

# I Appeal to All the Members of My Race Throughout the United States to Crush This Damnable Disgrace

Now  
or  
Never

TO HOLD IN YOUR GRASP the power to crush an evil and not to make use of that power stamps you as a traitor not only to yourself but to the Race at large. Every individual who blazes a path through life's forest makes the journey easier for those who come after him. To take the initiative in any movement requires strength of character and an indomitable will. Men and women we have in our Race who possess these attributes; others need but to have the way pointed out to have them to follow in their footsteps. Just as long as we submit to segregation and its attendant evils, just so long will this curse be heaped upon us.

If there ever was a time to strike for freedom in its broadest sense, that time is **right now**. Supply and demand regulate everything; our services are more in demand now than ever before, and the demand will increase as time goes on. If we fail to reap the benefits of this golden opportunity we have but ourselves to blame. To every man or woman who is employed where segregation in any form is resorted to, we make this appeal—leave your position if that position requires you to **humiliate your flesh and blood**, if you must be the tool of the **prejudiced white man**. Better dig in the ditch from sunrise to sunset, or beg from door to door, than be compelled, as some railroad porters are, to order perhaps their own dear mother into a dirty jim crow section of the train upon which they work.

We must work to live, that is true; but **what other nationality would submit to such humiliation?** Not one. And yet we sell our birthright for a mess of pottage. It is time to act, and every man that has a spark of manhood or Race loyalty about him will join this national movement to better conditions for our people. It is your duty, Mr. Railroad Porter; it is your duty, Mr. Clerk and Mr. Waiter, to inform your superior officer that you no longer will be a party to the **crushing and keeping in the mire of your flesh and blood**. When next this task is imposed on you, resign rather than submit. **Remember, in union** (not labor union) **there is strength**; remember it means liberty for you and yours; remember your employer needs you far more just now than you need him; remember that the sacrifice, if it can be called a sacrifice, is only temporary at best; and remember above all things that you are in the right, and right always prevails. Let every man and woman who reads this message carry it into each nook and corner of this broad but not free land. It is now or never. We are counting on you to do your bit. Let your voice join in the chorus of the thousands who answer **"I WILL."**

Mail a copy of this issue with this appeal to every Race man throughout the south as well as the north who is holding a position where he or she is forced to jim crow their own. They would not ask a Jew, Irishman or Japanese to draw the color line or race line on their race. **"For God's sake, open your eyes, strike now, walk out from any job that robs you of manhood or womanhood; send this appeal to the Race women and men you know working in depots and steamboat wharfs in the south, where they have, "This side for 'Niggers'." Be Men; quit your job; let them put the would-be men, who lynch you, as porters and depot attendants; get out, pick rags and sell old iron before you do as no other race would to his own. Of course, they may crush you, but they cannot conquer you. You won't starve. Make your own destiny.**

—ROBERT S. ABBOTT, Owner and Publisher