

## Negro Four Years Hence.

By BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, Principal of Tuskegee Institute.

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made a lasting impression upon the history of this country. Among them I might call the name of Paul Lawrence Dunbar, a negro poet, who has gained a prominent place in American literature; Henry O. Tanner, whose paintings have gained international fame and been placed in the galleries of the Luxembourg, in Paris, France.

I mention these men because by their unexceptional talents and opportunities they have succeeded in gaining the recognition of the world. I believe I could mention hundreds of others—physicians, lawyers, school men, writers.

These exceptional men and the people of the African colonies at Mobile still cling to the memories and traditions of their savage life in Africa, and may be said to represent the limits, the boundaries, of negro progress during the last half century.

What progress have the masses of the negro people who may be said to be between these limits made? First of all, nearly 60 per cent. of them have learned to read and write the English language. More than 30,000 of them are teachers in the public schools and colleges of their own people.

They have become owners, as nearly as I have been able to estimate, of \$500,000,000 of property in the United States; they have come into possession during this same period of 30,000 square miles of farm land, equal in area to fifty New England States.

They have erected and maintained over 20,000 churches, and have supported 20,000 ministers of the Gospel. It is estimated that they have contributed, directly and indirectly, since emancipation over \$70,000,000 toward their own education. Difficult as was the situation in which the negro found himself directly after emancipation, educated teachers devoted their lives to improving the condition of their people.

I venture to repeat that never in the history of the world have people in similar stages of civilization made such rapid progress as the negro people in the United States.

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### Booker T. Washington Takes a Look Ahead.

By BOOKER T. WASHINGTON,  
Principal of Tuskegee Institute.

**I**N 1913, four years hence, the negroes will celebrate—in some form or another—the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the emancipation proclamation in 1863. Great as have been the changes in the world since that date, I venture to say that no portion of the population has passed through greater changes or made greater progress than the negro.

I can perhaps best suggest the progress which the negro has made if I recall the fact that there are still living at Mobile, Ala., remnants of the African tribe who were brought over on the last slave ships, and that among those people and their descendants there are numbers who still speak the African dialect and retain a vivid memory of the life in the African bush.

In the meantime the negro race has produced a number of men who have



Booker T. Washington.  
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