

THE DAILY

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BOWLING GREEN, OHIO, FRIDAY

SUCCESSFUL

WAS THE PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR RECITAL

A Large Attendance and Hearty Approval.

The Colored Poet Gave a True Coloring to His Beautiful, Sympathetic Verse—Fine Musical Numbers—Warm Reception.

Paul Laurence Dunbar, the negro poet and author, has come and gone, and his coming was an instantaneous success. No purely literary entertainment in Bowling Green was ever larger attended, and none received such an unqualified endorsement of hearty approval. The young artist's audience was charmed by his sweet songs and his earnest delivery; his mellifluous tone and his deep-voiced, well-modulated phrases. To begin with, Mr. Dunbar's recital was the real thing.

with the hearty approval shown his ward by the people of Bowling Green. Upon request Mr. Dunbar recited three short poems in an inimitable style. It was especially requested that he recite "Religion," a short poem which to many conveys the most thought of any work from his pen.

This afternoon, by request of Prof. Hard, Mr. Dunbar visited the central school building and gave five selections in the high school room to the pupils of that grade and the A grammar rooms. Several citizens were also present and were called upon to make a few remarks. Among these latter were W. B. Haskell, J. O. Troup, L. C. Cole and T. F. Conley. Mr. Dunbar's reading brought forth enthusiastic applause from his delighted audience. Miss Pearl Stratton also gave a musical selection.

Mr. Dunbar returned to Toledo this afternoon. To-night he will give a reading to the inmates of the State Hospital. On Monday he will give a reading at the auditorium in Toledo.

Mr. Dunbar's bearing is modest, if



Mr. Dunbar was fully justified in the station which he afterwards acknowledged. Not only was appreciation shown him as an entertainer, but also a recognition given him by representatives of the town's best people, as a man, regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude. To Mr. Dunbar, the warm reception after the entertainment far outweighed that shown by the fine audience at the hall. One was an appreciation of his art, the other was an appreciation of the man—a man whose nobleness of heart shows forth and makes radiant an exterior Caucasian prejudice says is beneath



ing the speaker to respond to an em-
tore. It laughed when he desired it to,
and its heart swelled the throat shut
when mood dictated. Mr. Dunbar
has a musical voice of deep sonorous-
ness with no intonation at all. In the
dialect pieces, he gives its natural lim-
itations full sway and the negro is
yours to command. In his serious lan-
guage poems, he shows his culture in
a voice so free of the dialect that one
fails to detect a false note. His man-
ner upon the platform is graceful while
still showing a becoming modesty. His
features are those of the pure Ethio-
pian, with which we are prone to disas-
sociate intellect, not to mention genius.

Mr. J. O. Trapp introduced the
speaker in a few fervid words of praise
for his genius and eminence in the lit-
erary world. He also alluded in a con-
gratulatory tone to the decimation of
race prejudice, which was so clearly
manifest in the presence of the magni-
cent audience before him.

Mr. Dunbar occupied an hour in his
share of the program. His selections
were for the most part from his dia-
lect poems, although he gave enough
of his language poems to show his mas-
tery of style, rhythm, diction, and bet-
ter than all, pure heart sentiment.

Many of the selections spoken have
appeared in recent issues of the Sen-
tinel. The most favored of his dialect
poems were "Agelina," "When de Co's
Pone's Hot" and "When Malindy
Sings." These were given with all of
the facial expression and intonation of
the emotional negro. In this regard
Mr. Dunbar excels, and it is this
knowledge of the actor's art that makes
him so effective upon the platform.

His poems of pathos were rendered
with a depth of feeling that touched
the heart of every listener and made
it respond to the sentiment of the per-
former. The reader read a selection
from his prose work, "Folks From Dix-
ie." The piece was a humorous de-
scription of a possum Christmas dis-
ner, entitled "Mount Pleasant's Christ-
mas Party." It was highly enjoyed,
rendered as it was with all of the em-
bellishments of voice and attitudes.
Among the language poems recited
were "Ship That Pass in the Night,"
"The Good" and "Life."

Three musical numbers were inter-
posed throughout the program. They
were sung by Miss La Vergie Bomber
and Miss W. Clayton, and a duet by
Miss M. Parker and Mr. Clayton.

In closing the speaker expressed
his interest in the work of Dunbar
and to thank him personally for the
opportunity afforded them by his gift. Dr.
H. A. Tobey of Toledo was present
and was greeted warmly by old and
new acquaintances. Dr. Tobey claims
to know Dunbar as his protégé, and is as
proud of the young man's success as
one can well be. He was delighted

not even shy and bashful. He seems
to shrink from the renown that he oc-
casionally. He can scarcely realize that
it is he who is the reputed author of
the works accredited to him. He feels
at times as though he may yet awake
to find it all a dream. He fully appre-
ciates his race distinction and is ven-
erable through it all, and is very careful
to guard against intrusion. In conver-
sation, he is quiet and retiring and
rather diffident. In serious talk with
a confidant, however, the inner soul of
the man shines forth as it does in his
verse.

Just how Mr. Dunbar is seriously de-
veloping as a writer is shown by the
fact that he has received such a large
number of requests for his work. Last year his
royalties from Dodd, Mead & Co. and
his income from his pen netted him
\$8000. He believes that he is perhaps
now justified in devoting his entire
time to his pen. The Toledo Blade is
authority for the statement that Mr.
Dunbar's work appears in more maga-
zines and periodicals of December is-
sue than any other writer.

Just recently Mr. Dunbar was asked
for a short story from The Youth's
Companion. The story has been writ-
ten and paid for, but has not yet ap-
peared. This is the first request from
this periodical. He has been almost a
regular contributor to all other high-
class periodicals for a year or more.
The first edition of his new novel,
"The Uncalled," has been already

Dodd, Mead & Co. have
the third volume of the
series.

The people of Toledo
credit to the fact that
genius in their midst
and which he draws
repute notoriety of
Dunbar is married to a lady of much
lighter complexion than himself, but
well educated and full of business ca-
pacity. She is giving him great aid in
his literary pursuits. Mr. Dunbar's
mother lives with him, and is as proud
of Paul as any first old mammy ever
could be. It is the mother who gave to
the son much of the inspiration for his
characteristic work.

Although the presence of Paul
Dunbar in Toledo is a
great pleasure

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