

[.....] Professor Allen then addressed the meeting. He stated the subject of the lecture, and said he would endeavour to show that the African race originated the arts and sciences, and gave the world the first impulse in Christianity. He proceeded to sketch the history of the descendants of Ham, the second son of Noah, the Ethiopians, the Egyptians, the Phoenicians, the Carthagenians, the Canaanites, and the nations of Western Africa, and proved from the ancient remains still existing in Ethiopia that its inhabitants were acquainted with the arts and sciences 1,500 years before the birth of Christ, or about the time of Moses. He adduced several authorities, including Herodotus, to maintain his position. In reply to assertions that the present negro race was very different from the ancient Ethiopians, and could not possibly be their descendants, he showed by analogy that changes as marked were often produced by climate. Then he proceeded to prove that the African race was a most religious and moral one, and that they were characterised by a love of poetry, painting, and music. He illustrated his arguments on these by anecdotes from history, and personal observation.

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