term was lengthened to nine months, and the result was an immense strengthening of educational forces. Miss Laney strongly approved of this idea, saying, "We are too weak to divide our interests. Let private giving supplement public work. Let us have less criticism of one another, and more hearty coöperation."

MANUAL TRAINING

There was a strong sentiment expressed by the conference in favor of manual training. Mr. T. B. Williams said that of eighteen pupils who left a grammar school in Indianapolis last year for higher schools, twelve chose the manual training high school. "We should distinguish" said Mr. Williams, "between manual and industrial training; the former is needed by every boy and girl of every race because it assists in mental and moral as well as in physical development. We must rid ourselves of the idea that it is offered to the colored people because the white people believe that they are fit only to work with the hands. All the best schools in the country are introducing it into their courses."

Recommendations of the Committee on Religion and Ethics

REV. FRANCIS J. GRIMKÉ, D. D., CHAIRMAN

Your committee begs leave to submit the following recommendations: (1) That all persons be urged to take a deeper interest in the moral and religious training of their children. Just in proportion as the race advances in character, as the thought of God enters into its life as a controlling factor, will it grow strong and self-respecting, and command respect from others.

The place to lay the foundation for self-respecting manhood and womanhood is in the home, and the time to begin is in childhood. Tupper has well said; "The seeds of first instructions are dropped into the deepest furrows." And a greater than Tupper has said, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

(2) That our ministers of all denominations be urged to emphasize more largely than they do in their preaching the practical, every day duties of life. The sooner they realize that the gospel is intended to fit men to live as well as to die, and that dying right depends upon living right, the better it will be. Unfortunately, in too many of our pulpits, the emphasis is laid upon the future rather than upon the present, upon the life beyond rather than upon the life here. A reform in this respect is imperatively demanded. Practical preaching is what is needed in all of our pulpits,—preaching that will teach men how to live, how to let their light shine so that others seeing their good works may be led to glorify their Father which is in heaven

(3) That our teachers, preachers and, physicians, as well as all parents be urged to throw their influence positively on the side of temperance. If this evil is to be successfully combatted something more is necessary than simply refraining from strong drink ourselves. We must be aggressive; we must do with all our might what our hands find to do in seeking to create a healthy sentiment against it. To remain passive, inactive, however strongly we may believe personally in temperance, will count for but little.

(4) That ignorance and immorality in the pulpit should be everywhere frowned upon. If the pulpit is to be a source of influence for good in the work of elevating the race, it must be apt to teach, and in character it must be above reproach. According to God's Word, "a bishop must be blameless, the husband of one wife, sober, of good behavior, apt to teach." And this standard must be maintained. An ignorant and vicious ministry is a curse to any people.

(5) That parents be urged to train their children to be industrious and saving, and, the girls especially, to dress simply and inexpensively. Idleness and the love of dress are among the greatest sources of demoralization among us. Some one has said, "A lad who is not taught to work is trained to steal." And again, "Bring up your boy to do nothing and he will be a rogue." And still again, "The hour of idleness is the hour of tempta-

tion." Parents should lay these facts to heart and profit by them. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread," is a law that should be recognized and enforced in every home. And so in reference to apparel,—the adorning that our girls and young women need, and which they should be trained to set the greatest store upon, is the adorning referred to by the apostle Peter, "Not that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and wearing of gold, or putting on of apparel; but the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which in the sight of God is of great price."

The love of dress is natural to the human heart, especially to the female portion of humanity, and therefore in a sense, under proper restrictions, it is all right. The desire to look well, to be neatly and tastefully attired, is commendable, and should be encouraged. It is only when, in the effort to gratify this desire, higher interests are sacrificed, that it becomes wrong. And there is always danger of this where there is poverty. Hence the importance in our present condition of seeking very early to form the tastes of our young people upon a simple and common sense basis. To dress according to our means, is all that a self-respecting manhood or womanhood requires. To dress beyond our means, is not only a very silly thing to do, but it shows that we are deficient in good hard sense,—and more, that we are lacking in principle. This we should seek to get our young people to see and to accept, if we would keep them from one great source of temptation.

Your committee is strongly of the belief that the future of this race depends more upon character than anything else, and takes this opportunity, therefore, of urging upon all the importance of setting into operation every influence and agency that will tend to build us up morally and spiritually.

Report of the Committee on Business and Labor.

ANDREW F. HILYER, CHAIRMAN

Your committee deemed it advisable to secure in the first place some reliable data concerning the actual status of the colored workman in the various sections of the country. Accordingly about twenty-five letters were prepared and sent to persons who, it was thought, would furnish the desired information, in Boston, New York, Albany, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Pittsburg,