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The Education that Saves and Profits



GIVE ME A CHANCE

*Industrial Work in Schools of the Freed-
men's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal
Church brought down to date. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀*

The Education That Saves a Race and Profits the Whole Nation;

or,

The Industrial Work of the Schools of the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

By

Secretary P. J. Maveety

The education that is called for under present-day conditions must take into account the threefold needs and nature of man, viz., physical, intellectual, and moral. He must be clothed, housed, and fed; his mind must be trained to think correctly, and his moral nature brought into harmony with the divine law of conduct. More and more the school is broadening out to include training in all these lines, as its mission to the young people of the Nation.

The common school for the "Three R's" as a foundation to be followed by the technical and industrial school and the college, with the professional school to prepare for the ministries of theology, medicine, and law, furnish the ideal system of education that to-day gives New England and Germany industrial supremacy. The old educational theory of the South was private tutors, colleges and academies for the rich; no common schools for the

poor; education for the blacks a crime. The results are in line with this false and un-American theory, now happily forever given up. Think of it! While in 1860 Massachusetts had less than one per cent of illiteracy, Virginia had 14 per cent and North Carolina 21 per cent among their white citizens. Now the common schools for all, poorly equipped though they be, supplemented by the colleges, normal and industrial schools, are laying the foundations for a new future in the South.

This new South is now awakening to the vast material resources within its borders. In addition to cotton, corn, and sugar, it is now producing great quantities of rice, fruit, coal, iron, and oil. Immigration is tending Southward to develop these rich fields. The Negro is now and must ever be the chief industrial factor in this new movement. That he be a trained worker is a prime necessity under the new conditions.

Need of Trained Workers

The American Negro is better adapted to many forms of this work than any other laborer. He is American in spirit, Protestant in religion, adapted by nature to a semi-tropical climate, and adjusted to the civilization of the South. Trained workers, however, are needed. Since emancipation the race has had no general school of industrial training. Under slavery it had. All the skilled work of the vast plantations was done by Negroes. Thus many received careful training in the higher industries. Young men of mechanical bent

were apprenticed. They mastered all the various trades. At the close of the war the Negro thus had leadership in the industrial trades of the South. Since emancipation the millions of young Freedmen have had no teaching, no discipline, no direction in agriculture or the mechanic arts, such as the "school of slavery" gave their fathers. Because of lack of training the higher industries are now slipping from their grasp. Unless we can send forth from our industrial schools trained workers and leaders in the industries, this race will be supplanted and be driven to the wall. The character, skill, intelligence, and thrift developed in such schools are needed as never before, if this race is to hold its own in the era of almost unparalleled industrial expansion and strenuous competition now opening before the South.

Industrial Work Not a New Feature

This Society began the work of industrial training over thirty years ago. From the beginning, in greater or less degree, this has been the established policy of the Society. Along with the normal and academic departments, which have sent forth thousands of teachers, preachers, and leaders of the race, there have always been some forms of industrial training. Thus along with the Bible and the spelling-book were the plow and the plane, the forge and the trowel, the hammer and the saw. Over twenty years ago Claflin and Clark Universities had two of the best-equipped plants in the South.

During the past several years the largest ap-

appropriations for industrial work in the history of the Society have been made. Nearly three thousand students have annually been taught in many forms of industry. Last year the record was as follows:

Manual-training and Trade Schools: Agriculture, 137; printing, 95; tailoring, 79; painting, 24; masonry, 43; laundry, 85; sloyd, 158; broom-making, 37; carpentry, 132; cabinet-making, 28; machine-shop, 46; blacksmithing, 35; machine-shop (iron-working), 18; wagon-making, 27; foundry, 6; engineering, 10. Total, 805.

Students in Domestic Economy as follows: Housekeeping, 364; sewing, 1,698; cooking, 785; dressmaking, 341; millinery, 113; others, 38. Total (counting none twice), 2,146.

Grand total Industrial Schools (counting none twice), 2,951.

Architectural drawing, 217.

In Professional courses: Theological, 78; medical, 334; dental, 124; pharmacy, 75; nurse-training, 25; law, 4.

Some Examples of Our Training

The practical results of the industrial training of the schools of the Freedmen's Aid Society are apparent. Besides the thousands helped to larger usefulness and efficiency, here are a few examples of those trained for leadership. One of our industrial graduates is the efficient superintendent of the Slater Manual-training School at Orangeburg, S. C.

From Claflin and Clark have gone forth a

score or more who are now heads of departments in other industrial schools. Hundreds hold important positions as carpenters, blacksmiths, plumbers, printers, wheelwrights, etc. Their earning capacity has been increased three or fourfold.

