



—FERDINANDO L. BARNETTE “GENTIS UNITAS” (MDCCCLXXIX)

Space for sight-reading and translating is below. The literal English translation and the original excerpt of Barnett's speech are located at the back. Do you see a difference within the translations?

LITERAL TRANSLATION

“Theories which teach about the strength in unity and the certain destruction riding on the heels of sedition and dissent, ought not be repeated here. The high race is able to be reached through the unity of race alone. Pious statements and honest business and the most moral patience may win over the admiration of a few nobles, but unless morality, by the grandeur of its teachings, affirms everyone and incites our race to more noble hopes and hasten us to the realization of our moral faults, the distinction assigned to the few will not help us.

—FERDINAND L. BARNETT “UNITY OF RACE” (1879)

ORIGINAL EXCERPT

“The axioms which teach us of the strength in unity and the certain destruction following close upon the heels of strife and dissension, need not be here repeated. Race elevation can be attained only through race unity. Pious precepts, business integrity, and moral stamina of the most exalted stamp, may win the admiration for a noble few, but unless the moral code, by the grandeur of its teachings, actuates every individual and incites us as a race to nobler aspirations and quickens us to the realization of our moral shortcomings, the distinction accorded to the few will avail us nothing.

—BARNETT, FERDINAND L. (1879, MAY 6-9). RACE UNITY [CONFERENCE PRESENTATION]. NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COLORED MEN OF THE UNITED STATES, HELD IN THE STATE CAPITOL AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.



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