

# NOTED NEGRO WOMEN

THEIR TRIUMPHS AND ACTIVITIES.

BY  
M. A. MAJORS, M. D.

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"A race, no less than a nation, is prosperous in proportion to the intelligence of its women."

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*The criterion for Negro civilization is the intelligence, purity and high motives of its women.*

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THE HIGHEST MARK OF OUR PROSPERITY, AND THE STRONGEST PROOFS OF NEGRO CAPACITY TO MASTER THE SCIENCES AND FINE ARTS, ARE EVINCED BY THE ADVANCED POSITIONS TO WHICH NEGRO WOMEN HAVE ATTAINED.

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"I will go forth 'mong men, mailed in the armor of a pure intent.  
"Great duties are before me, and great deeds, and whether crowned or crownless when I fall, it matters not, so as Gods work is done."

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CHICAGO.

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committed to her charge. If education is the key by which aroused intellect may enter all the repository of treasure, and take for itself available knowledge, she has the happy faculty of giving that key to the dominant race. Through no favor of friends does she enjoy the position she occupies along with the great educators of this great city, but by energy and perseverance backed by a determination to obliterate caste and race restrictions by proving the merit of her brain, and the versatile range of her brilliant faculties to serve as a convincing argument in behalf of the women of the Negro race has she become so very noble in the estimation of the leading citizens of Cleveland. She is a tireless worker, and keenly feels the necessity of setting a high example for those of her sex, and especially her race. Miss Walker is of fair complexion, elegant form, pleasing stage appearance, a lively conversationalist, and withal an aggressive race agitator. She has a most flattering hope for the race, contending that concentrated race effort to rise high in the scale to cope with other nations is the only wanting link in our condition. She is a pleasing vocalist, but a most worthy teacher.

### MRS. A. J. COOPER.

*Author of a Voice from the South.*

**M**RS. COOPER'S book has been received with surprising consideration by the press throughout the country, and she is in daily receipt of clippings from quarters where least expected. As is well known, she is the widow of an Episcopal clergyman, and at present a teacher in our High School. She was graduated from Oberlin in '84, and was a class-mate of Mrs. Mary Church-Terrell. Her first attempt in literature is undoubtedly gratifying, both to her and her friends, as the following criticisms show :

*New York Independent*: "It is an open secret that the author of this volume is Mrs. A. J. Cooper. She puts a voice in her book of which she says modestly that it is only—

"An infant crylog in the night,  
And with no language but a cry."

but it is a piercing and clinging cry which it is impossible to hear not to understand—which it is impossible to shake off. She writes with strong but controlled passion, on a basis of strong facts."

Philadelphia *Public Ledger*: "There is sound sense in this author's argument, and what is certainly rare in controversial literature, an unblemished good humor. Mrs. Cooper disdains to make use of weapons beneath the notice of a cultivated and high-minded womanhood. The book commends itself to the attention of all interested in a fair discussion of a question of the day."

Chicago *Inter-Ocean*: "It is not often that the question here raised has been discussed more candidly, more earnestly and intelligently, and in better spirit than in the volume before us. The argument is keen, seldom the least shade of vindictiveness, and yet so pointed and honest as to be convincing for its justice. She claims that the best hopes of the race rest upon the higher education of black women. That only as the woman is educated and lifted up and refined and the home made pure, will the black man advance to an honored position."

Boston *Transcript*: "Doubtless this black woman of 'Tawawa Chimney Corner,' Anna Julia Cooper, makes an intimate exposition of qualities of her people which whites are so slow to appreciate. Indeed, the very fact of her criticism in excellent English and in welcome style, and phrase, is a manifest of ability and cultivation of those she represents."