Several of the steam-heating plants in our system of schools were installed by those trained in our shops. The plumbing in our schools is done by students now in training. Two of these trained plumbers and steam-fitters were head-workmen in the installation of the steam plants at Chicago University and at Mr. Rockefeller's estate on the Hudson. The



Learning the Iron Moulder's Trade at Morristown

plans and specifications for several of our best recent buildings were prepared in the architectural department of Claffin University. Thus the result of the careful mental and moral, along with the industrial, training in our schools is seen in the industrial and general

leadership gained by many of our graduates. What more striking tribute could be given to the soundness of the theory on which our schools are conducted?

Whole Communities Transformed

Many preachers who received industrial training during their school course have built churches and parsonages, doing much of the work with their own hands. Our graduate-preachers and teachers have introduced a better type of homes among the people. They have drawn plans and have shown them how to do the work. Thus the one-room cabin has been transformed into the two and three-room home, where virtue and modesty may have a chance. They have made pulpit, church, and home furniture. In social and industrial betterment they have been the leaders in many communities.

One girl, who went out to teach, could find only a one-room cabin in which to board. She could not live in common with grown children. Rather than desert the task, her industrial training at Thayer Home, of the Woman's Home Missionary Society, and in the course at Clark University, stood her in good stead. She cut pine saplings; made a room apart in one corner of the cabin; covered the outside with a quilt and old grain-sacking; illumined this with pictures that she had brought for the children; and thus made in the rude, windowless, pictureless, old cabin a little house beautiful. It became the attraction of the neighborhood. That year nine of the one-room

cabins were transformed into two and three-room homes, where modesty and virtue may live and grow. By the power of a Christian example and through plain teaching of the Word, a score of her pupils were led to a personal knowledge of Christ. Such practical work represents the spirit of those sent forth from our schools.

Industrial Work at Claflin

At Claflin University, Orangeburg, S. C., President Dunton has developed our most extensive and complete industrial shops. They represent an investment of \$50,000. The shops in extent and equipment compare favorably with any plant in the entire South. They rank third among the great industrial schools. Training is here offered in twenty-four trades and industries, covering practically the entire list given above. In the sloyd department young women also receive training. As teachers and home-makers they carry out among their people the principles here learned. The girls are also taught cooking, dress-making, and millinery.

From this Slater Manual-training and Trade School more than a score of industrial leaders have taken positions as instructors in industrial and trade schools. Mr. W. W. Cooke, a graduate of Claflin, and for years superintendent of its architectural and mechanical department, took the United States Government examination, which he successfully passed, and is now making and executing plans for Government buildings. Tuskegee and the Georgia

State Industrial School have found Claffin graduates worthy of their highest places. Many of them have developed industrial enterprises in towns throughout the South. Architectural plans and specifications sent out from this department are now secured for the buildings of this Society. Nearly a score of build-



There is Always a Market for Brooms—We Make 'Em

ings on the campus have been erected by the students under his direction.

Thus in our schools the students receive not only industrial training, but at the same time, by practical work, hundreds of them earn enough to enable them to go on with their

education. Scores of students make their way on from thirty to fifty dollars cash for the year.

One of the most interesting features at Claf-
lin is the "Louise Soules Home for Girls,"
where over one hundred girls are now earning
their way and securing an education at the
low cost of from \$1.60 to \$2.50 per month. A
happier, brighter set of students I have not
seen. Thus we are training hundreds of girls,
as a part of their education, to cook, to wash,
to iron, to become good housekeepers and
home-makers. Above all, they carry forth
among their people the example of ennobled
Christian womanhood. As teachers and moth-
ers they are uplifting and purifying the life
of a race at the fountainhead.

Industrial Training at Morristown

Through the work of President J. S. Hill,
the Boyd Industrial Shops at Morristown Nor-
mal and Industrial College, Morristown, Tenn.,
were made possible. The building is of brick
and over two hundred feet long. Its several
departments are equipped with modern ma-
chinery. Here we have a foundry, from which
cooking and heating stoves of seven styles, and
other castings, are in demand throughout
East Tennessee. From the printing depart-
ment many students are sent out as skilled
printers. Broom-making is a special industry.
This gives profitable employment to many stu-
dents. The entire output is sold in advance.
In the wood-working department the fittings

for the city gymnasium, consisting of lockers, turning poles, clubs, bars, swinging rings, etc., were made. Scores of girls receive domestic training, and over two hundred cooks and house-helpers have been furnished to Northern homes through President Hill.

Industrial Work at Other Schools

At Clark University several trades are taught. A large number of skilled blacksmiths have been sent forth. The printing department turns out commercial and general work of a high grade. Several years ago the agricultural department was established. It has 120 acres of land under cultivation, with 300 or more acres of woodland pasture. A trained farmer, with twenty-five boys, carries on a model dairy, truck, and general farm. Milk and vegetables are sold in the city of Atlanta, and are in great demand. The farm barn was burned, and Mr. William Deering, of Chicago, gave \$3,300 to replace it with a new and modern one, which is now in use, a credit to the donor and a much needed illustration to the Negro farmers of Georgia. Farmers' Institutes are held a couple of times a year, and judging from the attendance and interest, the Southern Negro is waking up to the fact that he must "mix brains with his soil" if he would succeed.

