

**SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCHES OF EMINENT NEGRO
MEN AND WOMEN IN EUROPE
AND THE UNITED STATES, VOL. I**

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Short Biographical Sketches of Eminent Negro Men and Women in Europe and the United States, Vol. I by John Edward Bruce

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JOHN EDWARD BRUCE

**SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCHES OF EMINENT NEGRO
MEN AND WOMEN IN EUROPE
AND THE UNITED STATES, VOL. I**

Short Biographical Sketches

— of —

Eminent
Negro Men and Women

In Europe and the United States,

With Brief Extracts from their Writings and Public Utterances.

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Compiled and Arranged by

JOHN EDWARD BRUCE,

— AND —

Inscribed to the Negro youth of America, in the humble hope that
they may stimulate a reverence for the virtues and an
imitation of the examples here set forth

Yonkers, N. Y.
1910.

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Preface.

The editor of these biographical sketches sincerely trusts that the moral portraits which are here offered will present such features as will call for the thoughtful attention of the younger generation of the Negro race here and abroad, and that the accounts of these lives may beget a desire of imitation, in order to secure a like measure of merited honor. An attempt to awaken race pride has also been made, and among the illustrious names that are here enrolled may be found many which the editor earnestly hopes the people of his race will treasure, as a portion of a great legacy bequeathed to them and to their posterity forever.

"Race," said the Earl of Beaconsfield, "is the key to history."

JOHN EDWARD BRUCE, Editor.

Introduction.

"Let us make man in our own image." And from that day to this, we find man chronicling his entrance to and his acts in the world. Distinctively terrestrial as is the habitation of man, we find him busy in classifying his greatness for the reference of future generations.

From a philosophical point of view, it is far from being necessary when we consider the cause which gives him being. A man is here with a distinct identity to do or not to do. The congratulations therefore given to man for superexcellencies in Art, Science, or Literature, are not his, but due to the cause which projected him hither.

Upon the other hand, however, we cannot fail to see the necessary good that emanates from the study of the acts of those who, in the emulation of conditions, have made greatness possible. The unsupported theory that man sprang from one stock has so rent in twain the "species," that it has become supremely necessary to identify the Races and their acts.

The Race which erroneously is called "Negro," but which is correctly a Colored Race, springing from African Ancestors, finds itself so disadvantageously positioned among other Races that an intellectual disruption would be an obvious sequence were it not for a biographical data to which to refer.

While the Race—Colored—has made intellectual strides of great moment, it is nevertheless apparent, from day to day, that the ignorance that exists has disparaged the excellent status of those who represent wisdom. It is almost a generic transpiration to find incompetent ambitionists sharing the same positional honor as those who have by long years of study made themselves useful to the world.

Withal, we must struggle on and in that struggle we must make mention of and chronicle the acts of those who have emerged from ignorance and have made themselves

a part of the progress of things. One of the greatest drawbacks in the compilation of biographical sketches of the Colored Race is the hallucination made in the union of matter and spirit. The test applied to Job by "His Satanic Majesty" is an illustration of the complexity.

We recommend this book, therefore, to all who are interested in the emulation of lives that are terrestrially worthy.

The effort of the Author is a superhuman one, and successful, and aside from the psychology of things divine, we consider it the most worthy of its kind in the annals of History. I recommend it to the world.

PHILIP AKLIS HUBERT,
Prelate of the United Christian Church
of New York.

It is a remark of Dr. Johnson that "no species of writing seems more worthy of cultivation than biography, since none can be more delightful or more useful. None more certainly enchains the heart by irresistible interest or more widely diffuses instruction to every diversity of condition."

Anthony William Amo.

The date of the birth of this learned Negro is uncertain. He was born in Guinea, and was brought to Europe when very young; the Princess of Brunswick took charge of his education. He pursued his studies at Halle, in Saxony, and at Wittemberg, and so distinguished himself by his talents and good conduct, that the Rector and council of the University of the last-mentioned town gave public testimony to them in a letter of congratulation.

Amo, skilled in the knowledge of the Latin and Greek languages, delivered with success private lectures on philosophy, which were highly praised in the same letter.

In an abstract published by the Dean of the Philosophical Faculty it is said of this learned Negro that having examined the systems of the ancients and moderns, he selected and taught all that was best of them. Besides this knowledge of Latin and Greek, he spoke Hebrew, French, Dutch, and German, and was well versed in Astronomy. He published dissertations on some subjects which obtained the approbation of the University of Wittemberg and the degree of Doctor was conferred upon him; the title of one of these was "*Dissertio inauguralis philosophica de humanae mentis Alii AOEIA: seu sensationis ac facultates sentiendi in mente humana absentia, et earum in corpore nostro organico ac vivo praesentia, quam, praeside, publice defendit autor Ant Guil, Amo, Guinea—affer philosophide, etc. LC Magister, etc., 1734 in 4°, Wittenbergae.*"

He published another work of equal importance which, together with the one above referred to, called forth words of highest commendation from the learned men of his day; the Rector of the University of Wittemberg in speaking of one of them says: "It underwent no change, because it was well executed, and indicates a mind exercised in reflection."

The court of Berlin conferred upon Amo the title of Counsellor of State, but after the death of his benefactress, the Princess of Brunswick, Amo fell into a profound melancholy and resolved to leave Europe, in which he had resided for thirty years, and to return to the place of his birth, at