

Books of the Day

By Angelo Herndon

LIFE BEGINS WITH FREEDOM—price 5c.
Henry Winston. Published by New Age Publishers, P.O. Box 22, Station D, New York City.

Life Begins With Freedom is a simply, vivid, and heroic portrayal of the tragic, drab and hum-drum life which the young generation of the Negro people are forced to live today. It describes in a very popular form the fears, the horrors, hopes and aspirations of a people, who by virtue of their position of economic servitude, have always been looked upon as sub-human beings—deserving no status in society except that of semi-slaves.

The noble and historic contributions of the Negro people to the cultural and economic advancement of mankind, is brought out in a strikingly dramatic way which blasts the traditionally false theories of Negroes being inferior. It brings out the role of the Negro people many of whom helped to build Egyptian and Mohammedan civilization.

The historic universities during the thirteenth century; the indisputable fact that Negroes were the first to discover the method of smelting iron; the organization of the first Christian church by Negroes in Ethiopia—all of this and much more exposes the incredible way in which our historians have consciously falsified and distorted the history of the Negro people.

In this respect, our colleges and universities of today, are also guilty of the same dastardly crime. In *Life Begins With Freedom*, Winston shows how our oppressors purposely keep from Negro and white youth, the rich and invaluable information of the role which our forefathers have played in the development of world civilization. It is no wonder, then, that the feudal monarchs of old and the slave masters of today, have been successful in subjecting the Negro people to the barbarism of slavery—thus preventing unity between Negro and white workers.

Life Begins With Freedom, is a short autobiography of the author. The character, George, is used only because his life is no different from that of millions of young Negro Americans.

The struggle for knowledge and the right to live decently soon brought George, as it does all Negro youth, to the recognition of the fact that he was a Negro. He then learned for himself the cruelty, injustice, violence and lynch terror visited upon his people by the feudal lords of the South.

His dreams of happiness and

security were shattered when he had to come to grips with life. His parents were extremely kind and wanted for him all the good things in life which all parents desire for their children.

They somehow had a deep feeling of guilt for the wretchedness of their economic situation, in the face of which they were rendered helpless. Their helplessness to improve their lot was compensated by a sort of false pride in wanting to make a doctor or perhaps a preacher of their son, "George."

But the strength of the Mississippi sawmill owners was all-powerful. Their ruthlessness was certain to be felt without exception to anyone. When George's father finally came to the decision that it was impossible for him to support a family of ten on the meagre \$9.75 which he earned every week, it was necessary for George and other members of his family to look for work.

His first job was a delivery boy at a fish market. But it was not long before he was fired because he could not ride a bike. Luck was on his side. He rose from fish deliverer to caddy boy, earning fifty cents a day. During this time, George spent very few days in school.

Finally, life for George's family became so unbearable that they decided to move North. When they had settled down in Kansas City, his father landed a job in a steel mill. His father now earned more wages, but by this time the family was growing up and more money was needed. George obtained many jobs of running errands here and there.

He had also tried to work and go to school at the same time. But the 1929 crisis forced an important decision upon him. He quit school never to return again. He sought whatever work he could find. Life was almost too hard for him. But he was strong and never willing to give up in any battle.

All of his experiences up to this time had prepared him for the leader he was to be in the years that passed. He joined the Young Communist League. Today, he is recognized as one of the outstanding leaders of Negro youth as well as white youth.

The story of George is the story of young Negro America. It is a story which brands the mistreatment and injustice administered to the Negro. It is a story which should be read by every young person black and white. Order your copy today.