

JULY · 1903

ris¹ has gone, leaving today. Anderson says that the Hayes people have come in and proposed to support the regular order. Sincerely yours,

James S. Clarkson

TLS Con. 252 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ Charles Satchell Morris.

An Address before the National Afro-American Council¹

Louisville, Kentucky, July 2, 1903

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE NEGRO

In the midst of the present deep interest growing out of matters connected with our race, it can be stated that recent events, as regrettable as they are, have tended to simplify the problem in one direction at least. The events to which I refer show that the questions pertaining to our race are each day more and more becoming national ones, rather than local and sectional ones. When we carry the question up into the atmosphere where men of all races, North and South, will discuss it with calmness, with absence of passion and sectional feelings, I believe we shall have made a distinct advance.

While my remarks tonight will relate to the race in its national aspect, I speak also as one who was born in the South, who loves it, and expects to abide there permanently. I am glad this great meeting is held south of the Mason and Dixon line. It is in the South that the great masses of our people dwell, and will abide in the future as now. It is fitting that this body should have its hearing and perform its work in the section of our country where the Negro race lives; it is equally important that this organization speak its words and perfect its plans in the midst of the white people who are most directly concerned about the future of the race.

Whatever progress is made in the years that are to come will result largely from open, frank discussion and a sympathetic cooperation between the highest types of whites and the same class of