*Public Opinion*: "This volume possesses a fresh attraction, because it comes from the eager heart and mind of a 'Black Woman of the South,' as the author terms herself. All the order of the great race to which the writer belongs pleads for a hearing for the women of her own color. She lays down boldly, clearly and strikingly the great law that a race will finally be what it's women are. Alongside of this she puts what she claims is a fact that the new movement to lift the black race into intelligence and spiritual life, compara-

tively little place has been found for the young girls. Young men are everywhere being pushed on and aided by societies and friends in the struggle to get an education. But young women are left almost wholly unaided, and very few are as yet able to complete courses of study. The book is written in a very judicious and elevated way. The pages are disfigured by no extravagant ill-judged utterances, but a dignified and womanly air pervades the whole. We commend the volume to all who wish to keep in touch with the Negro problem. A portrait of Anna J. Cooper, whom we take to be the author, forms a frontispiece of the volume."

Detroit *Plaindealer*: "There has been no book on the race question that has been more cogently and forcibly written by either white or black authors. The book is not only a credit to the genius of the race, but to woman whose place and sphere in life men have so long dictated."

The Kingsley (Iowa) *Times*: "One of the most readable books on the race question of the South bears the above title. It is written by Mrs. A. J. Cooper, of Washington, D. C., a colored lady with the brain of a Susan B. Anthony, a George Eliot, or Frances Willard. The volume is attracting wide attention, owing to its being worthy of careful perusal and because of its originality and great literary strength. It is a neat, cloth bound book, retailing for \$1.25, but to anyone interested in this race question it is worth many times its cost. For sale by the author or at all book-stores. The *Times* editor never has seen a stronger picture of the true conditions of affairs in the South than the one coming from this colored lady."

Judge Tourgee: "The habit of a lifetime has made the Bystander's pencil almost infallible in its indication of verbal inaccuracy, which is, after all, the very highest test of literary merit. The word which exactly fills the place where it is used—neither too large nor too small for the service assigned, or to the thought it is commissioned to convey—is to literary workmanship what the perfect note is to music. It may be slurred a little—often is—without constituting actual fault, as the rush of some great movement may even hide or excuse a false note

now and then, but only precision can give the feeling of finish which attests the genuine literary artist. Rarely has the unsparing pencil passed so lightly over the pages of a book of essays as it did over the pages of this 'Voice from the South.' Its perusal would be a new sensation to many a white-souled Christian woman of the 'superior race,' who, when she had perused its bright pages from cover to cover, would be forced to admit that though she had encountered many a sharp thrust she had not received one awkward or ill-tempered blow."

Mr. Tourgee's criticism of Mrs. Cooper's book, "A Voice from the South," possesses great interest for us, because we know him to be both free from prejudice and capable of judging literary excellence. He declares that few women writers have shown a "daintier wit, and few works give promise of a purer literary art." "The deft but stinging satire, the keen but not ill-tempered wit, but the tasteful self-restraint," says Mr. Tourgee, "shows the author to be a cultured lady." According to our critic, "the white-souled Christian women of the superior race who peruse its bright pages from cover to cover will be forced to admit that, though they encountered many a sharp thrust, they received no awkward, no ill-tempered blow." While Mr. Tourgee deprecates a little parade of quotation he pronounces "the abundant use of second-hand material to be the fashion of the times," and dulls the edge of criticism by acknowledging that "the borrowed matter is always good, aptly used, in the main, shows breadth of reading, keen observation and thorough good taste in selection." Mr. Tourgee considers it neither surprising nor discreditable to the colored people of the United States that they have made so few contributions to literature. The reason is cogently and succinctly stated as follows: "The best scion grafted on the strongest stock requires some period of growth before it produces fruit, and a race by law barred from the fields of literature for two centuries need at least the lifetime of a generation in which to produce literary work. The wonder is, not that it came so late, but that it came so soon and is of such simple, genuine quality.

## MISS HATTIE GREEN.

Teacher.

**M**ISS HATTIE GREEN is one of the lady teachers of Cleveland, Ohio, who has through her own efforts unaided won for herself a name in Ohio. Her educational opportunities have been the best, as her talents show. She with others, by action has refuted the fallacy of race incompetency, in passing the rigid examinations of the school board

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MISS HATTIE GREEN

of Cleveland. She is beloved by a host of persons, who admire pluck and energy, principles which if well fortified will bring success to the door of every one. These women command the attention and respect of the races whose children they instruct without favor. Their performance of duty actuated by a sense of right has won for themselves the merited recognition they deserve, and guarantees to them long tenure.