

## BOOKER T. WASHINGTON ON RACE WAR.

An Address Before the Afro-American Council in Session in New York, October 11, 1906.

In the season of disturbances and excitement if others yield to the temptation of losing control of their judgment and give way to passion and prejudice, let us, as a race, teach the world that we have learned the great lesson of calmness and self-control; that we are determined to be governed by reason rather than by feeling. Our victories in the past have come to us through our ability to be calm and patient, often while enduring great wrong.

Again, I am most anxious—and I know that in this I speak the sentiment of every conservative member of our race—that our race everywhere bear the reputation of a law-abiding and law-respecting people. If others would break the law and trample it under foot, let us keep and respect it, and teach our children to follow our example. In this connection I repeat what I have uttered on a recent occasion—that every iota of influence that we possess should be used to get rid of the criminal and loafing element of our people and to make decent, law-abiding citizens.

To the members of my race who reside in the Northern States let me utter the caution that in your enthusiastic desire to be of service to your brethren in the South you do not make their path more thorny and difficult by rash and intemperate utterances. Before giving advice to the Negro in the South the Negro in the North should be very sure that what he advises is that which he himself would be willing to take into the heart of the South and put into practice. Be careful not to assist in lighting a fire which you will have no ability to put out.

Some may think that the problems with which we are grappling will be better solved by inducing millions of our people to leave the South for residence in the North, but I warn you that instead of this being a solution it will but add to the complications of the problem.

While condemning the giving of prominence to the work of the mob in the South, we should not fail to give due credit to those of the white race who stood manfully and courageously on the side of law and order during the recent trying ordeals through which this section of our country has been passing. During the racial disturbances the country very seldom hears of the brave and heroic acts of a certain element of Southern white people whose deeds are seldom heralded through the press.

The indiscriminate condemnation of all white people on the part of any member of our race is a suicidal and dangerous policy. We must learn to discriminate. We have strong friends, both in the South and in the North, and we should emphasize and magnify the efforts of our friends more than those of them who wish us evil.

I have said we must differentiate between white people at the South. We can not afford to class all as our enemies, for there are many who are our friends. The country must also learn to differentiate between black people. It is a mistake to place all in the same class when referring to labor, morality or general conduct. There is a vicious class that dis-

graces us; there is also a worthy class which should always receive commendation. Further, we must frankly face the fact that the great body of our people are to dwell in the South, and any policy that does not seek to harmonize the two races and cement them is unwise and dangerous.

Creation—construction, in the material, civic, educational, moral and religious world—is what makes races great. Any child can cry and fret, but it requires a full-grown man to create—to construct. Let me implore you to teach the members of our race everywhere that they must become, in an increasing degree, creators of their own careers.

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## LYNCH LAW IN THE SOUTH.

From the October Number of Alexander's Magazine, Boston.

This last outrage in Georgia has made it very hard for a native of the United States of America with African blood in his veins to abstain from outcry, and continue to do his work, whatever it may be, in quietness and confidence, even here in the North.

How much harder for those of us living south of Dixon & Mason's line, who, till the whole body of our decent white fellow citizens is roused to cry "Halt!" have to run the risk of similar outrages.

How impossible for those living in Atlanta, or its neighborhood into whose souls the iron has entered, wrecked as they are by the death or mutilation of those dearer to them perhaps than life itself!

And yet, even to such an one, prostrate with grief, the Master, were He here in the body, would come, and bending over him, lovingly would whisper, "Dry your eyes, brother, forgive them, for they know not what they do. Nineteen hundred years ago I came with glad tidings from Our Father; ever since, little by little, the forebears of those who are ill-treating you (then among the most savage of the human race) have taken those glad tidings for themselves and their children. But what have they done, what are they now doing to my brethren, whom I love, to whom more than to any others, I was sent, and but for whom my message might have been delayed till now?"

"Look across the Atlantic. In the least civilized part of Europe to be an Israelite is to be exposed to atrocities even worse than those which are making agony here for you, and for all decent men, women and children, North or South.

"In the most civilized part, only the other day, soldiers of high standing were perjuring themselves in order to disgrace and drive out of the army a Hebrew officer, simply because he was a Hebrew. In the island, the 'cradle of the race' which is now persecuting you, it was the middle of the last century before my brethren were allowed to help make the laws of the country. And even in this good new world, which claims to be the refuge for all who are ill-treated in the old, to be a Jew—to belong to my race—though the 'hatred, scoffing and abuse' have disappeared, is still to invite a sneer.

"Courage, brother! What can you expect? Courage! work and wait; have faith; and never despair of your country!"