

**A SHORT HISTORY
OF THE AMERICAN
NEGRO**

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A short history of the American negro by Benjamin Griffith Brawley

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BENJAMIN GRIFFITH BRAWLEY

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OF THE AMERICAN
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A
SHORT HISTORY OF THE
AMERICAN NEGRO

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DECIUS.—Here lies the east: doth not the day break here?

CASCA.—No.

CINNA.—O, pardon, sir, it doth; and yon gray lines

That fret the clouds are messengers of day.

Shakespeare: *Julius Cæsar*.

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DEDICATED
ON THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF NEGRO EMANCIPATION
TO THE YOUNG AMERICANS
WITH WHOM IT HAS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE
IN THE CLASSROOM TO SEEK
THE BEAUTIFUL AND THE TRUE

261181

PREFACE

This study of the history of the American Negro endeavors simply to set forth the main facts about the subject that one might wish to know, and to supply in some measure the historical background for much that one reads to-day in newspapers and magazines. The book presupposes only an elementary knowledge of American history, but it does presuppose so much. The principle has been adhered to throughout that institutions are greater than men; hence little chronicle of individual achievement has been attempted, individuals being mentioned generally only when they had to do with significant movements. From the nature of the discussion the treatment could hardly be primarily original, and frequent citation is made to the conclusions of investigators along special lines. At the same time it is hoped that in more than one instance the presentation will be found to be substantially new. It has been the aim to deal with different phases of the life of the Negro—political, economic, social, religious, cultural—with some degree of proportion; but because of the great importance of education since the Civil War, special attention may not unnaturally seem to be given to this feature. For