

AUGUST
1915

THE CRISIS

AUGUST
1915



VOTES FOR WOMEN

THE CRISIS

A RECORD OF THE DARKER RACES

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
COLORED PEOPLE, AT 70 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

Conducted by
W. E. BURGHARDT DU BOIS
AUGUSTUS GRANVILLE DILL, Business Manager

Contents Copyrighted, 1915, by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Contents for August, 1915

PICTURES

COVER. Abraham Lincoln and Sojourner Truth. Composite photograph by Hinton Gilmore.	Page
Portraits of twenty contributors to the Symposium	180ff
Tablet to Harriet Tubman.....	192

ARTICLES

THE BLACK MAMMY. A Poem.....	By James Weldon Johnson	176
VOTES FOR WOMEN. A Symposium.....	By Rev. F. J. Grimke, Hon. Oscar De Priest, Benjamin Brawley, Bishop John Hurst, Hon. J. W. Johnson, Hon. R. H. Terrell, Dr. W. H. Crogman, C. W. Chesnutt, Hon. J. R. Lynch, L. M. Hershaw, Mrs. Paul Laurence Dunbar, Mrs. M. B. Talbert, Mrs. C. F. Cook, Mrs. C. W. Clifford, Dr. M. F. Waring, W. S. Braithewaite, Miss N. H. Burroughs, Miss M. E. Jackson, Mrs. J. St. P. Ruffin, Mrs. A. W. Hunton, Miss M. L. Baldwin, Miss A. H. Jones, Mrs. B. K. Bruce, Mrs. E. L. Davis, Mrs. M. C. Terrell and Mrs. L. A. Turner	178
THE RAINS. A Story of Jamaica.....	By Kelsey Percival Kitchel	193

DEPARTMENTS

ALONG THE COLOR LINE.....	163
MEN OF THE MONTH.....	169
OPINIONS.....	171
EDITORIAL.....	177
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE.....	197

TEN CENTS A COPY; ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

FOREIGN SUBSCRIPTIONS TWENTY-FIVE CENTS EXTRA

RENEWALS: When a subscription blank is attached to this page a renewal of your subscription is desired. The date of the expiration of your subscription will be found on the wrapper.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: The address of a subscriber can be changed as often as desired. In ordering a change of address, both the old and the new address must be given. Two weeks' notice is required.

MANUSCRIPTS and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage. If found unavailable they will be returned.

Entered as Second-class Matter in the Post Office at New York, N. Y.

THE CRISIS

Vol. 10 —No. 4

AUGUST, 1915

Whole No. 58



V. B. SPRATLIN

MISS GOSSIN

MISS LEALTAD

L. H. RUSSELL

ALONG THE COLOR LINE

EDUCATION

SEVERAL cases of scholastic distinction have come to us since last month. Miss Catherine Deaver Lealtad graduated from McAlester College, St. Paul, Minnesota, with first honors in a class of twenty-five completing the course in three years. She made the best scholarship record in the history of the college and received the Noyes' scholarship prize.

¶ In Denver, Colorado, Valaurez B. Spratlin a seventeen year old student was among the honor men in a class of two hundred and sixty-four graduates of the Denver East Side High School. Spratlin pursued his whole course with his body encased in plaster of paris on account of an attack of spinal meningitis. Spratlin is also a brilliant pianist.

¶ In the Museum of Fine Arts School, Boston, Massachusetts, Miss Susan P. V. Gossin a great granddaughter of John B. Vashon and great-great granddaughter of the Rev. Thomas Paul has been awarded a special scholarship for excellence in the department of design.

¶ Louis H. Russell received the degree of Master of Arts from Cornell for work in physics and mathematics.

¶ William B. Jason received the degree of Master of Arts from the University

of Pennsylvania for work in mathematics and physics.

¶ Russell Lee of Des Moines, Iowa, is eleven years of age and in three years has done the school work which a normal child takes five and one-half years to do. The principal of his school says: "In all my experience as a teacher I have never seen a pupil make such remarkable progress." In a recent test in mathematics Lee ranked the whole school in accuracy and efficiency.

