

**PLANTATION ECHOES : A
COLLECTION
OF ORIGINAL
NEGRO DIALECT POEMS**

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Plantation echoes : a collection of original Negro dialect poems by Elliott Blaine Henderson

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ELLIOTT BLAINE HENDERSON

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A COLLECTION *of* ORIGINAL
NEGRO DIALECT POEMS

By

ELLIOTT BLAINE HENDERSON

SECOND EDITION

COLUMBUS, OHIO
PRESS OF F. J. HEER
1905



Dedication

THIS BOOK IS RESPECTFULLY
DEDICATED TO

MESSRS.

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(Columbus, Ohio)

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(Editor of the *Catholic Columbian*)

E. O. RANDALL

(Supreme Court Reporter)

DR. WASHINGTON GLADDEN'S
COMMENT

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Columbus, Ohio, 1905.

Mr. Henderson's little book of verses, "Plantation Echoes," is a meritorious attempt to give logical expression to our common human feelings. He deals, I should think, quite successfully with negro dialect, and his verses are musical and sometimes quaintly humorous, while the sentiment is sound and wholesome. I take pleasure in commending the volume.

WASHINGTON GLADDEN.

INTRODUCTION.

THE music of the American negro, the fresh and spontaneous expression of a good and care-free heart, has long been one of the most pleasing features of American life. It is human nature in its first vocal garb—original and unique, often humorous and always true to the sentiment of the singer. If there ever was an illustration of the close relationship between language and thought, it is this.

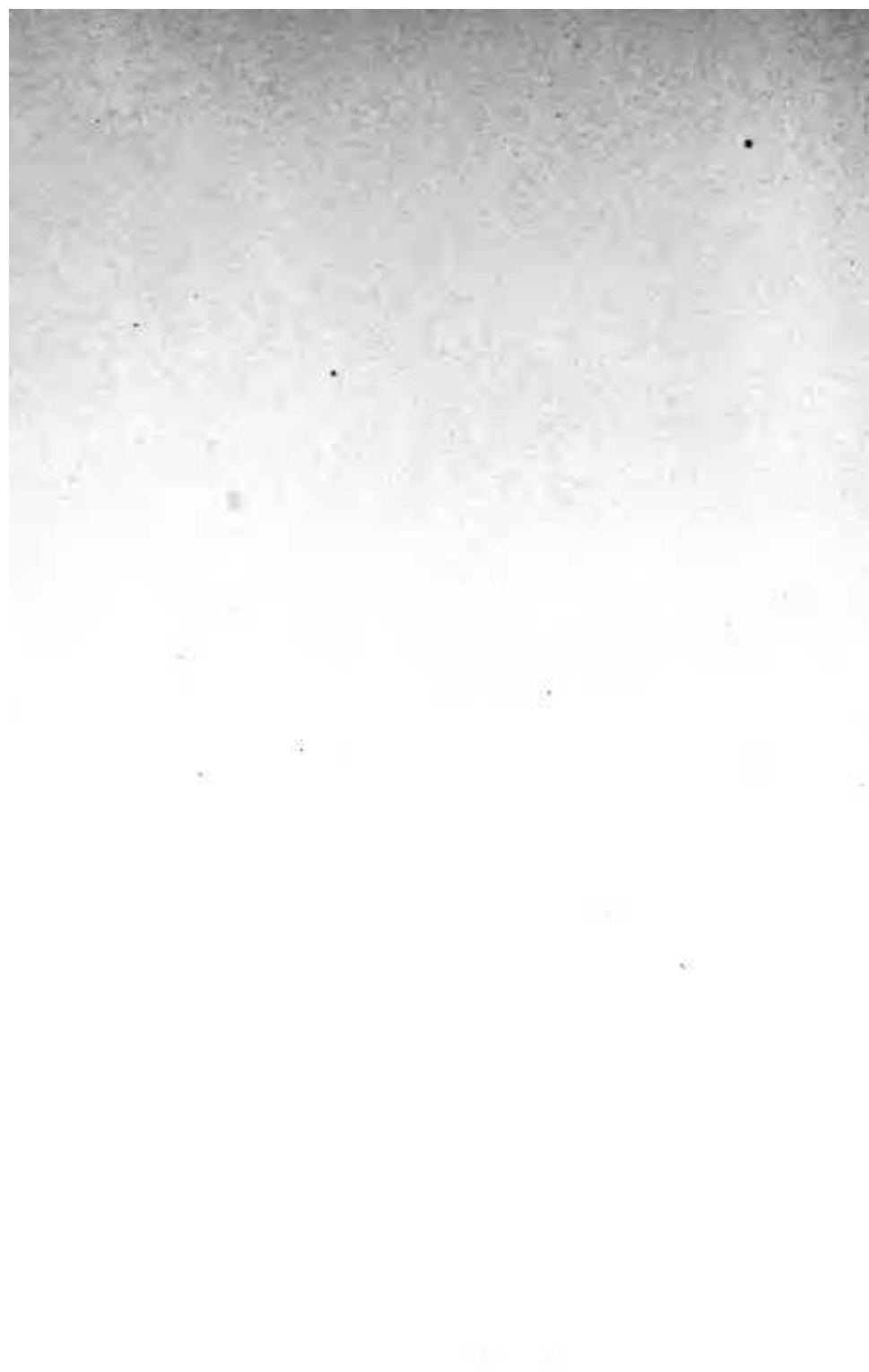
What is true of the melodies of the negro as developed in the simple existence on the plantation is also true of that other form of singing, verse-making. Among the negroes there have sprung up a number of exponents of the wisdom, wit and humor of the race. They have caught the spirit of others—the humble philosophers of their kind—and they have employed the dialect to reproduce the thought in all its quaintness and originality. One of the most notable of these exponents or interpreters is an Ohio negro, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, who has taken high rank among the poets of the day. Another is Elliott Blaine Henderson, also a son of Ohio, whose first volume of verse is herewith presented.

