

ARE COLORED MEN CITIZENS?

A BOOK FOR THE TIMES.

COLORED PATRIOTS

OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

With Sketches of Several Distinguished Colored Persons: to which is added a Brief Survey of the Condition and Prospects of Colored Americans.

BY WILLIAM C. NELL.

395 Pages. Price \$1.25.

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This Work has been compiled as a means of enlightening public sentiment on an interesting, but much neglected department of American History, and is graced with an introduction by Mrs. HARRIET BEECHER STOWE, and illustrated by engravings of CRISPUS ATTUCKS, the First Mar-



tyr in the Boston Massacre of March 5th, 1770; PETER SALEM, on Bunker Hill; and a fac simile Autographic Certificate of General WASHINGTON, tendered to a Colored Soldier. The increasing interest on the general subject of Slavery, invests this book with a rare attraction at the present time; for throughout its pages are exhibited various phases of the "peculiar institution," interwoven with incidents of patriotism and bravery of Colored Americans in "the days that tried men's souls!" From several commendatory notices of the Press, the following are selected:

This is a curious, interesting, and noticeable volume;—the contribution of a worthy and intelligent colored citizen of Boston to the vindication of his own race; demonstrating, by a striking and interesting collection of incidents, the patriotism, courage, intelligence and virtue of the colored citizens of the United States—showing that the first blood shed in the revolution flowed from veins covered by a colored skin; and that throughout that struggle, as attested by the testimony of Washington, the colored soldiers were ever reliable, and did yeoman service. It is a contribution creditable to its author's heart, and does no discredit to his intellectual accomplishments.—Boston Atlas.

The author of this volume, who is an estimable colored man of this city, has evinced much talent in the preparation of his work. It abounds in interesting incidents and lively sketches which cannot fail of showing that colored men are not wanting in energy, bravery, and patriotism, of a high order, and that they are capable of holding high positions in society. Some of them have already become school-teachers, lawyers, clergymen, professors in literary institutions, editors, &c.—Christian Watchman.

This is an unique and really interesting volume. The sketches it contains are well drawn, and its statements of fact carefully made and well-attested. The effect of its circulation will be to elevate the colored man in the estimation of his white brother, and to kindle in the breast of many a colored youth a consciousness of power to be a man in the fullest sense, notwithstanding the many hinderances in his path.—Zion's Herald.

In the "Colored Patriots of the Revolution," Mr. Nell has attempted to furnish an illustration of the patriotic virtues of the down-trodden race to which he belongs. He treats his subject according to the order of the States, adducing examples from each of the old Thirteen, which were united in resistance to British aggression. The first martyr in the cause of American liberty was Crispus Attucks, a mulatto who was slain in the massacre of March 5, 1770, while leading a band of Bostonians against the British soldiers under Captain Preston. Mr. Nell brings ample historical proof in vindication of the character of Attucks, who has within a few years been accused of being a mere turbulent incendiary. The volume abounds with curious anecdotes illustrative of the negro idiosyncrasy, many of which are decidedly readable.—New York Tribune.

This is, we presume, a labor of love in the writer. The services of colored men in the Revolution are worthy of more attention that has been paid to the subject. They were, wherever employed, good and faithful soldiers, and their blood upon many fields mingled with the vital streams which flowed from the hearts of white men who fought for the good cause. It is claimed that the first martyr to American liberty was Crispus Attucks, a colored man, who was killed in Boston, March 5th, 1770, at the time when what Englishmen call the 'King Street mob,' was fired upon by British soldiers under Col. Prescott. This book contains much curious and interesting information in relation to the services and exploits of colored men throughout the Union. It has evidently been composed with much care, and contains a great deal of matter which will be new even to the great majority of historical students.—Philadelphia Sunday Dispatch.

Mr. Nell has not only done his race, but the whole community, good service in the preparation of this volume. It is right that the heroism and virtue of the colored men, who, in the "times that tried men's souls," were found in the ranks of battle fighting for the success of Freedom's cause, should be brought to the minds of those who are now enjoying the fruits of their labors

and sacrifices. The biographies of the brave colored men here recorded, bear the most conclusive evidence that the colored race are in no respects inferior to the Anglo-Saxon in personal courage, or in their devotion to their country's welfare. The book possesses all the interest of a romance, and no one can read it without feeling that the prejudices against the colored race that exist in all American communities are undeserved, and that with equal opportunities to attain to social position and intellectual culture, the African race would put many of their maligners and haters to the blush by their rapid progress in knowledge, and by their devotion to all that is good and true.—Worcester Spy.

