

PRESIDENT HOWARD ON LIBERIA COLLEGE

Writes Interesting Letter to the Rt. Rev. A. S. Lloyd Concerning Aims and Purposes of Education in the Black Republic.

WHY FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS NOW NECESSARY

The Heroic Struggle of Liberians to Master Their Own Affairs and Need for College Trained Men Is Very Concisely Explained.

THE following letter appears in the Liberia college catalogue and was written by the Hon. D. E. Howard, president of Liberia, to the Rt. Rev. A. S. Lloyd, a bishop of the American Episcopal church, during the visit of the latter to Liberia. It brings into prominence the urgent need of extended facilities for education in the Republic of Liberia.

Executive Mansion, Monrovia, March 15, 1918.

My Dear Bishop: In compliance with your request that I give you my opinion respecting Liberia college and its relation and importance to the state, I beg to submit the following:

The Republic of Liberia is, to use the words of one of our great statesmen, "a republic founded by black men, reared by black men, maintained by black men, and which holds out to our hope the brightest prospects." This being the case, it is quite evident that the men who are to conduct the affairs of the state must be prepared for that great task, hence to my mind the maintenance and perpetuation of Liberia college is nothing more nor less than an axiom, a self-evident fact which needs no proof. No half-sane man will for a moment think that a state can be maintained by men who have not been educated and prepared to govern.

If in our infancy as a state the fathers and friends of Liberia saw the imperative necessity of Liberia college as an institution for preparing their successors for assuming the task and burdens which they were then bearing how much more so now must it appear to us when the problems of state are so acute and difficult? When the interests of those whom we have to deal with in our midst are so conflicting and varied, how can we steer clear of the Scylla and not fall into the whirlpool Charybdis unless we have men trained in the intricacies and technicalities of statecraft and diplomacy? How would Liberia have fared, isolated, powerless, without any strong power to guarantee her independence, as in the case of Belgium, but for God and her statesmen of the past and present!

When in 1913 we had the Panther, Eber and Bremen, three German war vessels, in our waters for four months, demanding that we should restore at once order among the Krus whom their traders had incited against the government, and all the world was silent, as far as we know; how did we emerge out of the danger but by the Providence of God and the ability of those responsible for the government? And where were they trained but in Liberia college?

And in the present world catastrophe why haven't we made some of the fatal blunders it was possible for us to have made? Is it not due to the men in charge of affairs, and were they not trained in Liberia college?

I mention these two recent events because you ask me for my opinion of Liberia college NOW. The fathers and men of the past who managed affairs showed what they thought of it by the support they gave it, and we who are now on the stage mention only two recent happenings by way of giving credit to the college as well as emphasizing the importance of its continuance.

The opinion has been expressed by many good-meaning friends that Liberia college ought to be removed and turned into an industrial plant, and I believe I am on record as favoring its removal where more ground could be had, but I have never agreed that the work of the college should be other than preparing leaders for state and church.

Industrial schools we should have, yes, I wish I had the means to put one in each county, and it is such schools that I wish we could get the churches interested in. In years gone by the churches were interested chiefly in educating the head and heart and spent large sums with results best known to them; nowadays they have found out that the hands, eyes, feet, and all parts of the body must also be educated to do each its full part, but up till now we have not been able to get any one of the churches to give us one of these modern up-to-date plants.

If I thought it necessary I would name some of the men of state, past and present, who owe their allegiance to Liberia college, men whom we are not ashamed of, men many of whom now rest in their graves, but whose spirits are watching with anxious solicitude about the fate of Liberia college; and I can assure you that it is my firm belief that with the present

young, ambitious, studious and patriotic president of the college, and the strong support which the graduates and the undergraduates, the citizens generally, and the government have promised him, Liberia college will repeat what she has done in the past for the state.

Yours, truly, D. E. HOWARD.

THE N. A. A. C. P. FORUM HOLDS ENTHUSIASTIC SESSION

The N. A. A. C. P. forum held an interesting session last Sunday afternoon at St. John's A. M. E. church, the Rev. John Albert Williams presiding. The session was a little late in beginning, owing to some misunderstanding as to the place of meeting. An earnest address was made by Mrs. Simmons, who had attended the instructions on Baby Health Week at Jacobs hall, on the imperative need of looking after the health of our children. She urged that in cases where defective eyesight has been reported and parents are unable to supply the children with glasses that our people take it upon themselves to provide them. It had been reported to her that fifty Colored children who had been examined by the school nurses needed glasses. The matter was referred to the educational committee.

An animated discussion on sending a delegate to the anti-lynching conference in New York, May 5 and 6, was engaged in by C. C. Galloway, Fred C. Williams, Thomas Reese, J. D. Crum, M. F. Singleton, Mrs. James G. Jewell, Mr. Lewis and Mrs. Jesse Hale Moss. It was pointed out by the president, the Rev. John Albert Williams, that the more important meeting was the national convention to be held in Cleveland in June, and that it would be too expensive to send a delegate to both meetings. A resolution unanimously prevailed that the president of the Omaha branch be sent to both meetings and that the expenses be met by voluntary contributions.

Five members were added to the roll. The meeting next Sunday will be held at the Grove Methodist church, Twenty-second and Seward streets, at 4 o'clock, and will be addressed by the Rev. N. H. B. Cassell, president of Liberia college, Liberia, West Africa. Come in time to get a good seat.

FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE HEAR ROSCOE SIMMONS

Colored American Troops Brigaded With French Decorated For Valor Because the French Did Not Draw the Color Line.

(By Associated Negro Press.) Chicago, May 1.—More than 5,000 people heard Roscoe Conklin Simmons deliver his address at the Auditorium in the Loop district on the subject, "From State Street to St. Mihiel." A number of leading white people occupied boxes on the occasion, which was under the direction of the Chicago Defender, Robert S. Abbott, the owner, presiding.

Mr. Simmons declared that the time is at hand when the white people of the country must hear our side of the story. He said that the report that the Negro soldiers are rapists had been proven false by the official statement of Major General Barnum. According to Mr. Simmons, the reason that the race soldiers who fought under the French came home decorated with crosses, and so many of the Ninety-second division who displayed equal valor came home without decorations, is "because the French were in the war to fight and not to draw the color line." He further declared that much of the prejudice against our soldiers was due to the playing of small politics by Southern democrats.

Music for the occasion was furnished by a chorus of 500 voices, under the direction of Prof. J. Wesley Jones and George Garner, as soloist.

JUST KIDS—Revenge!



LOCAL BRANCH NEGRO BUSINESS LEAGUE ORGANIZED

At a meeting held at the Booker T. Washington hotel, Friday night, a local branch of the National Negro Business league was organized. This was the culmination of the invitation extended by The Monitor to the business and professional men of the city to meet for a conference on the formation of some business organization that would advance this interest among our growing population. Fortunately Mr. C. B. Hosmer, field agent of Tuskegee Institute, who was in the city at this time, was present and aided the movement by a helpful address and some very excellent practical advice. The league starts with a membership of thirty. Mr. Fred C. Williams, the real promoter of the organization, presided.

The following officers were elected: Allen Jones, president; C. C. Galloway, vice president; Samuel Barrett, secretary; Dr. Craig Morris, treasurer; Rev. J. D. Crum, chaplain; Fred C. Williams, publicity manager; Dr. D. W. Gooden, chairman, and General Scott, vice chairman of membership committee; N. W. Ware, chairman executive committee.

It is proposed to enroll every business and professional man and woman in the city, of whom there are more than 100 in the league. The next meeting is Thursday night, May 1, at the office of the president, Allen Jones, 2314 North Twenty-fourth street.

Have a refreshing drink at our new and up-to-date soda fountain. We serve the best. The People's Drug store.

CONCERNING DEATH OF RODNEY HALSTON

Omaha, April 28. To the Editor of The Monitor:

There appeared in the morning edition of the Bee of April 26 a statement concerning the death of Rodney Halston in our hotel the night of Thursday, April 25:

"Rodney Halston, a returned Colored soldier, was found dead from asphyxiation in a room in the Patton hotel, Eleventh and Pierce streets, yesterday afternoon. A hose leading to an open gas jet was tied to the man's mouth. He had been dead several hours. His home was in Yazoo City, Miss. Guests at the hotel told detectives Halston had much money. None was found in his room."

And here is the true statement: He was found in bed, undressed, with his face downwards, with his clothes on the side of his bed (on a chair). He was not touched until the doctor came. The gas jet was one-half open. There was no tube in the room, as the officers, the doctor and Undertaker Johnson will testify. He had been at our hotel two days, and if he had any money no one had seen him with it, because his hand baggage was being held for room rent. We feel that we should give the true statement to the public, as the Bee has misrepresented the whole occurrence.

Thanking you for your favor and wishing The Monitor success, I am respectfully yours,

N. P. PATTON.
1014 South Eleventh Street.

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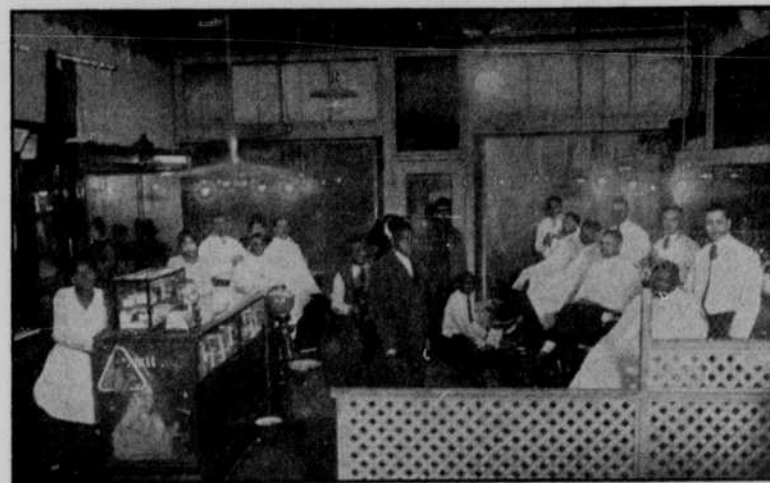
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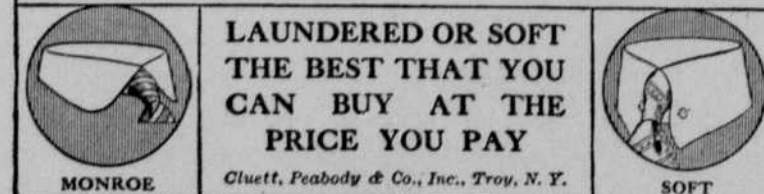
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