

# News Notes of the Nation's Capital

— By R. W. THOMPSON —

Washington, D. C., Sept. 27.—The personal popularity of President Taft with the colored citizens of the land was never more happily attested than at Monday night's session of the series of meetings, held by the National Emancipation Commemorative Society, celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the issuance of the emancipation proclamation of Abraham Lincoln.

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, spacious Metropolitan A. M. E. church was crowded to the doors with an audience that represented the best thought and most productive activities of the Negroes of the country, and they gave the chief executive a continuous ovation from the time he entered with Major Rhoads, his aide, to the time of his departure. His admirable address was applauded to the echo, each salient point being greeted with hearty evidence of approval. The choir, under the direction of Prof. John T. Layton, sang "Star Spangled Banner" as the president took his place on the platform, the audience joining in, and at its close, the Chautauqua salute was given with a will.

**The Emancipation Celebration.**

The emancipation celebration began Sunday afternoon at the Metropolitan A. M. E. church with a monster "song jubilee" and an address on "Fifty Years of Freedom" by Dr. S. M. Newman, president of Howard University. Monday was held the Sociological Congress, addressed by Dr. P. P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education. Tuesday is set apart for the Congress of Colored Educators, with grand street parade in the afternoon, embracing military, fraternal and civic organizations, industrial features and commercial display. Wednesday comes the Congress of Colored Women at the 19th Street Baptist church, and on Thursday, will be held the Interdenominational Religious Congress at Shiloh Baptist church. Delegates from many states are here and the celebration is proving to be a monumental success. Great credit is due Prof. Jesse Lawson for the conception and the well-ordered working out of the plans that have culminated in an observance that shall stand as a model of a dignified, constructive and inspiring recognition of a day that means everything to the 12,000,000 Negroes on this continent.

**Mme. Anita Patti Brown Coming.**

Mme. Anita Patti Brown of Chicago, admitted to be the race's foremost coloratura soprano, is to be the bright and particular star of an autumn musical festival about Thanksgiving time, projected by that versatile genius, Miss Lulu Vere Childers, director of music at Howard University. She will appear in new repertoire of classical gems and will be heard at her best. The supporting company and chorus will be the most notable that Washington has seen in many a day. An effort is being made to have Mme. Brown appear in a series of popular concerts while in this vicinity, to give all of our citizens a chance to hear her marvelous voice. Following the engagements of Mme. Brown here and at a limited number of eastern points, she goes on a long tour, which will include Bermuda, Jamaica, Haiti, South America and Panama. Washington society will turn out en masse to greet this famous prima donna when she comes this way Thanksgivingtide.

Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, Afro-America's platform queen, had an excellent article in the current issue of the *Progressive Age*, Omaha, Neb., on "The Justice of Woman Suffrage." Mrs. Terrell is the race's leading exponent of the equal suffrage idea, and has succeeded in converting scores of the most pronounced antagonists of "votes for women."

**Dr. Shepard's New Propaganda.**

Dr. James E. Shepard has been touring Maine and New Hampshire in the interest of the National Religious Training School at Durham, N. C., and has added many influential white men and women to the roster of the school's substantial friends. The system of correlating the moral and the industrial training, together with the academy—placing the largest emphasis on the inner soul of the man—appeals with peculiar force to the reasoning people of today, and Dr. Shepard, in two years of active work on this idea, has developed an institution that ranks with the finest and best in the land.

Dr. Shepard was in the city this week and talked at length upon his plans for the new year. His school opens Oct. 9, and he says the enrollment already in sight outstrips that of any previous year, and renders enlargement of facilities absolutely necessary before another twelve-months rolls around. The ministers of the country are still applauding Dr. Shepard because of the helpful results that are growing out of the great ministerial conference held at his Durham school last July. Another great conference is on foot for next summer.

**True Reformers at Work.**

The Washington Division of the United Order of True Reformers is doing its part in the work of rehabilitating the organization. Mrs. Sarah F. Lewis, chief of the local division, headed a large delegation of True Reformers, who left Monday to attend the annual convention of the Grand Fountain in Richmond, Va. Her report shows that during the current year death benefits have been paid to the amount of \$22,892.57. A few evenings ago, Mrs. Lewis was rendered a royal reception by the Washington Division, in honor of her appointment, in which the citizens at large joined most heartily. The installation ceremonies were in charge of a committee headed by Miss Minnie Berkeley, chairman, and Mrs. M. S. Matthews, secretary.

**Movements of the "Play Folks."**

The Howard continues to draw packed houses nightly, and Manager Thomas has been put to his wits' end

to devise ways and means of seating the people who crowd into his parquet, balcony and fashion boxes every time the doors are opened. The bill this week is made up of Evon Robinson and her Dixie Girls, a strong feature act, in which the Washington girl shows to advantage; Miss Lillian Brown, a sweet singer; and Lucas and Dodson, a clever team of sketch artists. Miss Lucas is a daughter of the veteran Sam Lucas, almost the last survivor of the revered "Old Guard" of the footlights. That unique genius, the "Original Rags," who makes up original song hits for everybody in the audience, is held over for another week.

