

The National Negro Business League

On the 19th of the present month the National Negro Business League met for its fourth annual session in the hall of the House of Representatives in the State Capitol building at Nashville, Tenn. The House of Representatives on March 23 had, by resolution, unanimously voted the use of the hall to the colored citizens of Nashville for the purpose of holding this meeting. The League has for its aim the commercial, agricultural, educational, and industrial betterment of the colored race. Booker T. Washington is the president. Not less than five hundred delegates were in attendance.

The association at its session in Boston recommended that "our people form local business leagues in all towns and cities of the country where the race is strong enough in number, and such organizations will best promote the interests of the race."

"The Nashville American" in an editorial welcomed the League to the city and gave it a remarkable greeting, which we subjoin, directing attention to the closing paragraph:

Nashville is soon to have within her gates Negroes from New England as well as the Golden Gate, of San Francisco. From many portions of the broad environs of the Union they are coming here to tell what has been accomplished industrially for the uplifting and betterment of the race, and to plan for the further achievement by the Negro of that which is of use and value.

Surely it is the duty of the white man to vouchsafe encouragement to this conclave, holding the purpose and object it does. It is meet that the movement should receive not alone commendation, but support. Its benefit is not to be computed in a moment.

Many of the members of this League, representatives of the intelligence and honesty of the race and its higher ideas and better thoughts, successful most of them by frugality and perseverance, are examples to inspire emulation through pride in their brethren of the masses, or shame them into following after the precepts set. It is not an assembly for the discussion of the dead languages or a difficult algebraic equation, but a gathering of Negroes who have succeeded in honest labor, who come to improve themselves and give to their race the benefit of their experience.

We are not disposed to discuss the benefit or efficacy of higher education for the Negro. We do extend the hand of commendation to these Negroes who are succeeding in their industrial pursuits. More of such, and the workhouse will be less crowded and there will be less of activity for the jury in the woods.