

EDITORIAL

THE PURPOSES OF EDUCATION

From every source of moral strength there should come emphasis on the underlying principle of education--that it is preparation for greater usefulness. The need which each individual feels for meeting the practical demands of life is likely to obscure, if not blot out, the truth that men live for one another. Religion and education agree upon the end to be attained and differ only to the means to gain it. The record of the lives of those whom the world honors shows that men are revered for exemplifying brotherhood.

More than any other Americans, Negroes need to learn the essentials of good living. Otherwise they cannot overcome their limitations of rights and opportunities. The church and the school, are therefore the more obligated to inspire us in the desire to help others. The preacher and the teacher ought to feel the weight of responsibility for setting the race's feet in the sure path to do better things. The shallow reasoning that says "I won't do anything for anybody who does not do something for me," is no policy for a race which wants to get ahead. No man can live selfishly and thereby make the friends essential to his successor. And a race need friends in the same way.

The Negro has produced wonder men and women. Yet the inspiration their lives would be to us, is largely lost through the failure of our instructors to tell us about them. Instead of the rich food which Douglass, Reeves, Wheatley, L'Overture and others could be, some folly leads our pulpit and platform speakers to pay tribute to politicians and poseurs. They puff up with self-esteem, converting the hour of inspiring others into extolling self. Teachers frankly confess they follow that calling for the salary it brings. They refuse to add to their labor, the preparation of discourse on Negro history. The result is that each Negro starts his constructive efforts without the help he would have from the success of his brother.

Have your parents ever told you about the great men and women of the race? If they have not, they have failed of a duty.

Mark your ministers! Do they preach only of life hereafter and fail to help you be somebody here? Do they preach humility and urge submission to misfortune as Christ-like? Do they not know that many early Bishops and leaders of the Christian church were Negroes?

Negroes need education, of the kind that sets them on fire and to be up and doing.