A very creditable work has been issued by Mr. William C. Nell, a young colored man in Boston, on the Colored Patriots of the Revolution, in which he brings to light many acts of bravery and devotion which show the negro to have been devoid neither of boldness nor of shrewdness, during the exigencies of those perilous times. It is a book every way calculated to excite the pride and self-respect of the race, and in the general style of composition does credit to the author.—Mrs. H. B. Stowe, in the Independent.

THE COLORED PATRIOTS OF THE REVOLUTION.—With this title, our friend, Wm. C. Nell, of Boston, has published a volume of nearly 400 pages. Harriet Beecher Stowe writes a graceful introduction, and Wendell Phillips eloquently endorses it. But in truth, the book needs no extraneous aid. It is not only a needed and valuable record of the trials, privations and sacrifices of the coloured soldiers of the Revolution, and of their equal claim with their white comrades to whatever honour is attached to bravery and patient endurance, but it is eminently a readable volume, enlivened with frequent anecdotes, interesting narratives, and biographical sketches of the prominent coloured actors in the great drama of the Revolution. It evinces a great deal of research and labour on the part of its author, himself a man of colour. He has no reason to be ashamed of his first essay as a writer. His style is plain, terse and manly, and for its freedom from rant or extravagance, might be profitably studied by the majority of even white orators and writers on Revolutionary topics.

Not long ago, the editor of the New York Express, the intensity of whose white Americanism seems mainly to manifest itself in hating "the nagers" as heartily as Bishop Hughes and his Irish followers, pretty plainly intimated that the coloured people had no proper claim to be considered in the political affairs of the country; that "Sam," and not "Sambo," was alone to be consulted. We commend to him the volume before us. He will find, by its perusal, that in the dark and doubtful struggle of the Revolution, Sam and Sambo were fellow comrades, mingling their common blood at Bunker Hill, Saratoga, Red Bank and Fort Moultrie. The honour and glory of the Revolution may be denied to the coloured man, but none can henceforth dispute the fact of his full participation in its toil, and danger, and suffering.

The volume is neatly printed, and illustrated with two or three engravings. Robert F. Walcott of Boston, is the publisher.—J. G. Whittier in, the National Era.

In a letter to the Author, Mr. Whittier says, "It is the best thing that has been done for the Colored Man for the last twenty years."

Mr. Nell has done a good work, and done it well, too, in gathering together and placing before the world in a convenient form, numerous interesting facts that show how strong has been the spirit of patriotism in the bosoms of colored Americans, a race of men who would be perfectly justified in hating this country with savage hatred, so foully has it wronged them. Cooper has somewhere said that the negro has almost always proved loyal to the American flag, and what a commentary is

such a statement, from such a source, on the diabolical endeavors to "crush out" all manly spirit from the colored race by consigning it to a condition of hopeless slavery, through seeking to make the institution legal wherever the American flag waves as an emblem of sovereign rule! In proportion to their numbers, and their depressed condition considered, the colored population of the United States, did almost as much towards establishing our nationality as the white themselves. Boston Daily Chronicle.

We have read with unusual interest these pages, devoted to the Colored Patriots. They are from the pen of a colored gentleman, and would do credit to the head or heart of one, who could boast of a white skin. We know of no other issue of the kind; and we venture the assertion that few books come from the press, by whomsoever written, indicating more system or arrangement than this.—Providence Tribune.

This work is an enlargement—and an improvement as well—of a valuable pamphlet published by Mr. Nell several years ago, and which had gone entirely out of print. It is a record of striking facts, which, as they illustrate the important services rendered by colored men in the struggles of this nation with the mother country; it has too often been the policy of our white historians to ignore or conceal. Mr. Nell's industry in compiling this volume is equalled only by his modest estimate of the value of his labors. He deserves the thanks of every friend of impartial liberty, and his book should find a place in every anti-slavery household.—National Anti Slavery Standard.

