

I WOULDN'T TAKE NOTHING FOR MY JOURNEY'

BY DR. LEONIDAS H. BERRY

REVIEWED BY METZ T. P. LOCHARD PHD

CHICAGO DEFENDER

IT IS NOT OFTEN THAT THE AMERICAN READING PUBLIC HAS A CHANCE TO PEER INTO A FASCINATING FAMILY SAGA AS PORTRAYED IN "' I WOULDN'T TAKE NOTHIN FOR FOR MY JOURNEY.'" DR. BERRY IS A CHICAGO PHYSICIAN WITH AN OUTSTANDING WORLD REPUTATION AS A SPECIALIST IN INTERNAL MEDICINE.

HE HAS SKILLFULLY WOVEN THE STORY OF HIS FORBEARS WITH THE THREE MOVEMENTS OF HISTORY THAT HAVE SHAPED AMERICA'S DESTINY; SLAVERY, THE CIVIL WAR, AND THE RISE OF ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL FORCES IN THE FIELD OF SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL ACTION--THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

IT IS A BRILLIANT NARRATIVE WITH ALL THE POIGNANCY OF A GREEK DRAMA IN A CONTEMPORARY SETTING. BUT THE BOOK IS HISTORY, STRIPPED OF THE FRUSTRATED, MISTY RHETORIC WITH WHICH PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS ARE ACCUSTOMED TO DRESS THEIR OFFERINGS. ON THE OTHER HAND, ITS STYLE IS SUFFICIENTLY ALLURING AND ITS ANALYSIS OF EVENTS IS SUFFICIENTLY COMPELLING TO ENGAGE THE ATTENTION OF SCHOLARS AND LAYMEN ALIKE.

THOSE WHO ARE LOOKING FOR THE HUMANE SIDE OF SLAVERY ALONG WITH THE TRADITIONAL DISREGARD FOR ELEMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS WILL FIND A MINE OF INFORMATION, HITHERTO UNEXPLORED AND UNEXPLAINED. THOUGH HIMSELF A SOUTHERNER BY BIRTH, DR. BERRY IS NO APOLOGIST FOR THE EVIL DOERS BELOW THE MASON AND DIXON LINE.