

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1940

Kelly Miller

WITH the passing of Dr. Kelly Miller at his Washington home on December 29th, a brilliant member of that able body of educators of the 1890-1930 period was removed from the arena which he loved so well and in which he won unusual distinction, as teacher, mathematician, physicist, sociologist, essayist, advocate for larger freedom—scholar. He was all of those things and more.

Dr. Miller was known to thousands who read after him or heard him from the platform, and to generation after generation of students of Howard University, where he taught from 1890 until his retirement a few years ago.

As a schoolboy in his native South Carolina Kelly Miller attracted attention as a lightening fast calculator, and this exceptional talent carried him to Howard University, where he graduated in 1886.

Professors at Johns Hopkins University became interested in his mathematical genius and arranged for his entrance to their graduate school as a student in mathematics and physics.

He served Howard consecutively as professor of mathematics, dean of the college of arts and sciences, and professor of sociology. In this latter field he distinguished himself as a logician, and his books, "Race Adjustment," and "Out of Bondage" were used in sociology classes in leading American universities.

He contributed stimulating and scholarly articles to newspapers, including the Journal and Guide. His writings have appeared in more than 100 papers and in dozens of magazines, white and colored.

His last special piece of authorship was an authoritative story of the life of James Bland, composer of "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia," now under favorable consideration for adoption as the official song of the Old Dominion.

His was an unusually active life, and despite retirement and increasing physical disabilities as the years added their weight, his extraordinary mind and his facile pen were in action to the very end of his long and useful career.