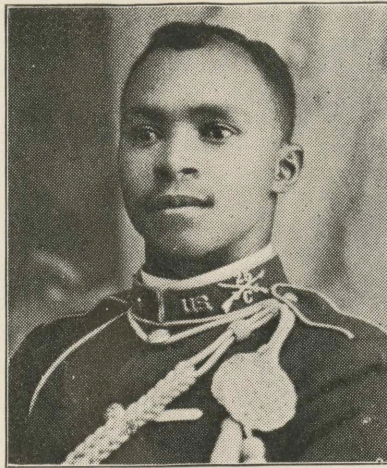
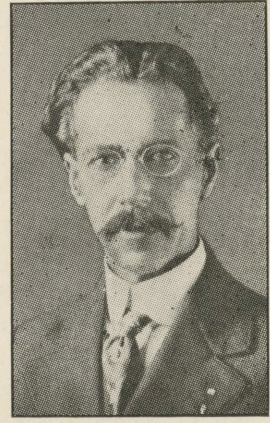




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colored citizens, and, despite the smiling approval of our emancipator over what we have accomplished, he can justly criticize us for what we have not done and say to us, "if you had have worked a little harder, run a little faster, and invested your earnings in business enterprises, you would not only look fine and fancy, but would be financially flourishing, thereby enabling you to make jobs of your own choosing for not only yourselves, but for your children as well as your children's children."

Three, four, five or six thousand colored citizens in Seattle—or whatever the exact number may be—which is immaterial and irrelevant so far as this conclusion is concerned, and yet not one of all that number is engaged in commercial pursuits; not one manufacturing concern among them; not one financial institution directed by any one of them, though the whole is credited with having over a million dollars in the various local banks; but worst of all, not one in the suburbs of the city or in the county is taking from Mother Earth a sufficient amount of food products to provide for his or her immediate family, which makes of the whole an army of consumers without a producer.

Are we tiring of trying to be like Him? Are we straying after false gods? Are we waiting for the proverbial raven to bring us not only bread, but other necessities of life as well? Whither are we drifting? We clamor for political recognition, and yet it is for the kind which can be handed to us on a silver platter. Had we been alert to our own racial interest in the late primary election, three more members on the Republican county central committee would have come to us, and likewise a representative in the present legislature; and thus armed, we would now be in a position to *demand* instead of *beg*, for party recognition.

We still look forward to the time when Mayor Edwards will fulfill his campaign pledges, and yet we really know that the civil service stone wall is a complete preventive of his so doing. Now our girls and boys are liberally educated and capable of filling civil service positions, and yet not a single colored citizen holds a certificate of qualification in readiness to fill a civil service vacancy, which at any time may occur. Under such circumstances, then, I pray you, what can the mayor, the city council, or any city official do for us as a class-voting unit, however favorable such officials may be for our advancement?

I say unto you, Lincoln wants you to do your bit and to keep in mind: who would be free must strike the first blow; yea, not only the first blow, but likewise the second, the third, and even the last blow.

Lincoln wants each and every one of us to be stars in something in the way of gainful occupation. Lincoln wants us to watch as well as pray, which interpreted is to say, be ready with your lamps trimmed and burning to go out and meet the industrial bridegroom. In order to do this, and all this, let us say with the poet:

"Lord God of hosts be with us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget."

Leaving Lincoln in the background, be it understood that the young colored person who does not prepare to excel in something in the shape of a life avocation, will in after life be little less than human driftwood, and will be a liability to the commercial, financial, industrial, political and even moral activities that are so essential to national success.

And now, briefly epitomizing this complex situation, it is a fact that the emancipated Negro, despite his bondage handicap, has made marvelous strides in his efforts to be like Him, and on the whole his emancipators are well pleased with what he has accomplished, and feel highly compensated for the efforts they put forth in bringing him where he is. Ofttimes we feel they could have done more in our behalf and, perhaps, they just as often feel we could have done more for ourselves and leaned less heavily on them. Both may be just in their conjecture, but when we remember that the Jews are still suffering from their enslavement some three thousand years ago, the Negro should be congratulated for the distance he has come with the load he had to carry. He has been making haste slowly, but making haste surely, and in doing so it has enabled him to not only find his own self, but to also find the other fellow, and in finding himself he is forming a nucleus, around which the seething, surging elements of his group which have been and are even now more or less repelling each other, are gathering, and there, let us hope, he will unite in an invincible phalanx, and with and by it move grandly on to the goal of that peace, which knoweth no understanding, and each day grow more like Him when He doth appear. And then, oh then, we shall live in the everlasting association of the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God.