In much that Mr. Henderson here presents, there is the rush of expression and the jingle of words that are so characteristic of the negro. There is also humor and there is sentiment, and always that other quality which makes verse in these days readable—good cheer.

He who correctly interprets the spirit of his race serves a good cause, and it is believed that Mr. Henderson will be found to have succeeded in his undertaking to make his people better and more widely understood.

E. G. BURKHAM,

Editor of the Columbus Dispatch, Columbus, Ohio.



CONTENTS.

	PAGE
When the Moon Hangs Low	9
Seems Dey's No Place	10
Good Bye, Honey, Good Bye	12
Whut We Gwine To Do	14
Kaze I kno' I Kain't Stop	16
Dahky Whut Yo' Doin?	18
When De Fiah Am Kindlin Hot	20
Lamentation	23
When De Summah's Dun Cum	23
The Coon's Serenade	24
Blissful Anticipations	25
Pawson Johnson At Dinner	27
Go 'Way, Mah Honey	28
Brer Possum Declines	30
I Hain't Foolin' Honey	31
Sleep —	33
A Profuse Eucorium	34
Peepin' Th'ew De Husk	35
Axin' Coon Cum Obeah	38
Hustle —	38
Go Sleep	40
Kase De Sun Am Sinkin'	41
Soft Falls The Night	43
Git On Board, Chillun	44
Uncle Ned An' De Mockin' Bird	46
Po' Li'l Rastus	48
Sambo's Rain Philosophy	50
Jes' Keep Er Lookin' Up	51
Wished I'd Rode Mah Hoss	53
Eggs! Eggs!! Eggs!!!	54

	PAGE
It Am De Possum Time	55
Stick To Your Race	57
Memorial Day	58
Trussy's Visit	60
Is Yo' Lonesum, Honey?	64
Larn To He'p Yo'se'f	64
Courtin' O' De Phone	66
Lonesum Valley Christmas Tree	68
Yes, Wees Got Er Flag	72
Hi, Mistah Dahky	75
Dey's Er Col' Wave Breshin' Nigh	77
Force Of Words,	79
I Tol' Yo' So	80
The Passing of Night	82
A Tale O' Woe	83
Lullaby	84
The Exstacy of Uncle Joe	85
Keep Er Goin'	87
Climin' Up De Hill	88
Sistah Ruffle	90
The Gallant Blacks of San Juan Hill	93