

## THE OLD YEAR

Written by Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Jan. 1, 1931.

The old year which has just gone, taught some splendid lessons in life's school room which should be studied and learned "by heart" as was done in old school day methods.

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The third great lesson for the Negro comes from still another field of endeavor - that of the stage in the marvelous success of "Green Pastures" as played in New York by Negro actors. Other Negro companies have demonstrated their dramatic ability for years, have amused and entertained the great theater going public - many have belittled and caricatured their race to do so. But by their reverent treatment, superb acting and dignified presentation of what was meant as a travesty on Negro conception of the Bible, these Negro actors have won the united tribute of the critics and theater goers, and on our modern Babylon for a year, they have crowded the theater to laugh but remained to praise. A wonderful triumph of and testimonial to Negro Art and religion! The leader and teacher in this case is Chicago's own Richard B. Harrison.

May Negroes everywhere catch the inspiration of these three great achievements of 1930, and strive in 1931 to equal if not exceed them.