

# SOLVING A PROBLEM

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BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SPEAKS  
ON NEGRO QUESTION OF SOUTH

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Eloquent Colored Orator Listened to  
by Large Audience at First Meth-  
odist Church on One of Great  
Problems of Day—Negroes Need  
Education in Thrift and He Will  
Work Out His Own Solution.

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Probably the largest audience at-  
tending any entertainment under the  
auspices of the Star Lecture course,  
at the First Methodist church this  
winter, was present last night to hear  
Booker T. Washington, the eloquent  
negro orator, deliver his lecture on  
"The Negro Problem in the South."  
There was a fair representation of local  
colored population present to hear the  
gifted representative.

Industrial training for the negro  
was the keynote of Mr. Washington's  
address, and he emphasized it as the  
solution of the great race problem. He  
contended that it is the duty of the  
white man to aid the colored man  
along that line, and said that so long  
as the rank and file of the colored  
people are in ignorance and poverty,  
just so long will the negro problem be  
a millstone on the neck of the Anglo-  
Saxon. Said he:

"In order to relieve that burden it is  
as much to your interests to assist in  
making the negro skilled and useful,  
and raising him to a higher level, as  
to the negro himself."

The condition of the black man in  
the South was described at some  
length, and the obsolete agricultural

methods that prevail there as compared with the North, were illustrated by the story of an Iowa farmer riding on a corn planter, shaded by an umbrella, the machine making the furrow, planting the corn and covering it up again, while in Georgia a negro drove a mule attached to an old plow to make the furrow, then another negro came along to plant the corn, followed by still another negro and mule to cover the seed.

"It is impossible for the South to compete with the North under such conditions," said the speaker. "and the negro must be educated to know how to use the same methods as the Northern farmer. The negro works, and works hard, but as a class they do not use brains in their work, and there is where training is needed.

"The negro of the South needs to be taught how to depend upon his own resources. The curse of slavery was that it made the colored man dependent upon the white for his subsistence, and robbed him of all executive ability. The 250 years of bondage to which the race has been subjected has resulted in taking away the quality of initiative with which men are endowed, and has left it looking to others for guidance, and with little ability to get along themselves."

Mr. Washington asserted that the colored man has as good an opportunity in the South as he has in the North, if not better. He said that where a negro is industrious and thrifty and has amassed a bank account and property, he is respected everywhere. If a negro is a skilled workman or has goods to sell that are as good or better than his white competitor, he receives patronage accordingly.

Education along the line of thrift and knowing how to spend money to the best advantage, is also needed, said the speaker. It was pointed out that it seems to be the rule that a negro lives in one room, with hardly the necessaries of life, and yet will run in debt to buy cheap jewelry or fancy articles. In some negro homes there will be only one fork, and in a corner a \$60 dollar organ.

The speaker interestingly outlined the work of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute at Tuskegee, Ala., of which he is president. It now has an attendance of about 1,000 colored students and is doing a great work for the colored race in industrial training along all lines.

After being taught to exercise the higher virtues, the use of brains in their work, and thrift, Mr. Washington said the negro will work out his own salvation.

Mr. Washington, after the lecture, was accompanied to his hotel by J. W. Ritchie and J. E. Johnson of Duluth, A. D. Lemons, of Chicago, and Attorney W. G. Anderson of Chicago, who is Mr. Washington's secretary. The latter is also secretary of the Republican League of Colored clubs of Chicago.