

Harvard Publishing Company,

114 & 116 Nassau Street,

HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT.

New York, June 1894.

Dear Sir:

We take pleasure in announcing that we have in preparation an Illustrated History of the Afro-American Race in the United States, dating from 1619, when they first arrived in the country, up to the present time.

The work will contain handsomely executed pictures of all prominent Afro-American Institutions in the United States, educational and other.

A very important feature of the work will be, Handsome Plate Portraits and Biographical Sketches of many of the Prominent Men and Women of the Race.

We enclose herewith the Preface, which shows the aim and scope of the work, as, also a list of subjects which will be treated of by the ablest men and women of the times.

Should you desire to use any of this matter in your publication, you are at liberty to do so, in which case please send marked copy to this office.

Very respectfully,

THE HARVARD PUBLISHING CO.

ILLUSTRATED HISTORY
OF THE
AFRO-AMERICAN RACE,
WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF THE
PROMINENT
MEN AND WOMEN.

COPYRIGHTED BY THE
HARVARD PUBLISHING COMPANY,
114 & 116 NASSAU ST., NEW YORK.

1894.

ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE AFRO-AMERICAN RACE,
WITH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PROMINENT
MEN AND WOMEN.

PREFACE.

"The Afro-American, as Slave and Freeman," we are sure, will appeal to a constituency as extensive as civilization, because the subject is one of interest to thoughtful men everywhere, and because the treatment of it here is upon a scale never before undertaken in Europe or America. Every phase of the life and history of the African in the United States from his introduction into the country, in 1619, to the present time, is treated in the following pages by the most competent and famous men of that race, in a thoroughly elaborate and scholarly manner, with an abundance of illustration, which must command respect, both of readers and critics, because it is not only a history of a race still in its infancy, as freemen and citizens, but because the story is told by the men and the women of that race—men and women who were, in a majority of cases, slaves, and who have secured their education and the position they occupy in our national life during the last thirty years. They answer the question propounded nearly twenty centuries ago: "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" and the answer should convince that large number of Americans who have insisted, and who persist in insisting, that the African is fit only to be "a hewer of wood and a drawer of water," that they were mistaken in their opinions, however honestly entertained. If nothing more than this was demonstrated, the publishers of this work would feel that they have rendered a permanent service to the Republic; but this is by no means all that this work demonstrates. It leaves no shadow of doubt that the Afro-American is a fixed fact in our national life, as much so as any other race element of our population, and that, therefore, all schemes to colonize him or to expatriate him are not only visionary but pernicious, because of the impossibility of perfecting them on the one hand and of fomenting unrest and discord on the other.

The influence which the Afro-American has exercised upon the Constitution of the United States and upon our national life has never been sufficiently understood or considered. What our Constitution would have been without him; what would have been the political and industrial tendencies and, therefore, the present condition of the Southern States with no slave population to deal with, are questions purely speculative, interesting but foreign to the scope of this work. What the Constitution is, as affected by the question of African slavery, and what the condition of the Southern States is, as affected by the same influence, are matters of record, and are considered in this work with the fullness which their importance justifies.

The part taken by Afro-Americans in the War of the Revolution and in all the wars waged thereafter by the Republic, foreign and domestic, makes a chapter of absorbing and thrilling interest. It is creditable to them from every point of view, and shows as conclusively as facts can that they deserved their freedom because they fought for it, as well as to preserve the sacred union of the States.

What the Afro-American has accomplished since the war, as a freeman—in politics, in religion, in education, in the professions, as a wealth producer and consumer—occupies a great deal of the space of this work. Perhaps no race in the history of mankind have made a better showing as the result of three decades of freedom and opportunity. Upon this point Mr. Frederick Douglass has said: "Do not judge us by the heights to which we have risen, but by the depths from which we have been dragged." This is a modest but a happy statement of the situation.

The extraordinary development of the religious life of Afro-Americans, the astonishing volume of church property they have secured, the number and the strength of their sectarian organizations, have only been equalled in the development of their educational life, and the number of schools for their higher education which have been established and are maintained in their interest and are fed by the admirable public school system of the country. If religion and education are the principal bases of a noble manhood and strong citizenship, then we think that we show in this work that the present condition of the race is satisfactory, when the small and disadvantageous beginnings are properly considered, and that the future is full of promise. Their numerous secret and benevolent societies and their home life further illustrate and emphasize this important phase of the question.

We submit "The Illustrated History of the Afro-American Race," with Biographical Sketches of the Prominent Men and Women, to the reading public, firmly convinced that the work has a well-defined purpose and that in the following pages we clearly indicate what that purpose is.

ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE AFRO-AMERICAN RACE,
WITH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PROMINENT
MEN AND WOMEN.

CONTENTS.

- CHAPTER I.—SLAVERY, FROM 1619 TO 1863.
- “ II.—THE AFRO-AMERICAN IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR;
THE WAR OF 1812, AND THE WAR OF THE REBELLION.
- “ III.—THE AFRO-AMERICAN IN THE CONSTITUTION.
- “ IV.—WHAT THE AFRO-AMERICAN HAS ACCOMPLISHED AS A
FREEMAN.
- “ V.—WHAT THE AFRO-AMERICAN HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN
CHURCH LIFE.
- “ VI.—WHAT THE AFRO-AMERICAN HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN
EDUCATIONAL WORK.
- “ VII.—THE FREEDMAN'S BUREAU.
- “ VIII.—THE FREEDMAN IN RECONSTRUCTION.
- “ IX.—THE FREEDMAN'S BANK.
- “ X.—THE AFRO-AMERICAN IN DIPLOMACY.
- “ XI.—THE AFRO-AMERICAN IN MASONIC, KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS
AND ODD FELLOWS' ORDERS.
- “ XII.—BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.
- “ XIII.—THE AFRO-AMERICAN IN STATECRAFT.
- “ XIV.—THE AFRO-AMERICAN IN LAW.
- “ XV.—THE AFRO-AMERICAN IN MEDICINE.
- “ XVI.—THE AFRO-AMERICAN AS A FINANCIER.
- “ XVII.—THE AFRO-AMERICAN PRESS.
- “ XVIII.—THE AFRO-AMERICAN IN LITERATURE.
- “ XIX.—THE AFRO-AMERICAN'S SOCIAL POSSIBILITIES.
- “ XX.—THE AFRO-AMERICAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE.
- “ XXI.—WHAT AFRO-AMERICAN WOMEN HAVE ACCOMPLISHED.
- “ XXII.—THE AFRO-AMERICAN AS A MUSICIAN AND SONG
WRITER.