Last week Gillam and Williams, with their wives, put on a high-grade act, and scored heavily. Allie Gillam is the best "tramp" since Bob Cole and the consensus of opinion is that he ought to be at the head of a road company, featuring his quaint impersonation of the happy-go-lucky man of destiny. Dainty Ray Bailey, the feminine "live wire," who grows better with each season, won a host of new friends. The Indian Whirlwinds in a sharp-shooting specialty and the Original Rags rounded out one of the best offerings that Manager Thomas has put across this year.

Miss Ray Bailey will spend a few weeks in the city, playing at several of the picture houses here.

Miss Susie Sutton, the piquant soubrette and rapid-fire monologist, is still "going big" at the Foraker and renewing acquaintance with her host of friends. Following her engagement there, she goes out on the Dudley circuit.

T. Spencer Finley, Washington's own comedian, heads a fine bill this week at Dudley's. John W. Cooper was at this house last week with his "Fun in a Barber Shop," and carried all before him with his ventriloquial feats. Lew Henry is making good as Mr. Dudley's local representative.

Misses Edie King and Lottie Gee, "those ginger girls," stopped over en route from Newport News and the south, working on the Dudley circuit. Miss King went to Lima, Ohio, to see her "folks," and Miss Gee is at her old home, Cincinnati, for a brief rest. They play a return engagement early in October at the Fairland. King and Gee are both bright girls and the vaudeville stage knows no "sister team" that can excel them as original, clean-cut and artistic performers.

Report has it that Miss Florine Miles Tyson, the affable erstwhile treasurer at the Howard, is now Mrs. Guy Scott, and has located at Cleveland, Ohio.

S. H. Dudley has gone to New York to rehearse his company in a revised version of "Dr. Beans of Boston." Mr. Dudley will play only the large cities this season.

The Dabney has closed indefinitely. Douglass Gentry, an enterprising Virginian, has taken hold of the Chelsea, and is making it a "go." This is one of the best houses in town, but a "jinx" seems to have been haunting it until Mr. Gentry's advent upon the scene.

"Black Patti" in a new musical comedy by Will Cooke, entitled "Captain Jasper," is due here in February at the Howard, if a satisfactory scale of prices can be agreed upon.

H. J. Howell, the magician, is preparing to pull off some new stunts in the "black art" this fall. He learned the business as an assistant to the Great Kellar, and is one of the best in the profession.

**The News in a Nut Shell.**

Prof. E. C. Williams, principal of the M Street High School, has declined an offer to become a member of the faculty of Howard University and will remain where he is.

Prof. W. J. Decatur, until recently connected with Howard University, has accepted a place at Wilberforce University.

The new "pay ward" at Freedmen's Hospital is in full blast, and the innovation gives great pleasure to the residents of the city who have not heretofore been able to secure proper treatment, except as "indigent patients," and this was not always possible, when it was known that they were in a position to pay their way. The accommodations, even at this early date, are being taxed almost to their capacity. There is little doubt that Congress will hearken next session to the urgent recommendation of Surgeon-in-Chief W. A. Warfield, and appropriate the \$60,000 necessary to erect and equip an adequate building for the care of patients of ample means to pay for their treatment. Freedmen's hospital is one of the very best institutions of its kind in the world, and visitors to Washington do not feel that they have seen the best of the "show places" of the capital until they have given it a thorough inspection.

The names of Dr. S. L. Corrothers, president of the National Civil and Political League, and Prof. M. Grant Lucas, of the Washington schools, were inadvertently omitted from the list of colored gentlemen who were present at the White House the day President Taft was formally notified of his renomination.

Announcement is made of the marriage of Mr. Isaac Hathaway, the widely-known sculptor, and Miss Hattie Etlice Pamplin, a former teacher of South Boston, Va. The wedding was a quiet affair, taking place April 19 at Rockville, Md., a village not far from Washington. Mr. and Mrs. Hathaway are making their home in this city.

**Mr. Horace Morris is in Louisville,** Ky., gaining "experience" in a first-class pharmacy. He returns in a few days to resume his studies, in the medical department of Howard University.

Mr. J. H. Downing, formerly of Pittsburgh, Pa., was recently united in marriage at Philadelphia with Miss Susie Hamilton, a Washington beauty. They are on a "honeymoon tour," embracing Niagara Falls, New York City and Atlantic City.

Miss Mary Ola Chaney, of the June class of Normal School No. 2, has accepted a school at St. George's, Delaware.

Dr. C. W. Childs and son, Creed W., Jr., have been motoring through the east and report a delightful time.

Mrs. C. J. Walker of Indianapolis, Ind., a wealthy manufacturer of hair preparations, is here attending the emancipation exercises directed by the National Emancipation Commemorative Society. She is the recipient of much social attention and has met many of the commercial factors of the capital. Mrs. Walker is a woman of striking personality and those who have met her do not wonder that she has succeeded in all of her undertakings.

Those who follow the fortunes of politics declare that there is a pronounced wave toward Taft and that the chances for the re-election of the president are brighter than at any time since the Chicago convention. Henrietta Vinton Davis in Jamaica.

