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QUOTATIONS

FROM

NEGRO AUTHORS

ARRANGED BY

KATHERINE D. TILLMAN



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“We men who gather up the fragments of our labors, acts, achievements, sayings, oddities, peculiarities, fun, speeches, lectures, poems, war struggles, bravery, degradation and sufferings, and preserve them for the future now while they are in reach will stand out as heroes in the days to come.”

—Bishop Henry M. Turner.

“But one, amid the strife, collected, calm,
Patient and resolute stood firm and trod
The deck defiant of the storm,
Guiding the ship’s course like some ancient
god.

And high upon the scroll of endless fame,
In diamond letters, flashes Lincoln’s name.

T. Thomas Furtune.

“In Memory’s chain of golden links,
One link of thine I claim
On Friendship’s page in letters clear,
Will e’er appear thy name.”

—Virgie Whitsett

“The dead, the living,—all a glorious host,
A cloud of witnesses around us press;
Shall we like them stand faithful at our post,
Or weakly yield unequal to the stress?”

—Charlotte F. Grimke.

"Life is a fighting game against the powers of sin."—George M. Tillman.

"It is all very well to say that every one will live till his time comes. You need to remember that your time is like India rubber; you can stretch it or shorten it by the amount of pull you put upon it."—H. T. Kealing.

"Morning hours are the wings of the day, and wings are suggestive of elasticity, buoyancy, hopefulness, ambition, aspiration."

Julian C. Caldwell.

"We must war eternally with ignorance, mankind's ceaseless foe."—W. T. Vernon.

"There is no lesson that Negro boys and girls so need to master as that of the necessity of work, of the hell of idleness. Work in the face of obstacles and adversity is the school that makes men, women and angels."

W. E. B. Dubois.

"You will never convince anyone of the essential equality of the races except by the practical argument of achievement."—Charles W. Chesnutt.

"When I am gone above me raise,

No lofty stone perfect in human handi-craft
Say this of me and I shall be content,

That in the Master's work my life was spent
Say not that I was either great or good,
But Mary-like she has done what she could."

—Josephine D. Heard

"Can Afric's muse forgetful prove,
Or can such friendship fail to move
A tender human heart.
Immortal friendship laurel-crowned
The smiling graces all surround
With heavenly art."—Phyllis Wheatley.

"A woman must labor to be dressed with
purity, crowned with wisdom, and adorned
with the jewels of patience and persever-
ance."—M. F. Pitts.

"The man who is strong to fight his fight
And whose will no front can daunt
If the Truth be truth and the right be right
Is the man the ages want.
Though he fall and die in grim defeat
Yet he has not fled the strife,
And the house of earth will seem more sweet
For the perfume of his life."—Paul Lau-
rence Dunbar.

"Upon the nation's blackboard before their
united intelligence Africa and Africans shall
yet rewrite their own history and the world
shall yet recognize them as brethren."

—William Sampson Brooks.

“The black man must write for the black men and give them proper or mental rank among the historic peoples of the earth.”

Charles Henry Parrish

“He had no great accumulations, but left posterity a rich heritage of melody.”—Hallie Q. Brown.

“Our boys and girls must stand,
As giants in the land

With torches high,
Come, rouse from sluggard sleep,
And help the vigil keep;

What tho' the clouds hang low

There's blue beyond. —Eva Carter Buckner

“The Negro is neither angelic nor diabolical but merely human and should be treated as such.—Kelly Miller.

“One can only guide genius or talent where it exists to surmount difficulties and how to work to the best advantage.”—Samuel Coler-

“And we with sable faces pent

Move with the Vanguard line
Shod with a faith that Springtime keeps,
And all the stars enshrine.”

—Georgia D. Johnson.

“Disease and death draw no color line.”

—George Haynes.

“The liberators of humanity, Jesus, Paul, Tindale, Luther, Wesley, Allen, Garrison and Lincoln were all men of splendid and indiscribable loyalty to truth.”—A. B. Cooper.

“To realize the best for yourself consecrate yourself to something outside of yourself.”

—R. R. Wright, Jr.

“Hail land of the Palmetto and the Pine,
From Blue Ridge Mountain down to Mexic’s
sea;

Sweet with magnolia and cape jessamine,
And thrilled with song-thou art the land
for me.”—Albery A. Whitman.

Be strong my son, the weakling never can
secure the thing for which he strives, for he
who rests, and there supinely waits for some
chance guerdon of reward but waits in vain.
Be strong! Be strong!—B. B. Church.

Symbolic mother, we thy myriad sons
Pounding our stubborn hearts on Freedom’s
bars,
Clutching our birthright, fight with faces set,
Visioning the stars.—Jessie Fauset.

“Your race is calling you to carry on its
good name and with that, the voice of hu-

manity is calling to us all.”—Alice D. Nelson

Clean life, serene life,

Life that knows no shame,

Life that's writ in service

On the scroll of fame.—Joseph S. Cotter.

