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The Coming

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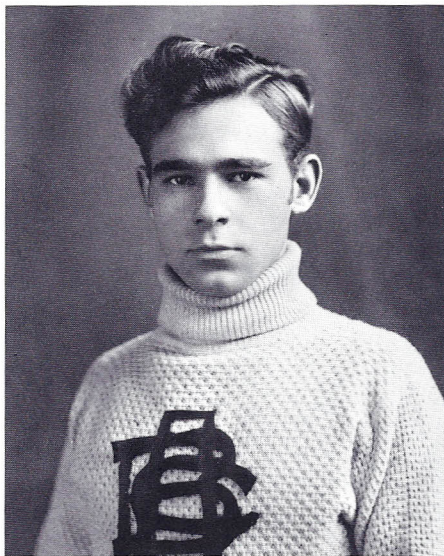
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The Coming

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Excerpts from the address of Dr. Mordecai Wyatt Johnson, on his inauguration as the 13th president of Howard.

A Romance and a Monument

Howard University is the first mature university organization to come to pass among Negroes in the modern civilized world. Its growth from the humblest beginnings is one of the great romances of American education. During all the early years, while the founder and his associates worked, pseudo-scientific men were busily engaged in giving various reasons why serious education of the kind here undertaken should never be attempted among Negroes. History has answered these arguments. Howard University with its high calibred fruitfulness is a justifying monument to the faith of the founder and to all his hard working fellow-laborers. It is a monument also to the far-sighted wisdom of the Federal Government which, ever since the emancipation of the slaves, has not ceased to manifest an interest in their educational growth.

America's Great Experiment

It is not necessary for the world to wait to see what we are going to do in our foreign relations in order to find out what the trend is going to be, because the

United States of America has a barometer within the
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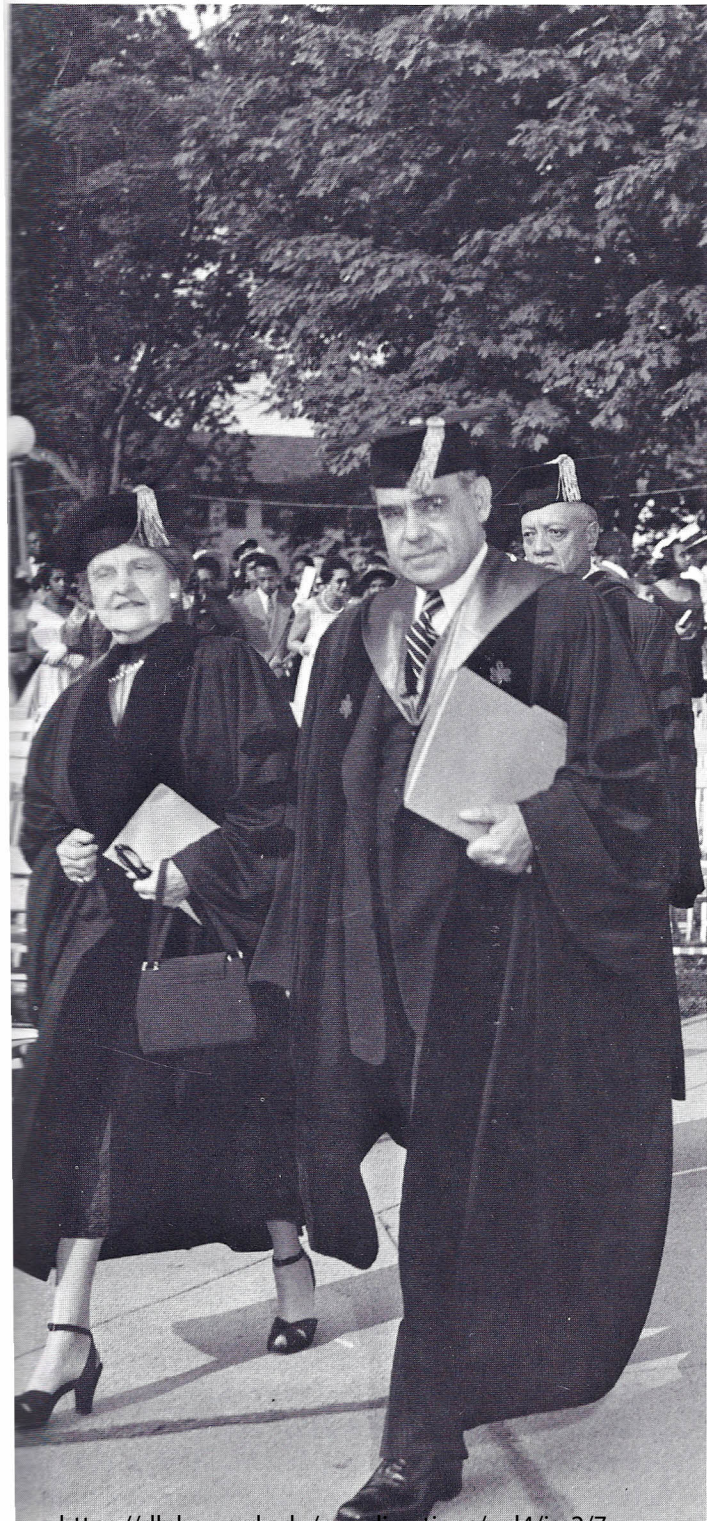
nation. It has twelve million of the disadvantaged peoples of the world in its own bosom. What is done as regards the Negro in this country is a signal and unflinching indication of the temper of the American spirit and of the character and intent of the American mind, and it will resound in the halls of all the world.

