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THE RELATION OF THE NEGRO TEACHER TO THE MORAL AND SOCIAL ELE- VATION OF HIS PEOPLE.

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berforce, Ohio.

The two great educative factors in the moral and social elevation of a race are the home and the school. Upon the training received, in these rests the future of any people. In the home, the earliest impressions are made. Every educator, therefore should recognize the importance of making that center all that it should be in the great work of character formation, which we conceive today as the prime end of education. It is too true that few parents understand the part they have to perform in this work. Countless homes through-

out the land are not all that they should be. Too many parents are either ignorant or indifferent as to their share in the education of their children. It is Dr. Thayer who asserts that the mass of children and youth in the public schools of our land never receive the first moral lesson at home. When we look at the statement in the light of the existing conditions in many homes, especially those of so many of the Negro race, we can but accept the truth of the assertion. Then, it is a noteworthy fact that the children of school age today spend far more time under the direct influence of the teacher than is spent under the direct influence of the parent.

This being the case we see that the work of moral and social elevation must be largely done by the schools and that the onus of it rests pre-eminently upon the teacher.

To assure the future of any people, there must be a growth in both thinking and doing. The Negro race must learn to think for itself, not to let others think for it; it must learn to do for itself along all lines, not to be dependent upon others for doing. This task of leading to such growth is the teacher's. The men and women who are directing the youth are in reality directing the destiny of the race. On them rests this responsibility of inculcating in their pupils those lessons in all the little things that go to make an honest, industrious class of people — all those correct habits of life that make for morality and decency; lessons in neatness, punctuality, accuracy, truthfulness, thoroughness, system-lessons that are to so great an extent neglected in the homes of undeveloped peoples.