I ask no rich reward, I only crave

A spirit singing to the lashing rain,

A lifted heart that never knows defeat,

God help me to be strong: God make me
brave.—Anna M. Henderson.

We shall prosper in proportion as we learn to dignify and glorify common labor and put brains and skill into the common occupations of life.”—Booker T. Washington.

“The women of a race should be its pride,

We glory in the strength our mothers had,

We glory that this strength was not denied

To labor nobly, bravely and be glad.—Paul
Lauence Dunbar.

All I ask for the Negro is fair play. Give him this and I have no fear for his future.”

—Frederick Douglass.

“A race like an individual, lifts itself by lifting others up.”—Booker T. Washington.

“The distance of years lends not only enchantment but sobriety to the view.”

—William Pickens.

“The price of liberty cannot come too high nor its safeguards be maintained with a courage and vigilance too sleepless and unyielding.”—Reverdy C. Ransom.

“In every walk of life prove yourself a hundred per cent patriotic and useful.”

Bishop Henry Blanton Parks.

Truth has never been the exclusive inheritance of any one nation.”—R. R. Downs.

“We can reach our highest attainment, only in so far as we stoop to reach the man beneath us.”—Emily Christmas Kinch.

“The work of the colored woman’s Club is to teach the race the lesson of self-control revolutionizing communities and bringing about their moral and civic salvation.”

Mrs. Booker T. Washington

“You will never come into your own until you put at the service of the Almighty all of your powers—mind, body and soul. You will never know what happiness is until you have a large share in making others happy.”

Nannie H. Burroughs.

“We realize that to day is the psychological moment for us as women to show our true worth, and prove that the Negro woman of

to-day measures up to those strong sainted women of our race who passed through the fire of slavery and its galling remembrances.

—Mary B. Talbert.

“We must have trained guardians for the home whether they be natural mothers or selected ones.”—Mrs. S. Joe Brown.

“A landless race is like a ship without a rudder.”—Booker T. Washington.

“I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position one has reached in Life, as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.”

“We trace the power of Death from tomb to tomb,

And his are all the ages yet to come.”

—Phyllis Wheately.

“Still wondrous youth each noble path pursue
On deathless glories fix thine ardent view.”

—Phyllis Wheately.

In Flanders fields where poppies blow,

Beneath the crosses row on row,

We blacks an endless vigil keep,

Yea we though dead can never sleep,

Ingratitude has made it so.

“Africa, long ages sleeping,

Oh my Motherland awake,

In the East the clouds glow crimson,
With the new dawn that is breaking,
And its golden glory fills the western skies.
—Claude McKay

“Since Poets have told of sunsets
What is left for me to tell?
Can only say that I saw the day press
Crimson lips to horizon gray.—Effie Lee.

Sky, seas, and mountains wonders are
And chartless winds or fierce or mild,
But still I think God's masterpiece,
Is just a little child.—Ethel Caution.



QUOTATIONS FROM KATHERINE D.
TILLMAN.

“For Oh how much of happiness,
A humble hut can hold,
Such joys as misers cannot buy,
With all their hoarded gold.”

“Say not that you have no chance,
Read the Negro’s thrilling past,
See what he has done and dared,
Then go on to conquest vast.”

“We call our visions madness,
And cast our ideals away,
And are ever less than we should be,
Had we had our visions stay.”

“John Brown was hanged for Freedom’s cause
By man-made freedom-hating laws,
But he had won his God’s applause,
And where his martyr’s blood was spilled,
The seed of freedom were instilled
And men with new-born courage filled.”

“On through the long night of oppression
and wrong,
On with a smile and on with a song,
Where darkness is deepest then follows the
dawn;
Then soul of my soul go upward and on.

“So rich so pure her jeweled womanhood
So consecrated to her fellow’s good

That on and on,
 Shall shine her life in other happier spheres,
 Undimmed for'er by mortal ills and tears
 Through years unborn."

"Ring out the Bells of gladsome Easter time,
 In celebration of event divine,
 With resurrection joys the music swells,
 While multitudes now seek the Saviour's
 shrine."

In workman's shop or at the "Front"
 The Negro soldier does his stunt
 Proving a patriot, loyal, true
 To his country's flag "red, white and blue."

"For do you not think, it may be the homes
 we build for eternity,
 Are built of the kindness, cheer and love,
 Our lives send on to the heav'n above?"

"I serve my Lord the King,
 No greater post I ask,
 No matter where for Him I serve,
 So honor crown thte task."

"Give if you like wreaths for the dead but
 Long as I on earth shall tread,
 And grief the human heart shall bow,
 I'd rather give my flowers now."

"Our times are in God's hands,
 Our lives are in His care,
 The Old Year served from Him,

Our heaven allotted share,
And after all we had more sunshine than of
shade.

So welcome the New Year with hearts
with courage lade."

"Within the church that happy Christmas day
Where holly berries on the chancel lay
The little children carolled forth the praise
Of Christ the Prince of Peace, Ancient of
Days."







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