¶ Miss Bernice Sanders who ranked her class at Wilberforce University received her degree "Summa Cum Laude" instead of "Magna" as announced last month. She attained "A" in every subject during her entire college course. She has been appointed a teacher in Wilberforce University with a year's leave of absence for study at Radcliffe.

¶ Edith A. Stone of Minneapolis occupied the honor seat in the Whittier School the last three months of the year and will enter the high school at the age of twelve.

¶ Miss R. A. Guinn of New Bedford is a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and has passed the examination for the State Board.

¶ The colored school district of the Highland Park section, Louisville, Ken-



VOTES FOR WOMEN



✠ A Symposium by Leading Thinkers of Colored America ✠



THE LOGIC OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE

BY REV. FRANCIS J. GRIMKE
*Pastor 15th St. Presbyterian Church,
Washington, D. C.*

I AM heartily in favor of woman suffrage. I did not use to be, but it was simply because I had not given the subject due consideration. The moment I began to think seriously about it, I became convinced that I was wrong, and swung over on the other side, and have been on that side ever since. I do not see how any one who stops to think, who takes a common sense view of things, can be opposed to the franchise for women. What is this right to vote, after all? Is it not simply the right to form an opinion or judgment as to the character and fitness of those who are to be entrusted with the high and responsible duty of making laws and of administering the laws after they are made, and of having that judgment count in the selection of public officials? The ballot is simply the expression of the individual judgment in regard to such matters. Such being the case three things are perfectly clear in my mind: (1). The interests of women are just as much involved in the enactment of laws, and in the administration of laws, as are the interests of men. In some respects they are even more so. In many things, such as the liquor traffic,

the social evil, and other demoralizing influences, which directly affect the peace and happiness of the home, the kind of laws that are enacted, and the character of the men who are to enforce them, have for women a peculiar, a special interest.

(2). The average woman is just as well qualified to form an opinion as to the character and qualifications of those who are to be entrusted with power as the average man. The average man is in no sense superior to the average woman, either in point of intelligence, or of character. The average woman, in point of character, is superior to the average man; and, in so far as she is, she is better fitted to share in the selection of public officials.

(3). To deprive her of the right to vote is to govern her without her consent, which is contrary to the fundamental principle of democracy. That principle is clearly expressed in the Declaration of Independence, where we read: "Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." Under this principle, which is a just principle, women have the same right to vote as men have. Are they not governed? And being governed, can the government imposed upon them be justly imposed upon them without their con-

sent? It is simply to treat them as minors and inferiors, which every self-respecting woman should resent, and continue to resent until this stigma is removed from her sex. The time is certainly coming, and coming soon I believe, when this just claim on the part of women will be fully recognized in all truly civilized countries.



CHICAGO AND WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE

BY HON. OSCAR DE PRIEST

Alderman of the City of Chicago

I favor extension of the right of suffrage to women. The experience in Chicago has been that the women cast as intelligent a vote as the men. In the first campaign in which the women voted in Chicago, a certain degree of timidity attended their advent. In the recent campaign, however, the work of the women was as earnest and the interest as keen as that of the men and in some instances the partisanship was almost bitter. As far as the colored men are concerned, in the aldermanic campaign of 1914 the feeling was so high that it penetrated social, church and other circles and some friendships of long standing were threatened. In the campaign of 1915 when colored men were primary candidates for alderman, the women of the race seemed to realize fully what was expected of them, and, with the men, rolled up a very large and significant vote for the colored candidates; and they were consistent at the election, contributing to a plurality of over 3,000 votes for the successful colored candidate in a field of five. Personally, I am more than thankful for their work and as electors believe they have every necessary qualification that the men possess.



POLITICS AND WOMANLINESS

BY BENJAMIN BRAWLEY

Dean of Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga.

The argument is all for woman suffrage. More and more one who takes the opposing view finds himself looking to the past rather than to the future. Each woman as well as each man is a child of God, and is entitled to all the privileges of that high heritage. We are reminded of the heroine in "A Doll's House:" "Before all else you are a

wife and mother," says the husband in Ibsen's play. "No," replies Nora, "before all else I am a human being."