His countrymen of sable hue are deeply indebted to Mr. Nell for this handsome duodecimo volume of four hundred pages, filled with evidences of the patriotism of the oppressed race of civilized America—collected no doubt with much labor, and selected with judgment.

The object of the author was to save from oblivion the annals of those who had periled life in defence of a most ungrateful country, which has denied to their descendants the right of suffrage, conferred on the descendants of thousands who had fought in the ranks of the enemy. He wished also to prove that the African-American was not as deficient in valor and energy as he has been represented, by furnishing specimens of that race, who had deserved thanks and honor rather than chains and stripes. Without the same incentives to act against our oppressors and enemies, they had fought bravely for a nation that systematically trampled upon all their rights—and altho' their color has excluded them from the list of those to whom monuments have been erected by "a grateful people," Mr. Nell has placed their names upon the roll of history, that their grand children may point to them and say to the man who rudely thrusts them from the polls: "My ancestors helped to win the liberties you so foully abuse!"—Pittsburg, Pa., Dispatch.

It is a neat volume of about 400 pages, containing many interesting facts and arranged in an affecting manner. The characters are well drawn and the facts well attested. Abolitionists cannot do a better service to the cause of freedom than to procure this work and circulate it among their neighbors.—Ohio Anti-Slavery Bugle.

The compiler of this work, a colored man, seems to have spared no labor in seeking out evidence of the faithfulness with which his people have borne their part, in the perilous periods of our history. He has ransacked Colonial, State and National records, and has succeeded in arraying quite a mass of testimony on the subject.—Kentucky Weekly News.

Aside from the ridiculous and absurd pretensions which it sets up in behalf of the negro race, it contains some things in connection with our Revolutionary struggle, that are quite interesting. The style is withal quite good—rather better than we should expect from a gentleman of so dark a hue as the author is represented to be. Indeed, we are strongly impressed with the fact, that men with darker souls but lighter faces had something to do in the matter.—Virginia Liberty Sentinel.



Mr. Nell has gathered many interesting facts, and woven them together in a very effective manner. He has extended his researches into the local histories of several of the States of the Union, and presents a great mass of testimony in behalf of the military services of the colored people, which will astonish those who have not heretofore given the subject a thought. He very properly commences with the story of Crispus Attucks, the mulatto who fell at the time of the 'Boston Massacre,' and records very many deeds of prowess, not forgetting, of course, those of the colored veterans at the battle of New Orleans. He has also embodied much information in the chapters on the condition and prospects of the Colored Americans, and in the Appendix. This volume is very creditable to the industry and intelligence of Mr. Nell, and to his race.—Salem [Mass] Register.

In the hundred volumes filled with memoirs and recounting the chivalric deeds and patient sufferings of the white heroes of '76, how many lines are devoted to the memory of their colored compatriots? Not a dozen, we venture to say. While sculptured marble and costly mausoleum, raised by a grateful nation, mark the resting place of our illustrious dead, the legislature of Massachusetts refuse to erect a monument for the first martyr of the American Revolution who chanced to be a man of color. Crispus Attucks is his name, but such is the prejudice against his race, that few of us recognize the sound—while the name of the humblest of white patriots is embathed in the hearts of his countrymen and enrolled in the history of his country. Revering as we do those who fought and bled in achieving our independence, we certainly should recognize the debt we owe to the colored few, who suffered in defence of a land not their own—who gained a liberty not for themselves. 'Bravery under such circumstances, has peculiar beauty and merit.' Read this book, and learn that patriotism, courage, and talents are not confined to peculiar races, or complexion.—New Bedford Standard.

The history of such men should be more familiar to all who take an interest in securing to the colored race its rights, and hence we may hope that the industry and research of Mr. Nell may be rewarded by the wide circulation of his volume. From Crispus Attucks, of Massachusetts, the first martyr of the Revolution, to Tony Proctor, of Florida, the latest deceased of these colored patriots, their history and deeds are perspicuously set forth, and should call forth our respect and gratitude for their disinterested efforts. The essay on the condition and prospects of the colored race, which accompanies the volume, is suggestive of many thoughts in their behalf, being most ably written. The volume is neatly got up, and retails at \$1.25.—Boston Evening Telegraph.