

**NEGRO LIFE IN THE SOUTH,
PRESENT CONDITIONS AND
NEEDS. WITH A SPECIAL CHAPTER
ON THE ECONOMIC CONDITION
OF THE NEGRO**

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Negro life in the South, present conditions and needs. With a special chapter on the economic condition of the negro by Willis D. Weatherford & G. W. Dyer

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WILLIS D. WEATHERFORD & G. W DYER

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PRESENT CONDITIONS
AND NEEDS

BY

W. D. WEATHERFORD, Ph.D.

WITH A SPECIAL CHAPTER
ON THE ECONOMIC CON-
DITION OF THE NEGRO

BY

G. W. DYER, Ph.D.

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1910

SPECIALS

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THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

DEDICATED TO THE COLLEGE MEN OF
THE SOUTH, IN WHOSE TOLERANT
SPIRIT AND UNSELFISH INTEREST
LIES THE HOPE OF THE NEGRO RACE.

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P R E F A C E

During the month of April, 1908, a company of seven men, four negroes and three white men, came together in the City of Atlanta to discuss the present race question, with special reference to what the college men of the South might do to better conditions. Those present in this conference were Dr. W. R. Lambuth, Missionary Secretary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; Dr. Stewart R. Roberts, formerly a professor at Emory College, Georgia, now professor of physiology in the Atlanta School of Physicians and Surgeons; President John Hope, of Atlanta Baptist College (colored), a colored man of broad education and scholarly spirit; Professor John Wesley Gilbert, one of the most scholarly and sane minded negro men in the South; Messrs. W. A. Hunton and J. E. Moorland, secretaries of the Colored Department, International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations, and the author.

We spent six hours in a very thorough and earnest conference, the result being a unanimous vote to have a text book prepared on the negro in the South, which could be used in the Home Mission classes of the College Young Men's Christian Associations. The task of preparing this text book was placed upon the author by

this committee. On one particular phase of this study, the economic conditions, I have called to my assistance an expert, who is specially qualified to speak on this subject. Dr. G. W. Dyer, who writes this chapter, is a Virginian, who was reared in the midst of the economic reconstruction after the war, and has been a close student of every phase of economic life in the South. He was graduated from two Southern colleges, Randolph Macon and Vanderbilt University, and holds his doctor's degree from the University of Chicago. He is now Assistant Professor of Economics and Sociology in Vanderbilt University.

It may be worth while to say that the author is a Southern man, a graduate of Vanderbilt University, and, since leaving college, has been the Student Secretary of the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations for the South.

It will thus appear that this volume has been prepared by those who have spent their lives in the midst of the conditions about which they write. They, therefore, have no reason to be prejudiced for or against the negro any more than should any other Christian man of the section, save wherein a thorough study of conditions may have brought new convictions.

It is difficult always to think calmly and to speak without passion on a problem such as this, but a deliberate attempt has been made to state the facts in all fairness and calmness. It is believed that the educated men of the South will be glad to study these facts in the same

spirit. In them alone do we have any large hope, for most of the untrained men are too full of prejudice to face fairly or solve justly such a momentous question. On the college men, therefore, rests the burden of responsibility in this matter.

If this little volume arouses new interest, and stimulates such careful study as will help toward the proper solution of this, the nation's greatest problem, the writers of the same will be more than satisfied.

W. D. WEATHERFORD.

Nashville, Tenn.,
June, 1, 1910.