

Without Regard to Race: The Other Martin Robison Delany. By TUNDE ADELEKE. (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2003. xxxiii, 274p. Notes, bibliography, appendices, index. \$42.)

Martin Robison Delany was one of the most well-known figures in African American circles during the nineteenth century. Born free in Virginia in 1812, he moved to Pennsylvania as a child. As an adult, his talents and political concerns took him far beyond his medical training and successful practice. A staunch supporter of the abolitionist movement, Delany also edited antislavery newspapers, served as a delegate to state and national black conventions, and published several pamphlets and a serialized novel. He became the first African American to be commissioned as a major and assigned to field command during the Civil War. And after serving with the 104th United States Colored Troops, he moved to South Carolina to represent freedmen and women in Reconstruction politics.

Despite his fame during the nineteenth century, scholars had little to say about the life and politics of Martin Delany for most of the twentieth century. It was not until the reemergence of black nationalism in the 1960s that a generation of scholars rediscovered Delany, crowning him the "Father of Black Nationalism." Due to their efforts, Delany is most well-known today for his spirited temperament, his pride in his dark complexion, his public disagreements with Frederick Douglass, and his support for African American emigration movements. It is this interpretation of Delany that Tunde Adeleke sets out to revise in his recent biography, *Without Regard to Race: The Other Martin Robison Delany*. In it, Adeleke argues that scholars have oversimplified the political orientation of Delany by focusing on his emigrationist phase (1850–62), and neglecting the political stances of his earlier and later career. By analyzing these periods of Delany's life, Adeleke hopes to reveal "the other" Delany.

Adeleke argues that for most of his political career, Martin Delany embraced conservative political ideologies, placing them at the center of his strategies for the improvement of the African American condition. It was only frustration with the failure of Garrisonian moral suasion that transformed Delany into a proponent of emigration in the 1850s. Once the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments emancipated the enslaved and incorporated African Americans into the body politic however, Delany reaffirmed his commitment to integration. Viewing economic improvement as the key to black progress, he consistently encouraged self-help strategies for freedmen and women, and urged reconciliation and cooperation with southern white planters. Adeleke argues that these approaches ultimately alienated Delany from contemporaries like Frederick Douglass who remained loyal to the Republican Party and elevated the political advancement of the race over economic issues.

Adeleke's argument is a thought-provoking one, and it is sure to foster discussion and debate. At times however, Adeleke may overstate his case. Despite

recent scholarship that has moved analyses of black nationalism beyond the terms of the 1960s, Adeleke continues to rely on the narrowest interpretation of black nationalism—support for emigration—to make his case for a conservative Delany. By insisting on defining Delany as a conservative, he runs the risk of oversimplifying the very man he acknowledges to be complicated. Private correspondence between Delany and Douglass in the 1840s suggests that Delany's brief endorsement of moral suasion never involved full support for the principles of nonresistance. Likewise, as several scholars have recently argued, Delany's support for emigration during the 1850s never involved a total rejection of black claims to American citizenship. And some might find that Delany's discussions of education make him a precursor of W. E. B. Du Bois as much as his economic agenda anticipates the self-help tactics of Booker T. Washington.

Still, despite these criticisms, *Without Regard to Race* is a worthy addition to the scholarship on Delany. The biography offers valuable information about Delany's postbellum activities. The primary sources included in the two appendices are quite useful, providing the reader with insight into Delany's shifting political perspectives. And by shedding light on some of the lesser-known periods in Delany's career, Adeleke is able to connect early forms of black activism to the racial uplift strategies espoused by many of the African American leaders of the late nineteenth century.

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To the Latest Posterity: Pennsylvania-German Family Registers in the Fraktur Tradition. By CORINNE EARNEST and RUSSELL EARNEST. (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2004. xxi, 153p. Illustrations, notes, appendices, selected references, index. \$45.)

The Earnests have been studying Fraktur and the Pennsylvania Germans (immigrants from German-speaking Europe and their descendants) for whom it was produced for over thirty years. In this volume of the Pennsylvania German Society's Pennsylvania German History and Culture series they address family registers. They examine these often overlooked documents, which can be used as sources for social history as well as for their more apparent family and folk-art functions. The Earnests also looked at New England examples, which are very similar in content, differing only in decoration.

Family registers were produced to be passed down in the family. Families, therefore, wanted the best document possible, going so far as paying a "professional" to print, hand letter, or decorate their precious registers.

Most family registers document two or three generations of a family. The Earnests have divided them into six classes by appearance. The first three types