

THE WORKS OF FRANCIS J. GRIMKÉ

Edited by

CARTER G. WOODSON

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Letters

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will be the uppermost question. "The damned spot will not out". All that Lothrop Stoddard sets forth in his book will confront the sages who are to settle the serious questions of the day. The thoughts I have are set forth in the splendid articles of Simond's. The one that appears this morning accentuates in my mind the possibilities of the future. Japan seeks to be a second Germany. Ancient history tells that the Oriental once over-ran Europe. Let Japan possess China, and in 50 years she will challenge the white nations of the world. England will lose India & Egypt, France, Spain, and Portugal. Africa, Russia will be dismembered. I have, when in California been pro Jap, as well as pro Jew. As a matter of fact I have no fondness for either Jap or Jew, both are denied just rights in this country, both are anti-Negro. I do not want to see paganism rule the world. Stoddard in his book of warning and alarm, did not really attach much importance to the child race in mourning. I will not discuss the issues at length. I have regard for your endurance.

Have you read "The Mirrors of Washington" by an anonymous writer? It is great reading! The writer has learning, but is a monumental egotist, and iconoclast. Best to Archibald and daughter.

Sincerely yours,
C. B. Purvis.

Wallace Radcliffe to Francis J. Grimké

Washington, D. C., Nov. 30, 1921.

My dear Grimké:

As usual, you have done a very good thing. I read your discourse on racial cooperation with interest and great approval. I endorsed your position thoroughly and am glad to have the idea put in such straight, strong terms as you have done. You are absolutely right when you say that God thinks no more of a white saint than he does of a black saint. The one is just as dear to him as the other and has the same obligations and the same aims. The American people are being compelled to think about this subject as never before. With you I join in congratulating the President upon his recent announcement to the South. I refer to it at length and with great approval in my Thanksgiving sermon. This nation will have to put itself right or some things will go wrong. You and I believe, however, that we will never be able to weld all men together

in brotherhood except through the gospel of Jesus Christ and that brotherhood must have its word and illustration first and most evidently in the church. It is very interesting to find how people are thinking seriously as never before on the subject, and their thinking, I am very sure will develop into a larger spirit and wiser demonstration than ever before.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,
Wallace Radcliffe.

Robert Thomas Kerlin to Francis J. Grimké

Lexington, Va., December 27, 1921.

My dear Dr. Grimké:

I have wished ever since returning from my trip in the North, in reflecting on the memorable experiences of it, to tell you with what pleasure I think of the brief moments of intercourse I had with you. I am indeed glad to have experienced this vivid personal contact with such a man.

In a sense this contact has been extended by my reading of your discourse which you kindly sent me. I do not think one white person in a hundred thousand ever has reflected upon the injustices and slights and injuries of thought and action and speech, which constitute the ground of your arraignment. Is not that the great problem—to get people to *reflect*?

It is to accomplish this, in some measure at least, that I am endeavoring to get the literature of the Negro before white readers. Having done a work for the editors, I am now engaged on a work for the poets. I wish I could get some of the present-day poetry of the Negro to be universally read. It would quicken, as no other species of writing would do, the dormant finer impulses of every nature. I send you a mere sketch.

With best wishes for your health and happiness and continued usefulness in the approaching New Year, I am always

Cordially yours,
Robert T. Kerlin.¹

¹R. T. Kerlin became interested in the struggle of the Negro for justice and wrote two books entitled *The Voice of the Negro* and *Negro Poets and Their Poems*. He was dismissed from his professorship at the Virginia Military Institute because he protested to the Governor of Arkansas against the prosecution of the Negro victims of the Elaine riot. For being too liberal Kerlin was later dismissed from the State Normal School at West Chester, Pennsylvania.