

**OUR INHERITANCE,  
PP. 1-101**

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Our Inheritance, pp. 1-101 by Z. Withers

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**Z. WITHERS**

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*J. Withers*



OUR  
INHERITANCE

*Zachary*  
By Z. WITHERS  
Author of "Slavery Days"

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Oakland, Cal.  
1909

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To  
HON. JAMES B. FORAKER  
*United States Senator*  
THE FRIEND OF MY RACE, BECAUSE THE FRIEND  
OF MANKIND

THIS ESSAY, WHICH ARGUES FOR THE  
RIGHTS OF MY PEOPLE BEFORE AN  
UNBIASED *and* JUST AMERICAN PUBLIC,  
IS REGARDFULLY, GRATEFULLY  
INSCRIBED

*By* THE AUTHOR

## FOREWORD.

**T**HE author of this contribution foreswears the thought of a single line of malice, hatred, or prejudice. In the simple spirit of honesty, which should govern the motives and principles of mankind, I herewith present the subject—Our Inheritance—that in this day of our triumphant march towards wealth, education and power, we shall not forget the trials and sacrifices of our noble forefathers, who bequeathed to us this estate.

We who accept it as our home and country are responsible as grantees of the estate and are bound by the laws of civilization to transmit it to our posterity more advanced, freer and nobler. To promote the welfare of her citizens, to increase the greatness of her power, to remedy wrongs, to insure justice to all men, is a mandate correlative with the exercise of authority, which becomes a responsibility of the nation.

In accepting the grant, all questions pertaining to it, whether political, social or moral, are a part of the estate, and we are constrained by the laws of inheritance to concede their standing and to deal with them in the same high sense of reason as we have dealt with every question that has confronted the nation.

Slavery was a constitutional question and a grave moral wrong. It was one of such enormity that it shook the foundation of the Republic. Like the winds of a fierce hurricane, the war of '61 smote the tree of human bondage and on its mighty apex it swayed and fell; but re-



*maining was its firm root of two centuries' growth. Hence the spread of Jim Crowism, or the living spirit of slavery, springs from its live, but submerged, foundation. Therefore, as freeholders of the estate we must deal with the question of Jim Crowism as a result of slavery: which, as a moral blight, affects the character of the Nation as an incentive to lawlessness. Then let Truth be our guide and Justice our motto, that we may bequeath to the distant man a home and a country not cursed with slave-ridden statutes, but rich in its splendor of freedom and happiness. Yours truly,*

*Z. WITHERS.*



*The Estate*