Miss Henrietta Vinton Davis, the premier elocutionist, is managing the Covent Garden, the leading al fresco theater at Kingston, Jamaica, and is putting on a series of brilliant concerts and dramatic entertainments that have completely captivated the people of the island. Miss Davis has established herself as a favorite among the Jamaicans, and before taking up the direction of Covent Garden she had won fame by her dramatic readings and through her painstaking productions, supported by the Montego Bay Dramatic Company, which was drilled by her. Miss Davis was accompanied to Kingston by Mrs. Nonie Bailey Hardie, the well-known contralto, who is also making good.

The S. Coteridge-Taylor Choral Society of this city is to show its respect and voice its regret over the untimely taking off of the great Negro composer, after whom it is named, by holding a public memorial meeting in the near future. The arrangements are in the hands of Prof. John T. Layton, director of the Society, Mrs. Amanda V. Gray, Mr. Arthur S. Gray, Mr. A. F. Hilyer, Dr. C. Sumner Wormley, Mr. E. N. Broadnax and others.

Mr. Ferdinand D. Lee, one of Washington's most active men of affairs, for many years a clerk in the Pension Office, was married Sept. 19 to Mrs. Elizabeth Mason Snelson, also of this city. The knot was tied by Rev. M. W. Clair, of Asbury M. E. church. The event was a total surprise to the many friends of the happy pair, but all are joining in their congratulations. Mr. and Mrs. Lee will be "at home" at their beautiful residence, 923 R street northwest, Oct. 25, 8 to 10 p. m.

The ten internes at Freedmen's Hospital are: W. H. Bruce, S. R. Davis, W. E. Grey, B. G. M. Robinson, E. French Tyson, G. H. Barbosa, H. R. Burwell, Arthur Leo Curtis, W. H. Green and F. F. Thompson. They are a fine set of young men and Dr. Warfield is justly proud of them.

Announcement is made of the engagement of Mr. Louis G. Gregory of the Treasury Department, and Miss Louise Mathew, of Kent, England. Mr. Gregory is an ardent believer in the faith of Abdul Hamid, leader of the Bahai cult, and so is Miss Mathew. They met abroad some months ago en route to Persia, where they were making a closer study of the history of the Bahai religion, and the acquaintance and sympathetic interest quickly ripened into love. The marriage takes place this month. Mr. and Mrs. Gregory will make their home in Washington, after a brief tour of the east.

Arthur C. Newman, for several years instructor in physics at Armstrong Manual Training school, has been made principal of the new Cardozo Vocational school, a richly-merited promotion. D. B. Thompson, F. J. Douglass, U. S. G. Bassett, S. E. Compton and J. C. Wright have been transferred from Armstrong to the department of business practice, now under control of M Street High school.

Rev. S. L. Corrothers has mapped out a vigorous campaign for the National Civil and Political League, of which he is president, and the organization has expanded to wonderful proportions within the past two months. Representative colored men in thirty-seven states have allied themselves with the League, and through it the race will be able to wield a tremendous influence in the presidential fight that is now waxing warm. Dr. Corrothers is a natural leader of men and has an immense following all over the country.

Dr. Julia P. H. Coleman, who delivered one of the very best of the addresses heard at the Chicago meeting of the National Negro Business League, has been visiting Niagara Falls and New York City. Dr. Coleman is at the head of Hair-Vim Chemical Company, which is doing a "land-office" business. The plant is to be enlarged, and it is destined to be the foremost establishment of its kind in the country.

A local branch of the National Negro Press Association is in the wind. Mr. James C. Waters, Jr., a writer of force and brilliance, has been named by President Thompson as the District member of the executive committee of the Association. A "smoker" will be held next month, at which the organization matter will be discussed.

Miss Elizabeth Clark of Chicago, who was scheduled for a transfer from the registry division of the Chicago post office to the treasury department at Washington, has decided not to make the change. She will remain at Chicago with her parents and friends.

Miss Vivian Lucile Thompson, 903 S street, is at home again, after a month's stay with Miss Mary Frances Ennis at Delaware City, Del.

Mrs. James E. Buckner of the Cameron is in Louisville, Ky., for the month.

Lawyer Thomas J. Calloway is in Chicago in the interest of the endowment fund of Fisk University. He was tendered an enjoyable reception recently by the Appomattox Club of that city.

Mrs. J. Arthur Jackson, bride of the assistant librarian of the state of West Virginia, is in the city, visiting her parents at 1920 11th street northwest. She was accompanied home by her sister, Miss Elfrida Kenn.

had been spending a portion of the summer with her at Charleston, W. Va.

Garfield A. Harris, who made a fine record with the later tariff board, has been given a desirable berth in the bureau of engraving and printing by Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh.

Mr. Richard Green of the treasury department recently celebrated his fifty-ninth birthday. Mr. Green has been connected with the treasury department for forty-two years and has served under eighteen secretaries—a record enjoyed by few men in the employ of the federal government. He is highly regarded by both races throughout the treasury.

Mr. Cedric E. Francis, son of Dr. John R. Francis of this city, is in charge of the boys' department of the Y. M. C. A. at Chicago.

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