

THE NEGRO

HIS ORIGIN, HISTORY AND DESTINY

CONTAINING A REPLY TO

“THE NEGRO A BEAST”

BY

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vineyard; and he drank of the wine and was drunken; and he was uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.' (Gen. 9:20, etc.) Thus, the Bible clearly teaches that though Ham offended Noah, there was no curse put upon Ham in consequence of it. Forced by the plain teaching of the Bible to abandon his original position the modern Christian hastily seeks shelter for his 'brother in black,' in the theory that it was Canaan whom Noah cursed and changed into a negro."

Now as what we have last quoted is largely a literal quotation from the Bible, for a wonder it has

not been distorted; but in the remainder of the quotation there are two more misrepresentations; first, that Noah cursed Canaan is not assumed by the author of the theory under discussion; second, it is not claimed that the curse of Noah turned any one into a negro. We give the author's own language as proof:

"But lest the reader should become perplexed, respecting the *application* of this anathema, on account of the text above referred to being, in English, 'cursed Canaan,' instead of 'cursed Ham,' as it should have been translated, we state that the Arabic copy of the book of Genesis, which is in a language of equal authority with the *Hebrew*, and *originally* the very same, reads 'cursed Ham, the father of Canaan, a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.'

"In this sense it has been understood by all commentators, in every age, on the sacred writings. Bishop Newton thus understood the passage, who also refers the reader to the Arabic Bible for the true reading, as does Adam Clark."

This is sufficient to show that the author of the "Hamitic theory" claims that the curse was put upon