The Destiny of the Negro

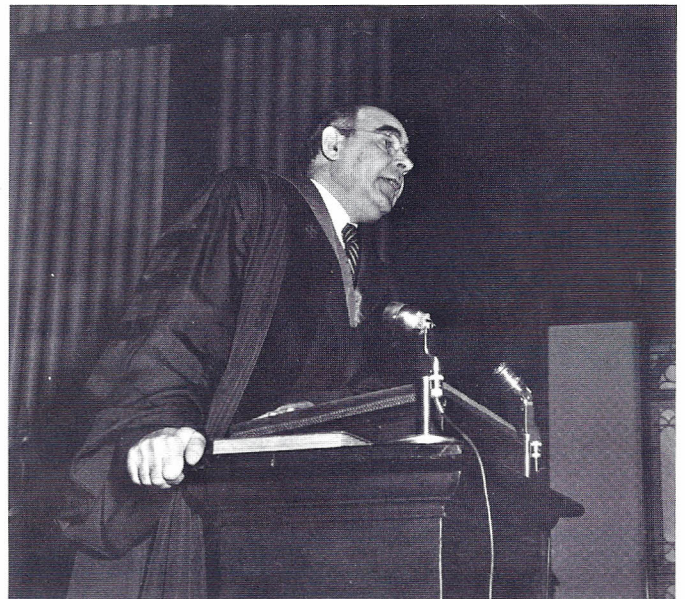
I want my country to conquer all of the inhibitions connected with blackness and all of the fears connected with blackness, but I want the original blackness there and I want that blackness to be unashamed and unafraid. That day is far off yet, but the existence of this institution tells something about the intent of the American mind. When I see that in sixty years it has been possible for such an institution as this to come to pass I am encouraged for my country and my hopes are stimulated by a great inspiration.

The Responsibility of Howard Graduates

Keep in mind your university and in all of your labors cast no shame upon her. So live out in the real world that travellers from your city may come to this place because you have been trained here. Your institution is large, but still it is little known. She is like some humble mother that washes clothes in a



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country place while you go out to share the honor and the glory of the world. The world will never know much about your mother or respect her except what you make it do by the character of the life that you live. So live that when you are done men will eagerly ask where you were born, who were your teachers, where were you trained. □