At Rust University, Holly Springs, Miss., basket weaving and "mission furniture" are specialties. The drawing-room of the new Presbyterian College for white girls in Holly

Springs is fitted out with this furniture made at our neighboring industrial shops.

A new industrial building has just been finished and equipped with engine, wood-working machinery, forge and blacksmith outfit, and other tools.

Here also farming, vegetable gardening, care of stock, and poultry raising are taught. The institution raises most of its own milk, butter, eggs, and vegetables.

At Wiley University, Marshall, Texas, a number of industries are taught. The entire electric plant of the institution has been installed and is run by the students. The work on our large central hall and boys' dormitory was mostly done by them.

The new president at Gilbert Academy, Baldwin, La., Prof. J. R. Reynolds, formerly of Wiley University, has made a fine start towards the inauguration of a great agricultural and mechanical industrial plant at this school. He has a small electric light plant already in operation, and will extend it as fast as his funds will warrant. He has built a dock on the Bayou Teche, which runs in the rear of his grounds, on which he expects to unload wood and supplies for the school.

He and one of his teachers have purchased out of their own funds a second-hand motor boat, which they expect to use in the service of the school.

His boys enter into all these labors with great zeal. Of the large sugar cane plantation belonging to the school fifteen acres are reserved for an agricultural experiment farm.

President Reynolds already has assurances of co-operation from the United States Department of Agriculture, which will furnish books, pamphlets, and seeds for use in teaching modern methods in this great industry. As fast as experience and money will admit this training will be enlarged.

The farming, market gardening, dairying, and poultry industries are being introduced in connection with nearly all our schools in one form or another. Most of the schools have a few acres thus cultivated, providing illustrations in thrift and industry to the students and incidentally furnishing supplies for the college kitchen.

These small beginnings, it is hoped, will ultimately grow into strong departments of agricultural training.

Special Training for Girls

Our nurse-training schools furnish another form of practical training for which women of the Negro race have special adaptation. The Sarah Goodridge Nurse-training School and Hospital at New Orleans University offers a complete course in modern nurse-training. Instruction is given by the staff of the Flint Medical College. They have the advantage of the clinics and practical drill under competent physicians. Mercy Hospital at Meharry Medical College, Walden University, Nashville, Tenn., was bought and equipped by graduates of the college. It is a practical illustration of what our graduates are doing. Our trained

nurses are in demand at good wages. The Negro woman has a natural gift for this work. Southern physicians praise her skill and deft-



“I was sick and ye visited Me”

ness of touch, combined with tenderness and steadiness of nerve that give her pre-eminence as a nurse. The training of our schools fits her for superior work, and her contact with both races is a benediction.

Co-operation of Woman's Home Missionary Society

With a number of our schools there are connected “Model Homes,” with well organized sewing and cooking schools, largely supported by the Woman's Home Missionary Society. Girls are trained here for home life and domestic efficiency. The ideals of womanhood, o

motherhood, of home life here given are of priceless value to a race degraded by slavery. Here are taught the practical industries on



Future Homemakers

which home depends. Examples of character, industry, cleanliness, thrift are here given. Hundreds of girls are trained to neatness and economy in dress. The home idea is here enthroned in the thought and affection of women who are to be the home-makers of a race. Scores of these graduates have married ministers. They make homes that stand as examples to their neighbors. When one contrasts the slovenly, mean surroundings of a preacher who has an ignorant or untrained wife, never in touch with the well-ordered home-life of our schools, with a parsonage neat and clean, with flowers and library, and well-kept kitchen and

garden, one realizes how this practical work is transforming the home-life of a people.

The Fullness of Character

The Freedmen's Aid Society is giving to the Negro the opportunity for a properly rounded out, fully developed manhood and womanhood. Its grade schools take the little children, where adequate provision is not made for their education by the State, and gives them their abc's, if necessary. It provides preparatory and normal schools for the training of teachers with preparation for colleges and seminaries, from which ministers, doctors, and lawyers are sent out to serve their needy people. Besides these a very large number of students are taught useful trades and industries. But the Church does not stop here. It believes in man as a moral being, and in all of its schools, along with intellectual and industrial education, it trains the conscience, the will, and the moral nature.

For further information, write the Corresponding Secretaries, 222 Fourth Avenue, West, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Bequests and Devises

Persons disposed to make bequests to the Society by will are requested to observe the following form:

I give and bequeath to "The Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," a corporation under the laws of the State of Ohio, the sum of \$....., and receipt of the Treasurer thereof shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors for the same.