

over there and the ignorance of the people in Lower Italy.

Johnson: Were you impressed at any point with the great poverty of Europe over that of the Americas?

Peasants
Bethune: I felt that the poorest peasants, the poorest share-croppers in Mississippi and Georgia were much better off than many of the poor white or rather waifs I saw. One gets many very different ideas--we are not the only sufferers and burden bearers in the world. I stiffened my back and got new courage to come back to America with greater appreciation for the blessings we did have.

Johnson: Mr. Washington had the same sort of shock when he was there and came back and wrote his book, "The Man Farthest Down."

Bethune: It was the greatest thrill to go into the Blue Grotto. I thought Switzerland beautiful but after all, I did not seem to see more real beauty in Europe than I see in sections of my own country. And I think of Lower Florida, Oregon and Washington State, sections of the West and California-- Santiago. I did not see any beauty in Europe that I thought out-classed our own country. I was happy when I went to Europe that I had seen America first.

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We were wonderfully received over there. The foreigners liked me very much. My dark skin did not hamper me at all. They were very fond of me. I liked them. I like folks. I had a birthday in Venice and all Italians were very gracious--they made a cake for me. I had received a cablegram from America. They thought I was wonderful. All were fond of me. I was never lonesome. Someone was always with me. They came to keep me company. I had no lonely hours.

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omen's
clubs*
Johnson: I want to give you the privilege of four things from which to select the situation you feel like talking against. (1) One of them is some of the things in the development of women's clubs in