

# The Race Problem

Booker T. Washington

ONE of the heartiest receptions accorded any visitor to the Institute was given to Principal Booker T. Washington, of the Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama, at an assembly held in the Mission, on Monday, May 11, 1903. "The people of the United States must learn to judge the negro by the highest and most useful types and not by the lowest and most slothful." These words were the basis of the appeal made by Mr. Washington before the students; he was warmly welcomed. He thanked the students for their hearty reception and pointed out the great progress made by the Tuskegee Institute in the last few years. "From a shanty and hen house we have grown into an institution of twenty-five buildings and 1,418 students."

But it was not for his college he pleaded; it was for the working out of the race problem. "As American citizens, you young engineers have an interest in working out this great problem, for while it concerns 10,000,000 negroes, it also concerns 65,000,000 white people. This problem can only be solved by making the negro of use to the community. If a negro carpenter can do better work than a white man, the color line will disappear. We, then, aim to make the negro a man with a home, with an occupation and a taxpayer. This can only be accomplished by honest, sturdy effort."