There is one objection which many honestly find it difficult to overcome. There are thousands of men in this country who are theoretically in favor of woman suffrage, but who would be sorry to see their wives and sisters at the polls. They cannot overcome the feeling that woman loses something of her fineness of character when she takes her place with a crowd of men to fight out a live issue. Her very need of a protector calls forth man's chivalry; take away that need and the basis of woman's strongest appeal to man is gone.

Even this last objection, merely a practical one, can be overcome. The finest and deepest culture is not that which keeps its possessor forever enclosed in a Doll's House. It is rather that which looks at life in the large, with a just appreciation of its problems and sorrow, and that labors in the most intelligent manner to right the wrongs that are in existence. When once everywhere woman has entered the fray and helped to clean up some of the graft in our cities and to improve the tone of our voting places, even this last fear will disappear.



CHRISTIANITY AND WOMAN

BY JOHN HURST, D.D.,

Bishop of the African M. E. Church and Secretary of the Bishops' Council

The earlier civilizations seem to have conspired to limit woman's sphere; her position and functions as member of the community were to extend so far and no further. Intellectual accomplishments and graces could raise her beyond the status of the slave, but not beyond the estimate put upon a toy, a bauble or a common-place ornament. Often she was subjected to systems leading to degradation, stifling her soul and stealing away from her the qualities that make an individual and a woman. The law forbidding her to abstain from the service at the Jewish Synagogue, said she should not be seen. Amidst the civilization of classic antiquity, even down to the enlightened age of Pericles, she was subservient to the caprices and rude pas-



DR. GRIMKE

MR. LEWIS

JUDGE TERRELL

MISS JACKSON

sions of the other sex. Her fate was disposed of with little regard to her wishes. She had even no choice as to whom she should marry. The sacred fire of love was not supposed to burn upon the altar of her heart. She was but a commodity, a chattel to be bartered off. Under the Roman law, her status was hardly that of a human being. Whether under the Empire or the Republic, she had not even a first name.

But with the advent of Christianity, the path for a true, honorable and lasting civilization was laid. It discarded and upset the teachings of the past. It gave woman her freedom, and womanhood has been lifted to the place where it justly belongs. Christianity established equality and community of woman with man in the privileges of Grace, as being heir together with all the great gifts of life; receiving one faith, one baptism and partaking of the same holy table. Its thundering message to all is "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus," and the echo of its teachings the world over is to "Loose her and let her go."



"ABOUT AUNTIES"

BY HON. J. W. JOHNSON,

Formerly U. S. Consul to Nicaragua

There is one thing very annoying about the cause of Woman Suffrage and that is the absurdity of the arguments against it which one is called upon to combat. It is very much more difficult to combat an absurd argument than to combat a sound argument. The holder

of a sound argument is generally a person amenable to reason and open to conviction; whereas, the holder of an absurd argument is always a person blinded by prejudice or bound by some such consideration as custom or sentiment; a person, indeed, to whom it is often impossible to prove that 2 and 2 make 4.

The people who oppose votes for women are divided into two classes:—those who boldly declare that women are inferior beings, neither fit nor capable of becoming fit to exercise the right of suffrage, and those who apologetically contend that the ballot will drag woman down from her domestic throne and rob her of all gentleness, charm, goodness,—this list of angelic qualities may be extended to any length desired.

It takes only a glance to see the striking analogy between these two arguments and the old pro-slavery arguments. The very ease with which they can be disproved makes them exasperating.

But, regardless of all arguments, for or against, woman is going to gain universal suffrage. The wonderful progress made by the sex in the last century and a half places this beyond doubt. This progress is nowhere more graphically indicated than by the fact that in the first edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* (1771) the article "Woman" consisted of eight words, "Woman,—the female of man—See Homo." In the edition of 1910 the article "Woman" takes up seven pages. Besides there are thirty women among the writers of the *Encyclopedia*, and the work contains articles on more than five hundred women, distinguished in history, literature and art.