

**BATTLING FOR SOCIAL
BETTERMENT: SOUTHERN
SOCIOLOGICAL CONGRESS,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, MAY 6-
10, 1914**

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JAMES E. MCCULLOCH

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GOVERNOR WILLIAM HODGES MANN
OF VIRGINIA, PRESIDENT

BATTLING FOR SOCIAL BETTERMENT

SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL CONGRESS
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
MAY 6-10, 1914

EDITED BY
JAMES E. McCULLOCH
NASHVILLE, TENN.

SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL CONGRESS
1914



MRS. ANNA RUSSELL COLE
OF NASHVILLE. FOUNDER

INTRODUCTION

THE civilization of the Old South, in spite of the severe handicap of slavery, had features of incomparable beauty and nobility. In the greater freedom of the New South, there is the same chivalrous spirit at work that produced the finest things of the old civilization. The history of reconstruction is the epic story of this dauntless life emerging from the desolations of war to aspire for a still finer and nobler civilization in the future. Readjustment has been so rapid that the march of progress is irregular. The new civilization is lacking in symmetry. Many zones of danger and infection exist. False prophets have appeared. The world outside has disturbed the South by talking overmuch about its danger zones and false prophets.

Consequently, a conviction grew that the best intelligence and leadership of the South should study and improve and interpret its social and civic life. Out of this conviction the Southern Sociological Congress was born. Immediately it drew the best minds of the South together. On its absolutely free platform the new social consciousness has found expression. Leaders of State and Church have got their sense of direction. Comrades in the common warfare against social and economic evils have become acquainted. Fires of enthusiasm have been kindled in many hearts. The Churches and other forces have been enlisted for social welfare. The New South has heard the call of duty to relieve social distress. Southern patriots are mobilizing in a large way for a crusade of national health and righteousness, and already they are battling all along the line for social betterment.

The Congress met in Memphis this year in joint session with the National Conference of Charities and Correction. By special agreement, the National Conference had charge of the departments of the program on Public Health, Child Welfare, Courts and Prisons, and Associated Charities, while the Southern Sociological Congress confined its part

of the program to Race Relations and the Church and Social Service.

The volume of Proceedings this year is therefore smaller than usual owing to the fact that the Congress program was confined to two departments. This arrangement, however, applies only to the Memphis convention; for the Congress will continue to work this year as usual through the following six departments: Public Health, Courts and Prisons, Child Welfare, Associated Charities, Race Relations, and the Church and Social Service.

The Editor is indebted to the speakers for their careful preparation of manuscript and to Mr. Curtis B. Haley for his assistance in reading the proof. THE EDITOR.

Nashville, July 16, 1914.

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