

CELIA PARKER WOOLEY'S WORK.

THE SENSE OF APPRECIATION isn't any too firmly established in the minds or hearts of the great mass of the race, and there is nothing that can estrange friends from one quicker than to have their good offices unappreciated. A few years ago there came into the fight—our fight—a big, broad, generous, self-sacrificing woman, in the person of Celia Parker Woolley, who gave up her all, moved into the heart of the "black belt," establishing the Frederick Douglass enter, where gathered from time to time the thinkers of both races to discuss the problem which concerned one side as much as it did the other. For a while interest was keen in the movement, the public responded generously—never as generously as they should, however—and it seemed that from this modest beginning would grow an institution whose strength and whose influence for good would be felt all over the country. But the same thing happened to this splendid project that has happened to many similar projects: the newness wore off, those mostly benefited dropped away, leaving only the usual few earnest ones to carry on the work. The Chicago Evening Post editorially says: "Frederick Douglass Center has just completed its tenth year of work on behalf of the colored people of Chicago. At least, that is the statement that most of the people who know of the Center's existence would make if they were asked about the age and work of the institution. But the Rev. Celia Parker Wooley, who founded the social settlement at 3032 Wabash avenue, would object to her work being described as 'on behalf of the colored people of Chicago.' For she rightly regards the activities carried on from the modest dwelling house where she spends so many months a year as something more than a local philanthropy. She regards the work of Frederick Douglass Center as primarily educational, and as educational for the white people who participate in it or visit it as for the colored people who come there to learn. Believing that mutual knowledge must precede sympathy and sympathy precede any attempts to minimize race friction and economic and other handicaps on the Negro. Mrs. Woolley has devoted the last ten years to bringing about this knowledge and this sympathy. Whether in prosperous times the income—for there is no endowment—of the settlement has been relatively larger or whether, as at present, it has shrunk to relatively very low dimensions, this work of steady enlightenment, encouragement, sympathy and the removal of prejudice has gone on, and if Chicago sees to it that the work does go on, in spite of the greater publicity and more emotional appeals of so many other movements, the city will have made no mean contribution toward ultimate race peace in America." To have the white press constantly pointing out facts that we should be conversant with and intimating that which is true, we do not appreciate the blessings we already have, to say the least, is indeed embarrassing. Every movement for the uplift of the race should receive our hearty support and we bespeak for Celia Parker Woolley, our friend, the generous and loyal support she so richly deserves.